

# Landscaping Tips

All landscaped areas must be covered with shrubs, ground cover, turf, three inches of organic mulch or other suitable material which permits percolation. Where mulch is used, it must be protected from washing out of the planting bed. Inorganic mulch, such as gravel or rock, should only be used where washouts occur. Plastic sheets shall not be installed under mulches. Trees, which are balled and burlapped must have the burlap removed or folded down at the time of planting. All twine or rope must be removed. If wire baskets are used, the upper rows must be cut before planting. If stakes or guy wires are used to support a tree, the wire must be covered with protective material where it is in contact with the tree and the stakes or guy wires must be removed after one year.



City of Clearwater  
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[www.MyClearwater.com](http://www.MyClearwater.com)



In Clearwater, topping and other pruning methods like flush cuts and stub cuts are unlawful.

Topping is perhaps the most harmful tree pruning practice known. Yet, despite more than 25 years of literature and seminars explaining its harmful effects, topping remains a common practice.

Topping is the indiscriminate cutting of tree branches to stubs. Other names for topping include heading, tipping, hatracking and rounding over.

## Tree Removal



A Guide to Clearwater's Tree Removal,  
Landscaping and Pruning Codes

# Tree Removal Information

Within the City of Clearwater most trees are "protected trees." A protected tree is a tree of four inches or greater in diameter at breast height (DBH). DBH is measured at four-and-one-half feet above the ground. Palm trees with 10 feet or more of clear trunk are also considered protected trees.

Prohibited trees do not require a permit for removal and should not be relocated or planted in the city. Trees prohibited in the city currently include:

- Punk (cajeput) - Melaleuca Quinquenervia or Melaleuca Leucodendron
- Brazilian Pepper - Schinus Terebinthifolius
- Australian Pine - Casuarina Equisetifolia
- Chinese Tallow - Sapium Sebiferum



**When healthy, protected trees are removed in Clearwater the whole community suffers. The first thing we lose is the beauty the tree provides. Other losses include environmental, energy savings, property value and wildlife habitats. Let's work together to help keep Clearwater "cool" by planting new trees and protecting existing ones.**

Protected trees require permits before removal and/or relocation. A permit will not be granted for the removal of a "specimen tree" or "historic tree," a tree the city determines to be of a high value to the community because of its type, size, age, exceptional quality or other professional criteria.

If city staff determines that a tree has special qualities, they will recommend the tree be preserved on the site or moved to another location. On occasion, due to site constraints and/or the specifics of a particular proposal, it may be necessary to remove or destroy a protected tree.

The replacement of protected trees and palms is required. This may be done by planting other acceptable trees for the equivalent replacement value/size or by payment of a fee in lieu of replacement to the city tree bank. Staff will work with the applicant to determine the appropriate conditions of approval. Be aware of the following:

- A completed application and \$ 15 fee must be submitted for the consideration of a Tree Removal Permit.
- Removal of a protected tree without a permit could result in fines up to \$5,000.
- Contractors are prohibited from leaving tree debris curb side for City of Clearwater collection.

Contact the Planning Department's Land Resource Specialist at (727) 562-4746 with specific questions.

# Recommended Trees

SHADE TREES - Low Water Use	
Florida Elm	Shumard Oak
Golden Rain Tree	Slash Pine
Live Oak	Southern Red
Loblolly Pine	Cedar
Pecan	Sweetgum
Pignut Hickory	Weeping Elm
Red Bay	Winged Elm
SHADE TREES - Moderate Water Use	
Bald Cypress	Southern Magnolia
Green Ash	Surgarberry
Red Maple	Sycamore
ACCENT TREES - Low Water Use	
Chickasaw Plum	Sea Grape
Crape Myrtle	Wax Myrtle
Florida Privet	Yaupon Holly
Groundsel	
ACCENT TREES - Moderate Water Use	
Chaste Tree	Sparkleberry
Fringe Tree	Upright
Glossy Privet	Bottlebrush
Parsley	Walter's
Hawthorne	Viburnum
Simpson	Weeping
Stopper	Yellow Anise
ACCENT TREES - High Water Use	
Buttonbush	Dahoon Holly
Carolina (Pop)	Elderberry
Ash	
PALM TREES - Low Water Use	
Cabbage Palm	Saw Palmetto
Chinese Fan Palm	Senegal Date Palm
European Fan Palm	Washington Palm
Needle Palm	Windmill Palm
Sabal Palm	
<p><b>All replacement trees must be Florida Grade #1.</b>  <b>All shade trees must be 10 feet in height with 2.5 of caliper.</b>  <b>Two Accent Trees = One Shade Tree</b>  <b>Three Palm Trees = One Shade Tree</b></p>	