



CITY OF BOCA RATON
201 W. PALMETTO PARK ROAD
BOCA RATON, FL 33432

BOCA RATON RESIDENT

SUSTAINABLE TREE MAINTENANCE

Protecting one of
our community's greatest
natural resources...TREES.

For more information visit
www.MyBoca.us/Sustainability

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BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER IN BOCA RATON

Learn how **YOU** can help.

The concept of sustainability is the endurance of systems and processes. Small changes and adjustments to individual lifestyles can conserve natural resources and create healthy ecosystems like tree canopies.

Throughout this brochure you'll find tips for **planting, protecting, pruning and planning** for the trees in our community. You'll also find an extensive list of sustainable tree maintenance resources on our website at www.MyBoca.us/Sustainability. **Your interest and action can help keep Boca Raton green.**



1 PLANT TREES

Trees are essential to life. They create the air we breathe and filter air pollution. Trees soak up storm water, offer energy-saving shade that reduces global warming and create habitats for different species. A mature tree canopy absorbs carbon and releases oxygen.



There is a wide variety of trees and plants that are perfect for your South Florida landscaping and garden. Learn about **Florida-friendly** plants, including **Florida-native** plants, that require little irrigation or fertilizer, are low maintenance and attract wildlife.

2 PRUNE BEFORE THE STORM

We live in a tropical environment that is susceptible to strong storms and hurricanes, so planting the right tree in the right place is important. Also important, is pruning ahead of hurricane season.



Plan ahead...proper pruning year-round saves you \$\$...and saves the trees. The City of Boca Raton **strongly** encourages all residents and businesses to do **ALL** major tree cutting/removal **PRIOR to April 30**.

Hurricane Season is from June 1 - November 30.

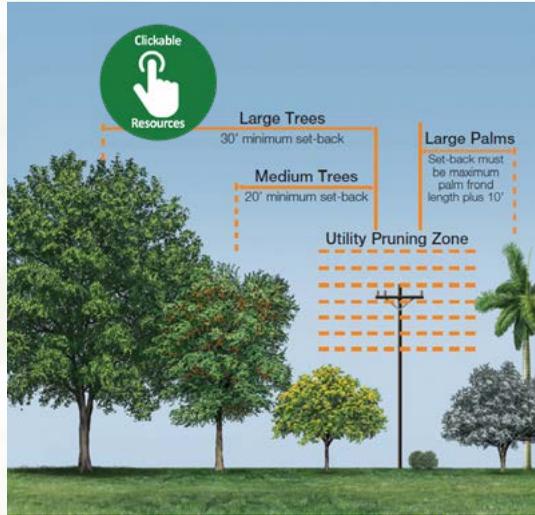
3 HIRE A CERTIFIED ARBORIST

Certified arborists are individuals who have achieved a level of knowledge in the art & science of tree care through at least three years of experience, have passed a comprehensive exam and continue their education to maintain certifications.

Always ask for:

- Certified Arborist Card
- Occupational License
- Hazard Insurance
- Sample Contract
- References

PLANTING for your safety



- [Stay away from power lines.](#)
- Trees (and palms) that are too close to power lines...
 - can transmit electricity through their trunks and down to their roots into your yard.
 - can catch on fire. The Fire Department can't put out the fire until FPL shuts off the power.
 - can cause you to lose power.
- FPL will come into your yard and [cut your trees away from their lines.](#)

Graphic: FPL



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PROTECTING your home

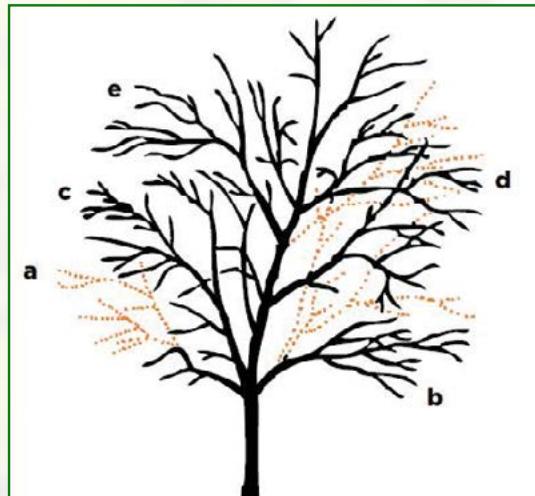
- [Plant trees at a safe distance from your house](#) to avoid damage.
- Roots can interrupt your water service.
- Large tree roots can [buckle patios, driveways and walkways.](#)
- Large tree roots can [damage your pool and pool equipment.](#)
- Tree branches and palm fronds can [damage your screen enclosure.](#)



Photo: UF/IFAS



PRUNING to establish a wind-resistant landscape



- Start [training trees](#) when they are young to create strong structure.
- Leave most of the foliage in the lower half of the canopy to [anchor the tree.](#)
- Removing too many lower limbs makes the tree [top-heavy.](#)
- Top-heavy trees [fall over.](#)
- Avoid removing [branches and foliage inside the canopy.](#)

Graphic: UF/IFAS



PLANNING by selecting [wind-resistant trees and palms](#)

- [Decide](#) what type of tree to plant – shade, ornamental or fruit
- Will the tree you select thrive or die in our climate? [Check the USDA zone](#) or ask an expert.
- [Select](#) quality trees from the nursery.

- Make sure to give roots and canopies room to expand [so your tree will grow.](#)
- Large growing trees & palms need lots of space. Trees next to curbs and driveways don't have enough [room to grow](#) and will fall in high winds. (minimum soil space 30' x 30').

Photo: UF/IFAS

