Homeowner’s Tree Ownership and Care Guide
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About Trees

As a result of the numerous hurricanes and storms that hit Coral Springs in 2004 and 2005, and especially as a result of Hurricane Wilma, the tree canopy coverage throughout the City has been reduced by about one third. This is a dramatic reduction and will affect us for years to come. Many of the benefits that trees provide have been lost as a result of the storms, such as increased property value, reduction of solar heating of paved and surrounding areas, removal of air pollutants, production of oxygen, interception of rain water reducing threat of flooding and even traffic calming. Although high winds are a contributing factor to tree failure, the problem is compounded by inappropriate species, poorly structured trees and bad maintenance practices.

Which Trees Are Right For Your Property?
When planting a tree there are many site-specific factors to be considered. Some key points to remember when choosing the right trees for your property include:

- Tree size and spatial limitations
- Utility conflicts
- Soil conditions
- Watering
- Maintenance

Tree Size & Spatial Limitations
When selecting trees that are right for your property, you should consider the mature height and spread of the tree prior to planting. To avoid future problems, take a moment and assess your property.

- Is there a minimum planting area of at least 5’ x 5’? A larger planting area is always better.
- Select the tree species that will compliment the surrounding landscape, fulfill the desired use and is on the City of Coral Springs approved tree list.
- Determine the distance to the nearest tree. If it is less than 25’, you may want to consider a tree species with a smaller growth habit.
- Locate the nearest driveway, sidewalk, street or structure. As a rule of thumb, you should plant a tree no closer than 6’ (further is better) from any structures or improvements. You may also want to consider installing a root barrier to prevent root damage.
**Utility Conflicts**

Generally, a utility is defined as a distribution system to provide electrical power, water and sewer service, telephone and cable to our homes. Because trees grow below ground as well as above ground, it is necessary to consider the locations of these utilities, as they will have a direct impact on the planting location and long-term stability of the tree at that location.

*Underground Utility Lines*—Before you plant, make sure that you or your landscape contractor are aware of the location of any underground utilities. Contact Sunshine State One at 1-800-432-4770 at least three full business days prior to the installation of any trees, so a utility representative can inspect and mark any underground utilities on your property at no cost.

*Overhead Utility Lines*—Overhead utility lines are the easiest to locate and therefore are the easiest to avoid. If you “Plant The Right Tree In The Right Place,” most conflicts can be prevented before they start.

- Large trees, such as Live Oak or False Tamarind, should be offset a minimum of 25' from any overhead utility line.
- Medium trees, such as Pigeon Plum or Dahoon Holly, should be offset a minimum of 20' from any overhead utility line.
- Small trees, such as Silver Buttonwood, may be planted adjacent to utility lines.

Refer to the diagram below, provided by Florida Power & Light, for examples of proper planting distances from overhead utility lines.
Soil Conditions
Different soil conditions affect the growth habits of trees in different ways. Some tree species prefer dry sandy soils, while others prefer wet or damp soils. Either way, all tree roots require oxygen to develop and thrive. Most nutrient absorbing roots are found in the first 12" of soil. When deciding on which species of tree you would like to add to your landscape, take note if there is ever standing water or if the site is always dry. This should give you an indication of what species of tree is most appropriate for your property.

Tips For Recognizing A Quality Tree
When selecting a tree for your yard, the initial quality of that tree is essential for long-term success. A tree that is of better quality, and that is planted and maintained correctly will develop far fewer problems in the long run. Choose a Florida Grade #1 tree (see definitions, pg. 15), which is required by City Code. Below is a list of important characteristics to look for when you are purchasing a tree.

- Tree structure
- Branch arrangement
- Root system
- Trunk scars
- Significant branch damage

Tree Structure
This term refers to the main trunk of the tree. You want to look for a tree with one central leader (see definitions, pg 15). The tip of the leader must be intact and the terminal bud (see definitions, pg. 15) must be the highest part of the tree. The diagram shown below and to the left is a good example of what to expect from a Florida Grade #1 tree. The trees represented below and to the right are diagrams that exhibit a number of problems that can ultimately lead to the failure of a tree.

Good Examples:                                Bad Examples:
Branch Arrangement

This term refers to the way that the branches are distributed around the trunk along the length of the central leader. Trees with proper branch arrangement should exhibit the following:

- All major branches are more or less equal in size.
- All major branches are distributed near evenly around the trunk.
- Major dominant branches should be no closer than 4" apart.

Refer to the diagram below and to the left, as these trees are examples of what to expect from a Florida Grade #1 tree.

Good Examples:                               Bad Examples:

Root System

This term refers to the underground structure/foundation of the tree. The quality of the root system is extremely important. Trees are customarily sold as Container Grown or Balled and Burlapped (see definitions, pg. 15). The size of the rootball should be 10 to 12 times larger than the diameter of the trunk measured 6" above the base of the tree. For example: A tree with a 3" trunk diameter should have a rootball that measures approximately 30" to 36" across.

Avoid circling roots (refer to the diagram below), which can lead to a number of problems. First of all, circling roots will continue to grow in a concentric manner even after they are removed from a container. These roots never get a chance to spread out and create a solid foundation for the tree.

Circling Root Diagram

Cut or torn roots have the opposite problem of circling roots. The damaged roots never get a chance to grow due to the damage inflicted at the tip, which is where root growth actually occurs.
Trunk Scars
These are injuries or open wounds that are inflicted to the bark of the tree. They can either be cuts or tears that extend to the internal tissues of the tree. In general, Florida Grade #1 trees should not have any wounds. However, injuries are acceptable if they are smaller than 10% of the trunk circumference and less than 2" in height. Keep in mind that your tree may have been pruned prior to installation and the pruning scar should not be considered as bark damage.

Significant Branch Damage
Your new tree should not have any significant branch damage at the time of installation. A tree with significant branch damage would exhibit one or all of the following problems:

- Major branches are broken or torn and do not exhibit signs of being pruned with a sharp instrument.
- More than 5% of the branches have been broken or torn.
- Broken, cracked or torn central leader.

How To Plant A New Tree
The establishment of newly installed trees revolves around two key components: oxygen and moisture present in the soil. If these two elements are managed correctly, trees will grow quickly and healthily. Refer to the diagram and definitions below for the key components to the successful installation of your new tree.

Proper Tree Planting Diagram
Installation Guidelines & Definitions

“It is better to dig a $500 hole and plant a $100 tree than to plant a $500 tree in a $100 hole.”

The first step is to dig the planting hole approximately 2 times wider than the width of the rootball (refer to the diagram on pg. 6). This practice loosens the soil around the rootball and promotes unrestricted new root growth in lateral directions, promoting a stable base for the tree. Be sure that the planting hole is slightly shallower (approximately 10%) than the depth of the rootball. Trees that are planted too deep often become unhealthy soon after planting due to one or all of the following reasons:

- Roots cannot access adequate oxygen.
- Roots can be cut off from adequate moisture.
- Roots may remain too wet in poorly drained soils.
- It is important to completely remove the container or top third of the burlap from the rootball and from the base of the trunk prior to installation. These elements may not decompose with time and will restrict or impede root growth.

Planting The Tree

Once the rootball is placed in the planting hole, the disturbed soil originally removed from the planting hole should be added or backfilled around the root system for stabilization. It is important to break up any large clumps of soil before backfilling. Once the planting hole is half full, it is a good practice to gently tamp down or water the soil to eliminate air pockets. Fill in the rest of the planting hole with the remaining backfill. Remember not to cover the top of the rootball with any soil. Once your newly installed tree has been backfilled, you should thoroughly water in your tree following the guidelines listed.
Establishment Of Your New Tree
It is important to keep the soil around the base of your tree moist, but not saturated. Excessive watering will lead to health problems, such as yellowing of the leaves, defoliation of the tree and shallow root systems.

Water requirements for establishment: Daily for 1 month; every other day for 3 months; after 3 months, as needed.

Please keep in mind that this watering schedule is a general rule of thumb. Your tree may need more or less water depending on a number of factors, including soil conditions, soil permeation, temperature and tree size.

Proper Mulching
Apply mulch to the surface area surrounding the rootball. This practice serves two purposes, reduction of weed intrusion and water conservation.

In many instances, mulching around the base of the tree is performed improperly. To avoid this follow these general rules:

- No mulch should be installed within a 6” radius of the root flare, which is the swollen area at the base of the tree directly above the area where the root system begins. When planting a tree the root flare should be exposed at the time of installation (refer to the diagram on pg. 6).
- Mulch that is installed up to the base of the tree promotes rotting of the trunk and circling roots may occur.
- The depth of the mulch should be no greater than 3” and should cover a radius of at least 2’ from the trunk of the tree.
How Do I Stabilize My New Tree?

Staking and guying refers to the method of securing the above-ground portion of the tree in a manner which allows movement of the tree while keeping the rootball firmly in place. For a tree to develop correctly, it must be able to move in the wind. Avoid tying into position with tight cables. The braces/guys should have some wiggle room. Refer to the diagram above for the suggested method of tree stabilization.

Remember to remove any staking material that is in contact with the tree after a period of no more than six months, as the tree should be well established by then.
How To Maintain Your New Tree For Long Term Survivability

If a Florida Grade #1 tree is installed on your property, immediate pruning should not be necessary. However, proper pruning of the young trees should take place once every couple of years, before major structural defects can develop.

Your main objectives when pruning young trees are:

- Maintain a dominant leader or single trunk by shortening or removing co-dominant stems.
- Promote strong lateral branching by removing clustered branches that form weak points on the tree.
- Clean the canopy by removing branches that are broken or badly damaged.

Remember that when caring for a new tree there are several factors to keep in mind, including:

- Every cut has a lasting impact on the health of the tree.
- Proper pruning technique is essential for healthy development.
- Trunk wounds are permanent.
- Small cuts cause less damage than large cuts.
- Under no circumstances should a tree ever be Hat-Racked (Pg. 11) or Lion Tailed (Pg. 12).

If your long-term maintenance plan involves hiring professional tree trimmers, you should request to see their Broward County Tree Trimmers License. For a list of qualified professionals, visit the City of Coral Springs website at www.coral springs.org/trees.cfm. When speaking with your tree care professional, be sure to convey exactly what you expect out of the trimming service being performed.

Tree Trimmer License
What is Hat-Racking?
Simply put, it is the reduction of tree branches to stubs (refer to the diagram below). Under no circumstances should this practice be preformed on your tree. It is a common misconception that Hat-Racking is reasonable when preparing for a hurricane. It is true that this practice does reduce the size and weight of the canopy in the short term, but it actually creates a more hazardous tree in the long run. Common problems associated with Hat-Racked trees include:

- Decay of the main trunk of the tree because trees are not equipped to close large wounds and decaying organisms are free to infect a hat-racked tree.
- The sudden removal of tree branches reduces the amount of leaves on the tree dramatically, exposing the tree to high levels of sunlight and heat. This in turn scalds the tissue below the bark, which can lead to cankers, bark splitting and branch death.
- After a tree is topped the natural survival instincts of the tree is to produce multiple shoots below each topping cut. These new shoots grow quickly, and are weakly attached to the parent branch making them more susceptible to fail in light to moderate winds.

Hat-Racked Tree Diagram And Example (Left)
What is Lion Tailing or Over-Lifting?
This is the practice of removing the inner lateral branches and foliage while leaving only the limbs with upright growth and a tuft of leaves at the end. An example of Lion Tailing is shown in the diagram below.

Lion Tailing often results in:

- Reduced photosynthesis, the process in which trees produce food for themselves.
- Weakened branch structure because the reduction or elimination of the lateral branches and interior foliage decreases the need for the tree to produce thicker stronger unions between the trunk and the branch itself.
- A top-heavy tree, because all the canopy weight is shifted up and out.
Preparing Your Tree for Hurricanes

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a completely hurricane resistant tree, but there are some simple steps that you can take to reduce the risk of tree failure before hurricane season arrives.

These steps include:

- Cleaning and selectively thinning the tree canopy to increase air movement through the tree will reduce the overall weight of the canopy. Cleaning refers to the removal of dead, dying, diseased or crowded branches. Ideally, the diameter of the lateral branches should be approximately 1/2 to 3/4 the diameter of the trunk.
- Maintain a central leader or one main stem with upright growth. Prune away co-dominant branches that compete in height and size with the main stem.
- Prune forked branches or branches that exhibit tight narrow crotches or that are rubbing because these branches are more susceptible to failure.
- Eliminate lopsided crowns. Prune branches to produce a reasonably symmetrical crown. Guying and bracing trunks or branches is not effective for supporting a tree that has unevenly distributed weight.
- Help promote a stable tree through healthy root growth. Avoid over fertilization and over watering the tree. This can excessively increase the size of the canopy and decrease the size and stability of the root system. Fertilization should not be needed at the time of installation and is recommended after the establishment period of the tree. However, if you do decide to fertilize, it is imperative to follow the directions and application schedule provided by the fertilizer manufacturer.

After a hurricane has come and gone, try and avoid the temptation to cut back the tree too heavily. You will want to remove any branches that have broken, are hanging or pose a dangerous condition. You should give the tree a chance to recover. The loss of canopy and foliage is a natural occurrence and will regenerate over time. If the tree in question has shown no signs of recovery after a period of approximately three months, you may want to consult with a certified arborist for possible treatment methods.
You should ask a Certified Arborist if you are concerned with the health of your tree due to one or more of the following:

- Loss of canopy
- Yellowing of the leaves
- Sloughing of bark
- Stressed or unhealthy appearance

A list of Certified Arborists can be found on the City of Coral Springs website at: www.coralsprings.org/trees.cfm.
Definitions

Balled and Burlapped
The practice of wrapping the rootball of a tree in burlap once the tree is removed from the ground. This allows the tree to be transported easily without damaging to the rootball.

Central Leader
The single trunk emanating from the ground up to the top of the tree. This trunk or leader develops lateral branches that form the canopy.

Co-Dominant Leader
Trunks of similar diameter that form a ‘V’ shaped crotch. This condition is often responsible for the failure of a tree.

Container Grown
Trees grown in a pot, container, box or some other above ground structure. This practice allows for transportation of the tree in an efficient manner. A drawback to this type of tree growth is that circling roots can develop if the tree is left in the container too long.

Florida Grade #1 Tree
In general, a Florida #1 tree will exhibit the following characteristics: A single straight leader, evenly spaced branches throughout the tree, minimal bark damage, full canopy and no circling roots.

Terminal Bud
The terminal bud is located at the tip of the stem/trunk. This is the primary control point from which the vertical growth occurs.
Right Of Way Diagram
The public rights-of-way are areas that usually extend about 15' from the edge of the road pavement onto your property (see diagram). This portion of land is designated for the use of public resources for creation or maintenance of infrastructure. While the City has limited rights to this property it is the landowner’s responsibility to care for this area. City Code requires this segment of land to have street trees. A list of recommended trees begins on page 20.
The City of Coral Springs requires that large shade trees are to be planted a minimum of 25' from any light pole. This requirement is in place for several reasons, including: safety, natural growth of the tree and ease of maintenance. As the tree canopy expands the amount of penetrating light (artificial or natural) decreases. When light levels are limited, the security of that area also decreases. In turn, the tree should be allowed to grow unimpeded from any fixed features. Lastly, maintenance of these structures is necessary from time to time. If a light pole is completely enveloped by a tree, the time and cost of repairing the light pole are increased and the tree may be damaged as well.

**Lightpole Diagram**

The City of Coral Springs requires that large shade trees are to be planted a minimum of 25' from any light pole. This requirement is in place for several reasons, including: safety, natural growth of the tree and ease of maintenance. As the tree canopy expands the amount of penetrating light (artificial or natural) decreases. When light levels are limited, the security of that area also decreases. In turn, the tree should be allowed to grow unimpeded from any fixed features. Lastly, maintenance of these structures is necessary from time to time. If a light pole is completely enveloped by a tree, the time and cost of repairing the light pole are increased and the tree may be damaged as well.
Fire Hydrant Diagram

All trees should be planted a minimum of 6' from any fire hydrant in order to avoid underground conflicts between growing tree roots and the subsurface water service lines. This 6' radius is measured from the center of the fire hydrant in any direction. This clear zone also provides firefighters unimpeded access to the hydrant.
Sidewalk Offset
It is important to plant trees a minimum of 6’ from any sidewalk. If this rule of thumb is implemented, conflicts such as lifting and cracking of the sidewalk due to root intrusion can be minimized. In addition to this, the 6’ of clear zone will allow the tree to develop a uniform root system, which ultimately leads to a stronger, healthier tree.
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<tr>
<th>Common Name (Scientific Name)</th>
<th>Mature Size</th>
<th>Water Needs</th>
<th>Light Needs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Live Oak</strong> <em>(Quercus virginiana)</em></td>
<td>Height: 60-80 ft. Spread: 60-120 ft.</td>
<td>Wet to moist</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gumbo Limbo</strong> <em>(Bursera simaruba)</em></td>
<td>Height: 25-40 ft. Spread: 25-40 ft.</td>
<td>Water when dry</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>False Tamarind</strong> <em>(Lysiloma latisiliquum)</em></td>
<td>Height: 40-60 ft. Spread: 30-45 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indian Tamarind</strong> <em>(Tamarindus indica)</em></td>
<td>Height: 40-60 ft. Spread: 40-50 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bridalveil Tree</strong> <em>(Caesalpinia granadillo)</em></td>
<td>Height: 30-35 ft. Spread: 25-35 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dahoon Holly</strong> <em>(Ilex cassine)</em></td>
<td>Height: 20-30 ft. Spread: 8-12 ft.</td>
<td>Water when dry</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silver Buttonwood</strong> <em>(Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus)</em></td>
<td>Height: 15-20 ft. Spread: 15-20 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black Ironwood</strong> <em>(Krugiodendron ferreum)</em></td>
<td>Height: Up to 25 ft. Spread: 15-20 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Willow Bustin</strong> <em>(Sideroxylon salicifolium)</em></td>
<td>Height: 25-30 ft. Spread: 15-20 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>Full Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horseflesh Mahogany</strong> <em>(Lysiloma sabicu)</em></td>
<td>Height: 25-50 ft. Spread: 20-30 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tree Name</td>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Soil Conditions</td>
<td>Light Needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Live Oak</td>
<td>60-80 ft.</td>
<td>Wet to moist</td>
<td>Partial shade</td>
</tr>
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<td>Horseflesh Mahogany</td>
<td>25-50 ft.</td>
<td>Well-drained</td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>Bridalveil Tree</td>
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<td>Dahoon Holly</td>
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LIVE OAK  
(*Quercus virginiana*)
Height: 60'-80'
Spread: 60'-120'
Needs adequate planting space of 60 square feet, minimum.

The Live Oak is a large, sprawling, picturesque tree capable of providing significant areas of deep shade. This native tree is known for its spreading canopy and evokes feelings of the Deep South where it is widely distributed. The Live Oak is a member of the Fagaceae family and is an evergreen with light olive glossy leaves that become dark green as they mature. Once established, Live Oak will thrive in almost any location, enduring droughts and responding with vigorous growth to plentiful moisture on well-drained soil. This is not a plant-and-forget tree; the Live Oak can live for a century or more, it is very important to develop proper trunk and branch structure early in the life of the tree. This tree should be pruned for structure once a year for the first 3 years then every 5 years afterwards. This type of care will help the Live Oak become a long-lived fixture in the community.

**PLANT NEEDS:**
Light: Part Shade to Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Moisture: Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: High
The following pages contain useful information on recommended trees that fare well in the South Florida climate, as well as generally resisting strong storms or hurricanes better than other types once established. These trees are also suitable to be planted as “Street Trees”, following City guidelines, regulations and proper planting space.

**GUMBO LIMBO**

*Bursera simaruba*

Height: 25’-40’
Spread: 25’-40’
Needs adequate planting space of 60 square feet, minimum.

Gumbo Limbo is a large semi-evergreen tree, with an open crown. The Gumbo Limbo is a member of the torchwood or Bursera family. This tree has stout branches that are covered with an attractive, smooth peeling, coppery bark, giving the Gumbo Limbo a freshly varnished appearance. The tree typically develops two to four, large-diameter limbs, from which subordinate branches arise. Gumbo Limbo trees are native to South Florida and the tropical offshore islands. The wood is soft, lightweight and flexible. They are semi-deciduous and produce small inconspicuous flowers during the winter months. Once planted, the Gumbo Limbo grows rapidly in the moist, but not saturated ground. Once established, gumbo-limbo requires little attention other than occasional pruning, which makes it ideal for a freestanding specimen on a large property or as a street tree.

**PLANT NEEDS:**

Light: Part Shade to Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
Moisture: Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: Moderate

**FACT:** The red peeling bark of the Gumbo Limbo tree resembles sunburned skin thereby inspiring South Floridians to give it another common name “the tourist tree.” The two largest gumbo-limbos in the US are at the St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Church in Key West and on Captiva Island.
FALSE TAMARIND
(Lysiloma latisiliquum)
Height: 40’-60’
Spread: 30’-45’
Needs adequate planting space of 60 square feet, minimum.

This medium to large tree is native to the coastal areas of South Florida and tropical hammocks of the Florida Keys and Caribbean Islands. Tamarinds exhibit small feathery leaves, which are characteristic for the Fabaceae family. In addition to the feathery leaves, the False Tamarind has showy white fragrant flowers, which attract pollinating insects. This tree adds a unique quality as a street tree and provides an excellent habitat for wildlife in native gardens. The False Tamarind will grow in nutrient deficient soils and requires only a moderate amount of water once established.

PLANT NEEDS:
Light: Light Shade to Full Sun
Soil: Moist well-drained soil
Moisture: Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: Low

FACT:
The Wild Tamarind is often called “Mother-in-Law Tree” in South Florida because the large, dry seed pods present during winter never stop talking (rattling). It is a soothing sound during high winds resembling the sounds of a driving rain.
INDIAN TAMARIND
(Tamarindus indica)
Height: 40’-60’
Spread: 40’-50’
Needs a planting space of 60 square feet or more.

The Indian Tamarind, like other trees in the Leguminosae family, is densely foliated with pale green, feathery leaflets, which give the tree a broad, spreading crown with a light airiness. The small leaflets diffuse sunlight to create dappled shade. During the spring, inconspicuous red and yellow flowers will appear. The Indian Tamarind is not a Florida native and is found in warmer climates such as South Florida and southern California. This tree requires pruning to provide strong structure. Tamarind is an economically viable commodity in tropical areas. The tree is processed for its edible paste, which is used as an ingredient in items such as Worcestershire sauce, soft drinks, gum, chutneys, and curries.

PLANT NEEDS:
Light: Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Moisture: High Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: Low Salt Tolerance
**BRIDALVEIL TREE**  
(*Caesalpinia granadillo*)

Height: 30’-35’
Spread: 25’-35’

Needs adequate planting space of 60 square feet, minimum.

The Bridalveil Tree is originally from Central and South America but has adapted to the mild winters and warm summers of South Florida. This tree belongs to the Leguminosae family and its name is derived from the finely textured evergreen leaves that originate from one stem, giving it the appearance of delicate lace. The Bridalveil Tree makes a wonderful shade tree and is decorated with showy yellow blossoms during the summer and fall. The bark is also quite striking, peeling off in thin strips, showing an unusual green and grey mottling. This tree likes the sunshine and requires little maintenance, other than structural pruning.

**PLANT NEEDS:**

Light: Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
Moisture: Moderate
Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: Low
DAHOON HOLLY
(*Ilex cassine*)
Height: 20’-30’
Spread: 8’-12’
Needs a planting space of 60 square feet or less.

The Dahoon Holly is a native to North America and can be found all over the southern United States. It is ideal for a variety of landscape settings and can be utilized as a clipped hedge or in its natural state as a small tree. The leaves are a smooth and shiny, dark green color. This evergreen belongs to the Aquifoliaceae family and can withstand a variety of climatic zones. Dahoon Holly trees are capable of produce brilliant red berries in fall and winter if there are male and female trees within close proximity to one another. These berries are an excellent food source for wildlife, but not suitable for human consumption. This tree will grow in a variety of habitats, but does best in moist soils and plenty of sun. Dahoon Holly can tolerate drier locations with some watering, but often has a thin crown in this environment. This tree is ideal for tight areas because of its compact crown and upright growth. In addition, the Dahoon Holly requires little pruning to create a well-structured, strong tree.

**PLANT NEEDS:**
Light: Part Shade to Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; extended flooding; well-drained
Moisture: Moderate Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: Moderate
SILVER BUTTONWOOD
(Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus)
Height: 15’-20’
Spread: 15’-20’
Needs a planting space of 60 square feet or less.

This is a low-branching, multi-trunked or single stemmed, shrubby, evergreen tree. The Silver Buttonwood has a silvery appearance due to the silky hairs that cover the leaf surface. This tree is a member of the Combretaceae family and is native to South Florida, blooming year round. In addition to the striking foliage, the bark of the Silver Buttonwood is attractive and ranges in color from a light brown to a dark brown. This tree is a landscaper’s friend because it is tough and can tolerate a variety of conditions. In addition, this tree is well suited for constricted planting areas and can adapt to a variety of habitats. This tree requires some pruning to develop a strong structure.

PLANT NEEDS:
Light: Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Moisture: High Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: High Salt Tolerance
BLACK IRONWOOD
(Krugiodendron ferreum)
Height: Up to 25’
Spread: 15’-20’
Needs a planting space of 60 square feet or less.

Black Ironwood is a member of the Rhamnaceae family and has the distinction of having the heaviest wood of any tree grown in the United States. As a native to Florida, Central America and the Caribbean, the Black Ironwood is slow growing and able to adapt to a wide range of growing conditions. This tree was once a vital part of the tropical hardwood hammock. The attractive up-right growth habit is complemented by medium sized, dark green leaves. It is appropriate for any yard, especially as a street tree. It can adapt to hot, sunny and windy conditions, provided it is in a well-drained area.

**PLANT NEEDS:**
Light: Light Shade to Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Moisture: Moderate
Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: High

**FACT:** Black Ironwood has the distinction of having the heaviest wood of any tree grown in the United States. The Guinness Book of World Records lists this tree as the world’s heaviest wood. South Americans call the Black Ironwood trees “quebracho”, which means “axe breaker.”
THE WILLOW BUSTIC
*(Sideroxylon salicifolium)*
Height: 25'-30'
Spread: 15'-20'
Needs a planting space of 60 square feet or less.

The Willow Bustin is commonly known as the Bustic or White Bully tree. As a member of the Sapotaceae family, the Willow Bustin is a Florida native. The Willow Bustin is commonly found in tropical hammocks and rockland pines. It flourishes in full sun and in well-drained soils. This tree is well suited for small, sunny planting areas and will flower year round. In addition to this, small purple berries provide sustenance to the many species of wildlife that inhabit South Florida. The foliage is bi-colored; the leaves are a glossy green on the top and a pale muted green on the bottom. This results in an interesting color display on breezy days.

**PLANT NEEDS:**
Light: Full Sun
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Moisture: High Drought Tolerant
Salt Tolerance: Moderate Salt Tolerance
**HORSEFLESH MAHOGANY**  
* (Lysiloma sabicu)  
Height: 25’-50’  
Spread: 20’-30’  
Needs a planting space of 60 square feet or less.

The Wild Tamarind tree is a fast growing Florida native that can be found as far away as Asia. It is a member of the Leguminosae family and grows well in southern Florida and the Keys. It is easily recognized by the numerous small oval shaped leaves giving the branches a feathery appearance. The white flowers are small and inconspicuous, but emit a strong pleasant fragrance. New leaf growth has a reddish tinge, which forms an interesting contrast to the mature dark green foliage. With age, the bark of the Wild Tamarind becomes more distinctive forming long plate like segments. The Wild Tamarind is well suited for city streets due to its drought tolerance. It should be grown in full sun or partial shade on rich, well-drained soil.

**PLANT NEEDS:**  
Light: Partial Shade to Full Sun  
Soil: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained  
Moisture: High Drought Tolerant  
Salt Tolerance: High Salt Tolerance
The City of Coral Springs is working towards becoming one of the few cities in the nation to be recognized as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). This truly is a community effort and requires the help of many people to be successful. One of the most important aspects of this certification process is to have 300 single family homes certified as Backyard Habitats by the NWF.

If you have questions regarding the Coral Springs certification program and how you can get involved, please call 954-344-1154.

Starting a Backyard Wildlife Habitat

The Florida Wildlife Federation, in concert with National Wildlife Federation, is offering all Florida residents an opportunity to take part in the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. The goal is to promote and expand gardening for wildlife in Florida.

Created in 1973, the nationwide program has certified the gardening efforts of people at over 22,400 sites nationwide, including more than 725 schools, and hundreds of businesses and communities. Florida is one of the fastest-growing states in America and our wildlife habitat is shrinking at an alarming rate. Each time a developer replaces undeveloped land with lots for dwellings or commercial activities, creatures that once lived on that land must find other space that will support their needs. In urban areas especially, pockets of terrain suitable for sustaining animal life will help to ameliorate this displacement. Wildlife needs four basic elements: food, water, cover, and a place to raise their young. These things can be accomplished on a piece of ground as small as three by eight feet. The methods for planning for and providing these basic elements can be simple and inexpensive, or as elaborate as the property owner chooses. A Backyard Wildlife Habitat site provides for wildlife the four basic elements needed for survival. Property owners also employ sustainable gardening practices that conserve natural resources.
Why Certify Your Yard?
Aside from offering wildlife a wonderful place to thrive, you’ll be eligible for the following benefits, including:

- a Certificate of Achievement suitable for framing
- a lifetime subscription to the Habitats newsletter
- the option for NWF to send a press release to your local newspaper announcing your achievement
- a free one-year membership to NWF
- and much more!

As you plan and create your habitat, please use the many free, online resources at www.nwf.org.