

Purpose and Intent

- To improve appearance and health of a plant.
- To remove diseased, dead, or abnormal plant tissue.
- To remove undesirable growth that distracts from the balance of symmetry of the plant.
- To stimulate flowering and/or fruit production of old plants.
- To prevent personal injury or property damage.
- To encourage young plants to produce stronger and more vigorous trees.
- To rejuvenate old trees and shrubs.
- To develop a specific plant form, which is approved by the Zoning Division, prior to pruning.

Palm Pruning Requirements

Article 7.E.4.B - Palm Pruning Requirements:

- No more than one third of fronds shall be removed
- No pruning above the horizon line, except for dead or diseased fronds.



Before Pruning



After Proper Pruning



After Excessive Pruning

Palm Beach County Zoning Division Landscape



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners

Contact Information

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

Palm Beach County
Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Zoning Division
Landscape Section

Location: 2300 North Jog Road, 2nd Floor,
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Phone: 561-233-5200

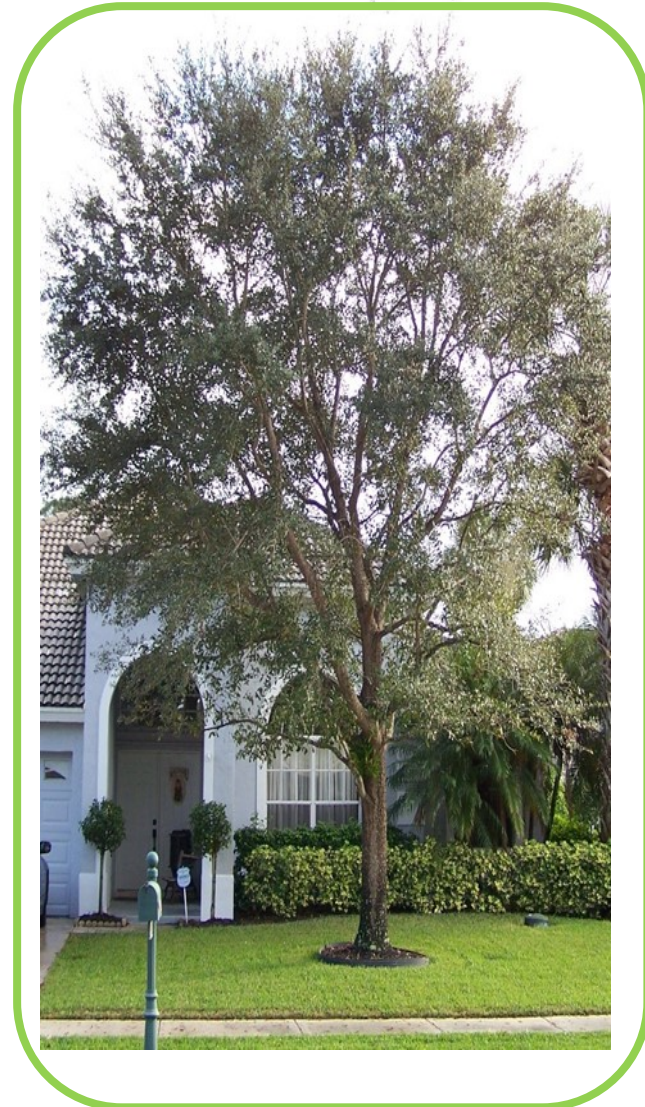
Email: PZB-ZonePOC@pbcgov.org

Website:

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/pzb/Zoning/Sections/Permit-Review-Landscape.aspx>



PALM BEACH COUNTY PRUNING GUIDELINES



Pruning Regulations

The Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) Article 7.F.4 - Pruning After Installation, establishes acceptable practices for pruning trees in unincorporated Palm Beach County (PBC).

All Arborists and Tree Professional shall adhere to the ANSI A300 Pruning Standards.

Tree topping / hatracking is prohibited.

The Palm Beach County Pruning Regulations encourage a property owner to establish a pruning program that ensures the trees are permitted to grow to their natural form.

It is important when installing trees in the landscape, the property owner should be familiar with the habit and growth rate of the trees. Planting the right trees in the right environment will avoid unnecessary illegal pruning in the future. Large shade trees need open space for their canopy to spread.

Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office, or if you need help in selecting a tree, please refer to the Preferred Plant interactive guide. On the Palm Beach County Web page at:

https://www.pbcgov.org/ePZB.Admin.WebSPA/#/Container/Plant_Material_Database

Please note that required plants damaged during a natural disaster or hurricane must be replaced.

For Frequently asked question regarding pruning and landscape practices please see:

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/pzb/FAQPages/Zoning-Landscape.aspx>

Examples of Trees Pruned in Accordance with PBC Regulations



The above examples demonstrate where the proper tree was used in the landscape design. The trees have been pruned correctly to maintain the natural canopy of the tree.

**Prune a tree correctly today and
SAVE A TREE for tomorrow.**

Examples of Tree Pruning Violation

A tree can be illegally pruned causing the irreparable or irreversible harm improper pruning or hatracking of a tree that can cause significant damage to tree precludes the regrowth of a natural canopy.



Additionally, reparable harm to existing vegetation can include the improper pruning that has caused damage to vegetation to an extent that can be corrected or repaired through standards of additional pruning and care by professionals.



Trees that will never regrow a natural canopy and must be removed and replaced with several new trees shall be in accordance with ULDC regulations and the development order.

Failure to follow these regulations is a violation of the ULDC and may be subject to the Code Enforcement actions as listed in ULDC Articles 7.G. and Article 10 - Enforcement.

You may report tree pruning violations to Code Enforcement divisional office at [561-233-5500](tel:561-233-5500), or via email at pzbcode@pbcgov.com.