

Selecting and Locating a Tree



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Introduction

As the Waterford Lakes ecosystem matures, small trees that the developers planted are becoming large tree, causing problems to paved areas and underground pipes. This document is part of a set of pamphlets offering suggestions about avoiding problems with new trees and coping with problems from existing trees. The pamphlets describe:

- Selecting and Locating a Tree
- How to Plant the Tree
- Coping with Tree Problems

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is based on advice from tree experts and is presented in good faith and believed to be correct, but it is General in nature and should never be used as a substitute for paid advice from a qualified professional such as an arborist. All information in this document is provided "as is" without warranties, representations, or guarantees of any kind.

The Waterford Lakes Long Range Planning Committee developed this document and is solely responsible for its content. Recommendations made in this document are those of the Committee, and do not represent official positions of the Waterford Lakes Community Association or its Architectural Review Committee.

Covenant Documents and Tree Maintenance

Trees are addressed in two sections of the Amended and Restated Covenants, Conditions, & Restrictions of Waterford Lakes:

Article IX, Section 1-P MAINTENANCE OF LANDSCAPED AREAS:

All landscaped areas (to the paved right-of-way) shall be maintained in live, healthy and growing condition, properly watered and trimmed. Any planting of grass, shrubs, or trees which become dead or badly damaged shall be replaced with similar, sound healthy plant materials.

Article IX, Section 1-V. TREES

Removal of existing trees and shrubbery from any Lot shall not be permitted (except within the foundation perimeter line for the dwelling) unless landscaping of an equivalent or higher quality is substituted therefor.

These sections DO NOT allow:

- Keeping diseased or dead trees on properties
- Removing a tree without replacement plant material

These sections DO allow

- Replacing a tree with a smaller tree
- Replacing a tree with a tree of a different species
- Replacing a tree at a different location within the property
- Replacing a tree with landscaping features of equivalent or higher quality.

How to Select a Tree

The first step in tree planting is to choose a tree that will have a good chance of thriving in our central Florida environment without posing an invasive threat to other plant species. Trees recommended in this section are suggested because they are native to the region and/or their proven performance in Central Florida. The three groups of trees below are listed by the Orange County, Florida, Code of Ordinances > PART II - ORANGE COUNTY CODE > Chapter 15 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL > ARTICLE VIII. - TREE PROTECTION AND REMOVAL > DIVISION 1.GENERALLY. ¹

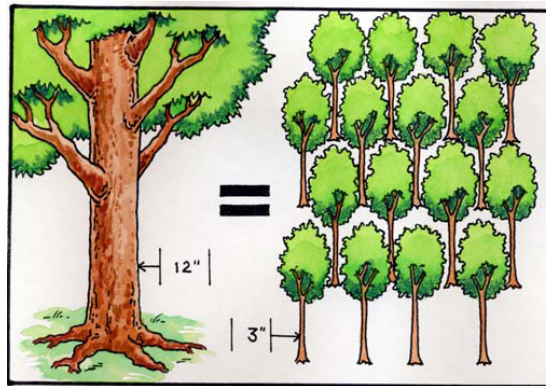
- Table 1 lists recommended canopy trees, which normally grow to mature heights of forty (40) feet or more, need lots of space, and should be planted away from structures that could be damaged by their roots.

¹ Another reference for Florida plantings is *Yankee's Guide to Florida Gardening* by Hank Bruce and Marlene Bruce.

- Table 2 lists recommended understory trees, which normally grow to mature heights of fifteen (15) to thirty-nine (39) feet.
- Table 3 lists restricted trees, which may **not** be used as replacement stock within the unincorporated areas of the county due to their exotic invasive nature or otherwise undesirable characteristics.

Recommended Canopy Trees

Large trees cool our homes and absorb pollutants from the air.



A tree with a 12-inch diameter trunk provides more environmental benefit than 16 trees with 3-inch diameter trunks.

These canopy tree species are suggested because they are native to the region and/or their proven performance in Central Florida.

Table 1 – Recommended Canopy Trees

<i>Common Name - Canopy</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>
Bald cypress	Taxodium distichum
Black Gum	Nyssa sylvatica
Chinese Elm	Ulmus parvifolia
Fringe Tree	Chionanthus virginicus
Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Laurel oak	Quercus Laurifolia
Live oak	Quercus virginiana
Loblolly Pine	Pinus taeda
Long Leaf Pine	Pinus palustris
Pecan	Carya illinoensis
Pignut hickory	Carya glabra
Pond cypress	Taxodium ascendens
Red maple	Acer rubrum
Sand live oak	Quercus geminata

<i>Common Name - Canopy</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>
Scrub hickory	Carya floridana
Slash Pine	Pinus elliotti
Southern magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora
Southern red cedar	Juniperus virginiana
Southern Red Oak	Quercus falcata
Spanish oak; Shumard Oak	Quercus shumardii
Swamp Chestnut Oak	Quercus michauxii
Sweet gum	Liquidambar styraciflua
Sycamore	Platanus occidentalis
Turkey oak	Quercus laevis
Water oak	Quercus nigra
Winged elm; Cork elm	Ulmus alata

Recommended Understory Trees

Understory trees normally grow to a mature height of fifteen (15) to thirty-nine (39) feet. These understory tree species are suggested because they are native to the region and/or their proven performance in Central Florida.

Table 2 – Recommended Understory Trees

<i>Common Name - Understory</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>
American holly	Ilex opaca
Blackjack oak	Quercus incana
Chickasaw plum	Prunus angustifolia
Coast pignut hickory	Carya glabra negacarpa
Crepe Myrtle	Lagerstroemia indica
Dahoon holly	Ilex cassine
Flowering dogwood	Cornus florida
Ligustrum	Ligustrum japonicum
Loblolly bay	Gordonia Lasianthus
Myrtle oak	Quercus myrtifolia
Red bay	Persea borbonia
Red buckeye	Aesculus pavia
Red Bud	Cercis canadensis

<i>Common Name - Understory</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>
River Birch	Betula Nigra
Sabal or Cabbage Palm	Sabal Palmetto
Scrub oak	Quercus inopina
Swamp dogwood	Cornus foemina
Sweet bay	Magnolia virginiana
Tulip tree	Liriodendron tulipifera
Wild olive-Devilwood	Osmanthus americanus

Restricted Trees

Restricted trees may not be used as replacement stock within the unincorporated areas of the county due to their exotic invasive nature or otherwise undesirable characteristics:

Table 3 – Restricted Trees

<i>Common Name - Restricted</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>
Australian pine	Casuarina species
Cajeput or punk tree	Melaleuca species
Cama eucalyptus	Eucalyptus camuldulensis
Chinaberry	Melia azedarch
Chinese tallow tree	Sapium sebiferum
Ear tree	Enterlobium contortisliquum
Florida holly or Brazilian pepper	Schinus terebinthifolius
Jacaranda	Jacaranda acutifolia
Lead tree	Leucaena species
Mimosa	Albizzia julibrissin
Paper mulberry	Broussonetia papyrifera
Silk oak	Grevillea robusta
Tropical Almond	Terminalia catappa

Where to Plant a Tree

The tree should be planted far enough away from streets, sidewalks, driveways, house foundations, and sewer lines so that its roots do not cause problems later.

The tree should be planted away from overhead power lines to prevent electrical issues when it reaches mature size.

The tree should also be planted far enough away from your house so that its branches do not overhang your roof when it reaches mature size. Overhanging tree branches can drop moss spores onto your roof that cause green stains.

Gilman and Partin (2007)² list the following soil space requirements for trees based on their size at maturity.

“For situations where the planting area is surrounded by paved surfaces, Table 4 provides guidelines for the minimum amount of soil to provide based on tree size at maturity. There are two components to soil space: 1) the total soil volume needed to sustain a tree for a reasonable period of time, and 2) the open soil area needed immediately surrounding the trunk to accommodate trunk flare growth. Open soil space is soil that is not covered by a solid hard surface such as a sidewalk, pavement, or a building.”

Table 4 - Soil requirements for trees based on their size at maturity.

Tree Size At Maturity	Total Soil Area*	Distance from Paved Surface
SMALL Height: shorter than 30 ft	10 ft x 10 ft	2 ft
MEDIUM Height or spread: less than 50 ft	20 ft x 20 ft	6 ft
LARGE Height or spread: greater than 50 ft	30 ft x 30 ft	10 ft

* Measurements for when rootable soil depth is 3 feet or greater. For soil less than 3 feet deep, smaller maturing trees are recommended.

² Gilman, Edward F., and Traci Partin, “Urban Design for a Wind Resistant Urban Forest,” Chapter 6, University of Florida IFAS Extension, Publication ENH 1056, 2007.