

Cultivated Tree Removal Permit Information

Cultivated Landscapes

Cultivated landscapes are lands that have been altered by humans through the removal and/or addition of vegetation, which changes the land from its natural condition to a condition requiring routine maintenance. Trees in cultivated landscapes may not have adequate room to grow resulting in conflicts with the built environment

Who needs a permit?

ALL trees on commercial developments and trees planted in common areas within residential developments require a Cultivated Tree Removal Permit. A permit is not required for a single-family residence on a single-family zoned parcel. However, residences established as part of a Homeowners Association (HOA) or as part of a Master Association, should consult with the association before tree removal, relocation, or replanting occurs. Clearing over 1 acre on a developed single-family parcel requires a Vegetation Removal Permit (VRP).

Reasons for Removal

Collier County considers the following when evaluating Cultivated Tree Removal Permits:

- Are the trees causing damage to structures, such as roots lifting foundations, sidewalks or parking areas?
- Are the trees damaging utilities, such as roots invading the sewer lines?

Determine The Number Of Trees Required For Your Property

Pervious Lot Area (square foot)	# of Trees Required	Minimum # of Native Trees	Maximum # of Palms
5,999 or less	1	1	0
6,000 – 8,999	2	2	0
9,000 – 11,999	3	2	1
12,000 – 14,999	4	3	1
15,000 – 17,999	5	4	1
18,000 – 20,999	6	5	1
21,000 – 23,999	7	5	2
24,000 – 26,999	8	6	2
27,000 – 29,999	9	7	2
30,000 – 32,999	10	7	3
33,000 – 35,999	11	8	3
36,000 – 38,999	12	9	3
39,000 – 41,999	13	10	3
42,000 – 44,999	14	10	4
45,000 or more	15	11	4

A minimum of 1 canopy tree per 3,000 square feet of pervious lot area is required for single-family, duplex and mobile home lots. A canopy tree must be a species that attains a minimum 15' height and greater than 20' spread at maturity.

100% of required trees must be native to Florida for lots South or West of Hwy. 41. In all other locations, 75% of the required trees must be native to Florida. Royal Palms and Date Palms (other than pygmy date) count as 1 canopy tree. All other palms in groupings of 3 count as 1 canopy tree. Palms may count as a required tree once a minimum of 3 canopy trees are required as per the above table.

Tree Specifications

All canopy trees required, at time of installation, shall be a minimum of 25 gallon size, 10 feet in height, have a 1¼-inch caliper (at 12 inches above the ground) and a 4-foot canopy spread.

Existing native trees preserved on the property can be credited for the landscape requirements. Preserved trees shall be protected during construction with barriers installed prior to commencement and remain until construction is completed.



Newly planted trees shall be staked for 6 to 12 months until the tree has established itself. Leaving the braces on longer than this can seriously damage the tree.

In order to prevent future problems with roots and branches damaging the foundation or roof of the home, large canopy trees must be planted a minimum of 15 feet away from any structures and 10 feet away from drives, sidewalks, and/or hardscapes, or an approved root barrier system shall be installed.



Choosing the Right Tree

Tree or Shrub?

A woody plant with a distinct main stem or trunk is defined as a tree. At maturity, trees are usually the tallest of plants, and their height and single main stem differentiate them from shrubs, which are shorter and have many stems. Trees are perennials, plants that live for at least three years. Perhaps the most important ecological function of trees is protecting the land against the wearing away of topsoil by wind and water. The trunks and branches of trees provide protection from the wind, and tree roots help solidify soil in times of heavy rain. Additionally, trees and forests store water reserves that act as buffers for the ecosystem during periods of drought.

Why Are Trees Important?

Trees are an important part of the aesthetic appearance and environment of Collier County. Trees screen and buffer the harsher aspects of urban development and provide physical and psychological benefits to persons by reducing noise and glare. Trees also reduce heat gain in buildings and in parking lots through the creation of shade, promote water conservation, and prevent soil erosion. Additionally, trees provide habitat, protection, and food for many plant and animal species.

Choosing the Right Tree

Selecting a tree should be based on the location of the property in relation to the coast or in the coastal zone. Areas east and north of US 41 are slightly cooler than the coastal zone. Areas east of Airport Road experience even cooler temperatures. Therefore, it is recommended that temperature-hardy species of trees are planted according to their location in Collier County.

Right Tree in the Right Place

COASTAL TOLERANT (West of US 41): Buttonwood, Sea Grape, Royal Palm and Gumbo Limbo.

MARGINALLY COASTAL (Between US-41 and I-75): Live Oak, Mahogany, Royal Palm and Bald Cypress.

COLD TOLERANT (East of I-75): Bald Cypress, Live Oak, Red Maple, Slash Pine, Cabbage Palm and Magnolia.

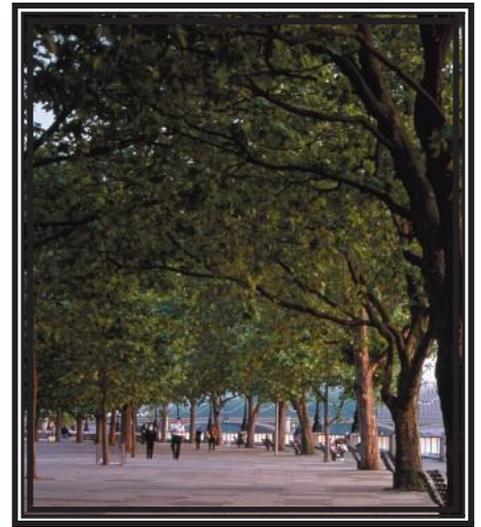
For a partial list of native trees and shrubs of Collier County by zone, or for the Cultivated Tree Removal Permit Application, please visit the County's website: www.colliergov.net or contact Staff from the Production Review Team as shown below.



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Make the Grade:

Tree Quality

It is important to make sure trees planted around the home are of good quality. The tree quality grades acceptable to the county for planting are Florida #1 or better. Florida Fancy grade has a single dominant trunk and evenly-spaced alternating branches. A tree matching this description is of top quality or grade and is called a Florida Fancy. Sometimes a tree will have a co-dominant leader. If the V-notch is in the top half of the tree it is labeled a Florida #1, and downgraded to a Florida #2 if the V-notch is in the lower half of the tree.

A stable healthy tree is one with a single trunk. Trees with more than one leader are more likely to have large limbs that give away during high winds or storms and can cause property damage. For safety, Collier County requires landscaped trees to be Florida #1 or better.

Brochure created by the Collier County
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