

# Homeowner's Guide City's Landscape Code



Punta Gorda  
FLORIDA



# Punta Gorda

Homeowner guide to the City's  
Landscape code

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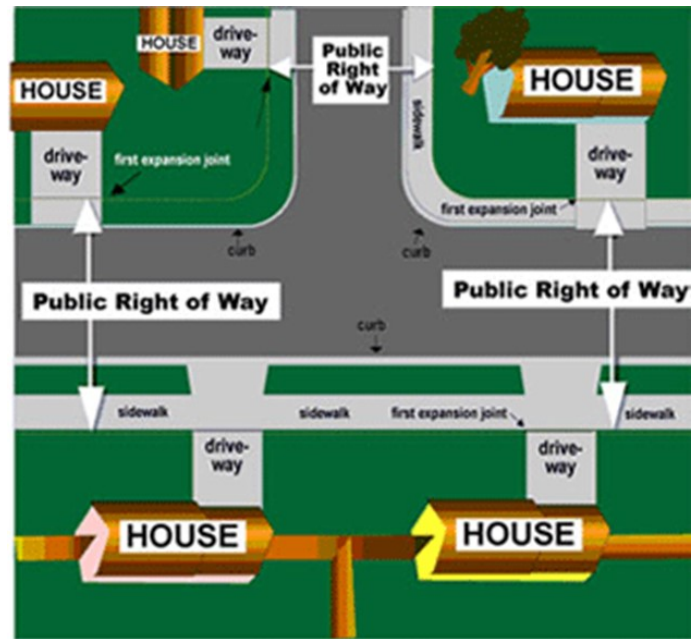
## LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

The purpose and intent of this Article is to enhance the appearance and natural beauty of the City and to protect property values through preservation and planting of vegetation, screening, and landscape materials. These measures will help reduce excessive heat, glare, and accumulation of dust; provide privacy from noise and visual intrusion; prevent the erosion of soil, the excessive run-off of water, the consequent depletion of the ground water table and pollution of water bodies; and to protect other plant species from canker and other disease.

Landscape selection is one of the most important decisions made when designing your property or development project. The concept of planting the right plant, particularly *“the right tree in the right place”* is critical to creating a sustainable landscape design. Since most trees have the potential to outlive the people who plant them, the proper selection can have a significant influence on the success or failure of the design.

# GENERAL PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ Nothing except ground-cover shall be planted or installed within an easement without the consent of the City.
- ◆ No person shall plant or remove any landscaping within a right-of-way without the consent of the City.
- ◆ Prior to the removal of any tree the owner shall give the City first right of refusal to relocate the tree.
- ◆ ALL trees shall be kept out of the visibility triangle. The visibility triangle shall be determined by the Zoning Official or designee.
- ◆ Maximum impervious surface area shall not exceed 60% for a single family residence.
- ◆ All plants must be planted before a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) is issued to the homeowner.
- ◆ Only sod or approved groundcover, NO trees or shrubs, shall be planted within six (6) feet of a seawall. Depending on the tree species an eight (8) foot or twenty (20) foot clearance may be necessary. Refer to the Approved Tree List for specific trees.



## PROHIBITED PLANTS



Any tree or plant on the current Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plant List as amended, are prohibited and shall be removed from any site prior to new development. In addition, all species of eucalyptus and ficus\* trees are prohibited to be sold or planted. Any person who sells or plants any tree or plant material in violation of this Section shall be required to remove such prohibited tree at their sole expense.

(\* Ficus microcarpa subsp. fuyuensis, sold as "Green Island Ficus" is allowed)

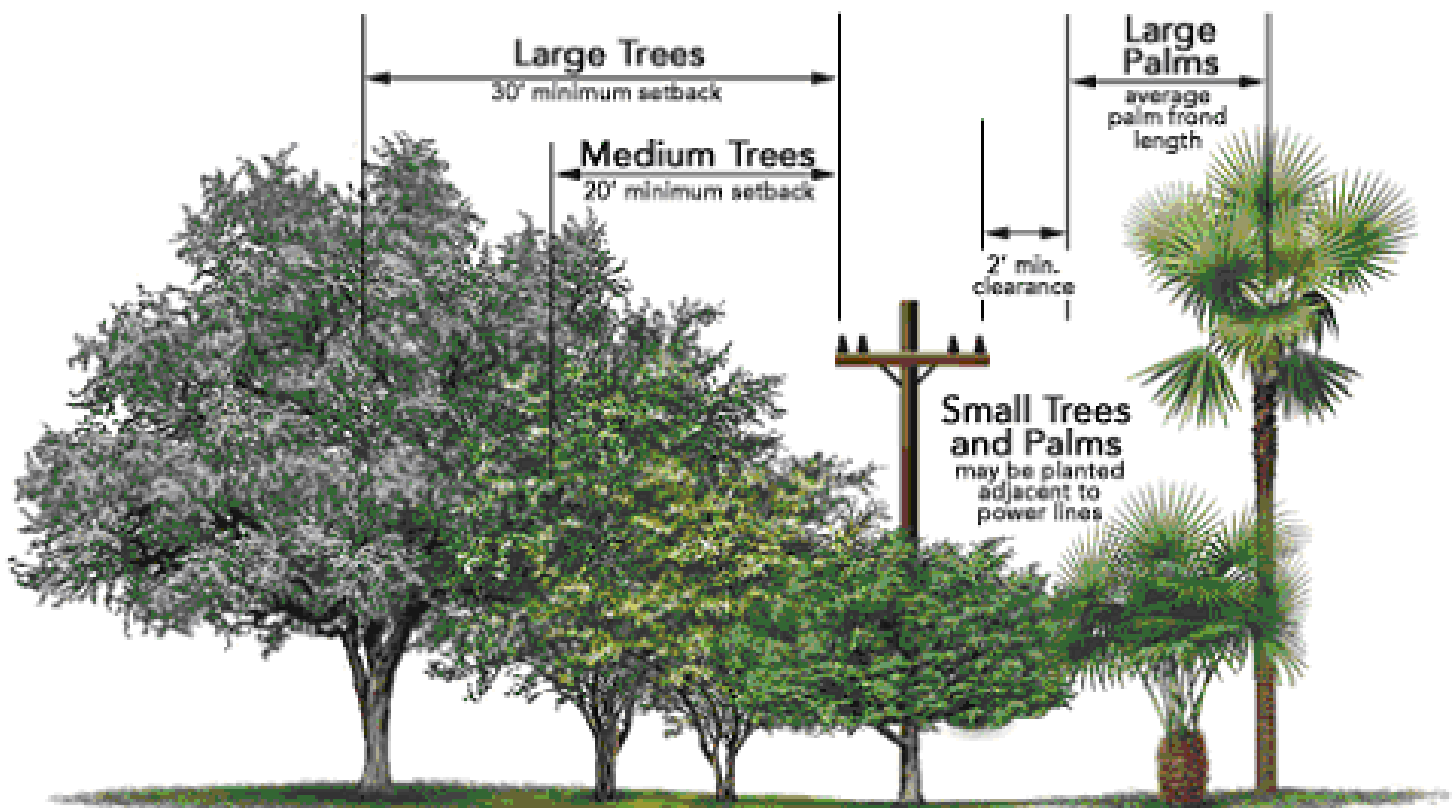
<http://www.fleppc.org/>

# RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

The City's code is based on the Right Tree planted in the Right Place Concept. Since trees come in all shapes and sizes, and often change dramatically over their lifetimes.

A proper landscape plan takes each tree's characteristics into consideration:

- 1) Height - Will the tree bump into anything when it is fully grown?
- 2) Canopy spread - How wide will the tree grow?
- 3) Is the tree deciduous or coniferous? (Will it lose its leaves in the winter?)
- 4) Form or shape - A columnar tree will grow in less space. Round and V-Shaped species provide the most shade.
- 5) Growth rate - How long will it take for your tree to reach its full height?
- 6) Soil, sun, and moisture requirements
- 7) USDA Hardiness zone
- 8) Fruit



# NEW HOME REQUIREMENTS

## LANDSCAPE PLAN REQUIRED



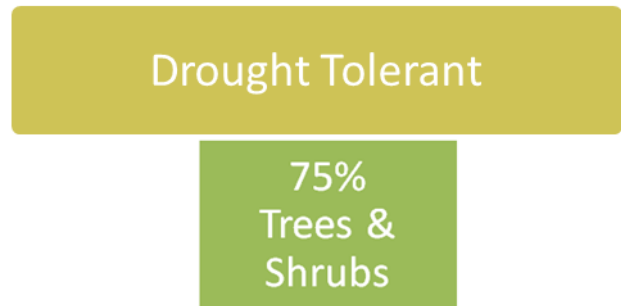
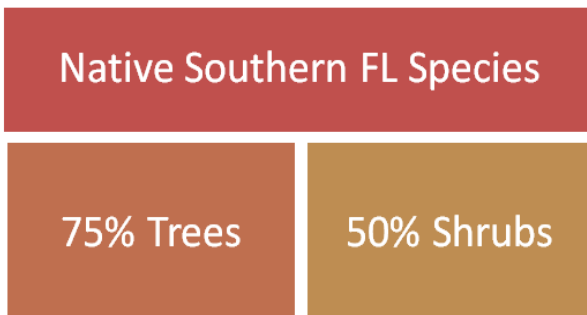
Prior to the issuance of any building permit for site development, a landscape plan shall be submitted to, reviewed and approved by the Zoning Official or designee.

The landscape plan submitted for an individual single-family or duplex residence may be in the form of a plot or drawing prepared by the owner or his agent. The plan must identify plants by species name, pot size and height and show location of the plant material to be installed or preserved on the site.

## SINGLE FAMILY & DUPLEX LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS

Each building site shall be provided with trees, shrubs and groundcovers and shall be landscaped to comply with the following standards:

- ◆ For **ALL NEW CONSTRUCTION** - at least 75 percent of the trees and 50 percent of the shrubs used to fulfill these requirements shall be native Southern Florida species. For updating landscape beds on existing properties, Florida Friendly species may be substituted with prior staff approval.
- ◆ In addition, at least 75 percent of the trees and shrubs used to fulfill these requirements shall be drought tolerant species.



# TREE REQUIREMENTS

## Trees and Shrubs

All trees shall be at least 10-12 feet in height and 2.5 inches, or as approved by Zoning Official or designee, in DBH at the time of installation. All shrubs shall be at least 3 gallons in container size and 2 feet in height for an upright growth habit shrub and 6-12 inches in height for a horizontal growth habit shrub.

Building site requirements. One canopy (1) tree per every 4,000 square feet or portion thereof is required per building site. Canopy trees shall not

be planted within ten (10) feet of the building footprint or adjoining lot line to accommodate growth. Two (2) palms as listed below may be substituted for each required canopy tree:



- i. Sable (Cabbage) Palm, *Sabal palmetto*
- ii. Everglades Palm, *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*
- iii. Florida Thatch Palm, *Thrinax radiata*
- iv. Florida Royal Palm, *Roystonea regia*

A fee of \$750 per tree may be paid to the City of Punta in lieu of planting a required tree or for voluntary removal of a required tree. Fees shall be set aside to be used for planting trees on City owned or controlled property or ROWs.

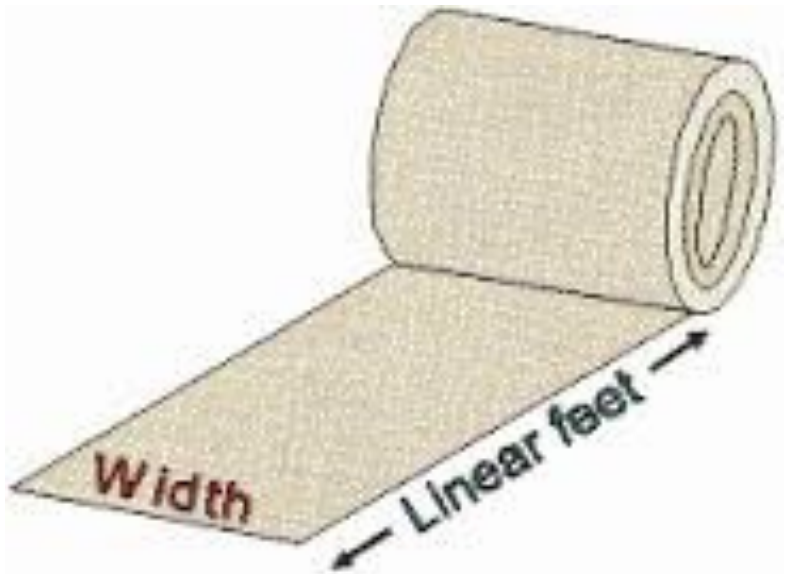
## Tree Species Mix

Required Number of Trees	Minimum Number of Species
3 - 10	2 Species
11 - 20	3 Species

## SHRUB REQUIREMENTS

One (1) shrub per five (5) linear feet of building frontage on any street. Structures with frontage on more than one street shall have one (1) shrub per every five (5) linear feet of frontage on each street.

Entire building site must be completely covered with suitable groundcovers including but not limited to sod, organic mulch and planting beds. No exposed soils shall be permitted. Organic mulch may only be used as permitted per Code and in no case may exceed ten percent (10%) of any yard unless specifically permitted herein. The use of rubberized pellets is specifically prohibited.



## GROUND COVER REQUIREMENTS

Groundcover plants shall be planted no more than 24 inches apart for one gallon pots or 12 inches apart for four-inch pots. Complete coverage must be maintained within six (6) months. Zoning inspections shall be made at three-month intervals. Any areas with exposed soils at the end of six (6) months shall be covered with sod and maintained. All groundcovers must be maintained at a height of less than twelve (12) inches at all times. Wherever used, sod shall be installed with no gaps or overlaps, so as to present a finished appearance and prohibit erosion of the planted area.

The use of any inorganic mulch, including, but not limited to pebbles or shells to cover the soil surface is not recommended. In no case may inorganic mulch exceed 10% of any yard area not covered by the building footprint.

Organic or inorganic mulch may only be used as necessary around trees and landscaped area and may not be used in lieu of sod or approved ground covers for lawn areas.

Building sites exceeding ten percent (10%) organic mulch may be permitted based under the City's Florida Friendly Landscape provisions, as outlined below. Please note, Florida Friendly Landscape planting plans are subject to the review and approval by City Staff.



# FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE

If Florida friendly landscape with limited sod is desired, the landscape plan must be designed by a qualified professional, such as a registered landscape architect, master gardener, certified arborist or certified landscape designer and shall be approved at building permit by the appropriate City Staff.

**Florida  
Friendly  
Yard**



FloridaYards.org  
SolutionsForYourLife.com/fyn



A Certificate of Occupancy shall not be issued until approval of the landscaping plan and installation of all plants and materials consistent with that approved plan has been completed and inspected by the Zoning Official or designee.

More information regarding Florida friendly landscaping can be found at <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/yards>

## EXISTING HOME REQUIREMENTS

### TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

Per City of Punta Gorda Code of Ordinance, Chapter 26, Section 12.3(k), no person shall cut down, destroy, damage, remove, or poison any native and approved non-native tree 12 inches or larger in diameter at breast height [DBH] within the City without an approved tree removal permit.

A tree removal permit may be approved if one or more of the following circumstances exist and is evidenced by a report from an arborist: the tree constitutes a hazard to life or property which cannot be mitigated without removing; the tree is dying or dead so that its restoration to a sound condition is not practicable; or it has a disease which can be transmitted to other trees.



Tree replacement shall be required pursuant to requirements in the Punta Gorda City Code of Ordinance, Chapter, Section 12.14 should the tree removal cause the property to fall below minimum requirements.

When it is necessary to expedite the removal of damaged, diseased or destroyed trees in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, notification to the City by means of telephone or email shall be sufficient. An after-the-fact permit must be obtained and site visit by the City shall be scheduled within 72 hours of the tree removal

# PRUNING

Non-residential and residential trees required by Article 12.3(h) shall not be pruned to maintain growth at a reduced height or spread. Hurricane cutting of palm trees is prohibited as a maintenance trim. Plants and trees shall only be pruned to promote healthy, safe, uniform, and natural growth of the vegetation and according to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 300 Series, in a manner that preserves the character of the crown. Root pruning shall be kept to an absolute minimum. Severely pruned trees and shrubs shall be replaced by the owner with comparable material.



## PROPER LANDSCAPE MAINTANCE

The City will follow the Florida Friendly Landscaping categories created by the University of Florida for the Florida Yards and Neighbors Program to determine compliance with proper maintenance standards. Said standards are hereby incorporated by reference as may from time to time be amended. Residential landscaping must meet the requirements below to be considered compliant:

- a) Landscape must be actively managed so that no area or plants appears overgrown or unsightly.
- b) Appropriate pruning practices are being used to ensure the health of the plants.
- c) Landscape beds are clearly defined.
- d) Landscape and household debris is properly disposed of or recycled.
- e) Any composting must be maintained in a completely enclosed area out of view of adjacent properties and the public right-of-ways.
- f) The topping or sculpting of any required trees into a desired shape, other than the natural shape is prohibited.

**Example of a well maintained single family home**



**Example of a poorly maintained home with several violations**



# WATERING YOUR LANDSCAPE

Lawn watering is limited to twice (2) per week (if needed) before 8:00 AM or after 6:00 PM.



**8AM-6PM**

Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day at any time using a shut-off nozzle on hose so water is not wasted.

## Lawn Watering Schedule

Addresses	Current Watering Day	May Also Water
Ending in 0 and 1	Monday	Thursday
Ending in 2 and 3	Tuesday	Friday
Ending in 4 and 5	Wednesday	Saturday
Ending in 6 and 7	Thursday	Sunday
Ending in 8 and 9 or Letter	Friday	Tuesday

## NEW LANDSCAPE



New plants have a 30-30 establishment period, which allows any day watering during the first 30 days and during the second 30 days, watering is allowed three (3) days per week.

Addresses ending in an EVEN number may water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Addresses ending in an ODD number may water on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Questions? Call the Utility Department at 941-575-3339.

# PLANT SELECTION

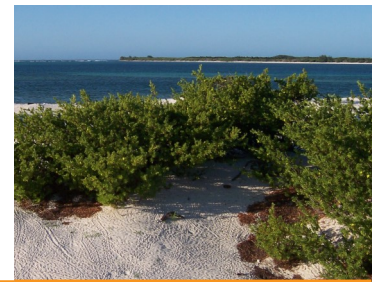
The selection of plants, planting methods, root ball, number of branches, and width, shall conform with the most recent update of the Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants published by Florida Department Agriculture and Consumer Services for that type of tree or shrub at the time of Installation and shall be of Florida # 1 Standard or better. The "Plant Palette" that follows, is a sample selection of City approved plants. It offers a variety of trees (separated into large, medium, and small), palm trees, shrubs, groundcover, grasses and perennial species providing for a complete range of canopy and understory coverage options. Trees with a DBH of less than two and one-half inches and below 10 feet in height, and trees which are diseased or weakened by age or injury shall not qualify as approved native or non-native trees for the purpose of these requirements.

## APPROVED NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE SMALL TREE

Autograph Tree  
*Clusia rosea*  
Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 250  
Height 20' - 30'  
Evergreen, partial to full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Bay Cedar  
*Suriana maritima*  
Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 50  
Height 5' - 20'  
Evergreen, full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Blackhaw / Walter's Viburnum  
*Viburnum obovatum*  
Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 75  
Height 8' - 25'  
Evergreen, part shade to full sun, white flower, very low salt tolerant, drought tolerant



### Black Mangrove

*Avicennia germinans*

Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 0

Protected species pruning and/or removal subject to the 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act (403.9321 - 403.9333 F.S.)



### Cassia spp

*Cassia* spp

Non-Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 75

Height 15' - 45'

Full sun, yellow or pink flowers, moderate salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant (Note: *Cassia bicapsularis*, *C. coluteoides* and *C. surattensis* are not permitted)



### Dahoon Holly

*Ilex cassine*

Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 50

Height 20' - 30'

Evergreen, mostly shaded to full sun, moderate salt, moderate drought tolerant



### Geiger Tree

*Cordia sebestena*

Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 50

Height 25'

Evergreen, part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant, orange flowers



### Green Buttonwood

*Conocarpus erectus*

Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 350

Height 30' - 35'

Evergreen, full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant



### Red Mangrove

*Rhizophora mangle*

Native / 50% Mature Canopy = 0

Protected species pruning and/or removal subject to the 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act (403.9321 - 403.9333 F.S.)



Satinleaf

*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 245

Height 35' - 70'

Evergreen, white inconspicuous flowers, part shade to full sun, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Seagrape

*Coccoloba uvifera*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 350

Height 30' - 40'

Evergreen, red to green leaves, part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Silver Buttonwood

*Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 350

Height 15' - 20"

Evergreen, part full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Southern Wax Myrtle

*Myrica cerifera*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 315

Height 15' - 20'

Evergreen, part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Sweetbay Magnolia

*Magnolia virginiana*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 250

Height 40' - 50'

Evergreen, white fragrant showy flower, part shade to full sun, low salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant



Varnish leaf

*Dodonaea viscosa*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 250

Height 10' - 15'

Evergreen, full sun yellow flower, drought tolerant



### White Mangrove

*Laguncularia racemosa*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 0

Protected species pruning and/or removal subject to the 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act (403.9321 - 403.9333 F.S.)



### Wild Cinnamon

*Canella winterana*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 75

Height 20' - 30'

Evergreen, part shade to full sun, white flower, salt and drought tolerant



### Wild Lime

*Zanthoxylum fagara*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 150

Height 15' - 25'

Evergreen, yellow flower, part shade to full sun, drought tolerant, thorns



### Yellow Tabebuia / Trumpet Tree

*Tabebuia caraiba*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 175

Height 15' - 35'

Deciduous or semi-evergreen, yellow showy flowers



## APPROVED NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE CANOPY TREE

Not permitted in side yards when less than 20 feet of clearance is available or yards abutting a waterway.

### Bald Cypress

*Taxodium distichum*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 960

Height 60' - 80'

Deciduous, full sun, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Southern Live Oak  
*Quercus virginiana*  
Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 1,965  
Height 60' - 80'  
Evergreen to semi-evergreen, part shade to full sun, moderate to high salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Southern Red Cedar  
*Juniperus virginiana*  
Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 705  
Height 40' - 50'  
Evergreen, full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Sweetgum  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*  
Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 975  
Height 75'  
Deciduous, part shade to full sun, low salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant

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West Indies Mahogany  
*Swietenia mahogani*  
Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 700  
Height 30' - 75'  
Spread 30' Semi-evergreen, part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Wild Tamarind  
*Lysiloma bahamensis*  
Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 705  
Height 40' - 60'  
Evergreen, Part shade to full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Yellow Poinciana / Copperpod  
*Peltophorum pterocarpum*  
Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 625  
Height 50'  
Semi-evergreen, flowers yellow and fragrant, moderate salt tolerant drought tolerant

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Golden Shower

*Cassia fistula*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 350

Height 30' - 10'

Evergreen, striking yellow flowers, full sun, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Gumbo Limbo

*Bursera simaruba*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 1,410

Height 25' - 40'

Semi-evergreen, part sun to full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Jacaranda

*Jacaranda mimosifolia*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 625

Height 35' - 45'

Deciduous, lavender fragrant flowers, full sun, moderate drought tolerant

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Laurel Oak

*Quercus laurifolia*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 1,410

Height 60' - 70'

Deciduous, part - full sun, low salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Longleaf Pine

*Pinus palustris*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 625

Height 80' - 125'

Evergreen, full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Myrtle Oak

*Quercus myrtifolia*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 625

Height 10' - 25' Spread 15' - 20'

Evergreen, salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Pint Tabebuia / Trumpet Tree

*Tabebuia* spp.

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 490

Height 20' - 50'

Deciduous, pink showy flowers, full sun, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Pond Cypress

*Taxodium ascendens*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 475

Height 50' - 60'

Deciduous, partial to full sun, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Royal Poinciana

*Delonix regia*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 625

Height 40' - 50'

Evergreen, part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Shady Lady / Black Olive

*Bucida buceras* "Shady Lady"

Native -- 50% Mature Canopy = 960

Height 40' - 50'

Evergreen part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant



South Florida Slash Pine

*Pinus elliottii*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 705

Height 75' - 100'

Evergreen, part shade to full sun, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant



## APPROVED PALMS PERMITTED IN ANY YARD

### Alexander Palm

*Ptychosperma elegans*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 0

Height 20' - 25' Spread 6' - 10'

Part sun, self-cleaning, slender trunk, low salt tolerant, drought tolerant



### Buccaneer Palm

*Pseudophoenix sargentii*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 0

Height 10' - 40' Spread 10' - 15'

Full sun, self cleaning trunk, salt tolerant, drought tolerant



### Cabbage Palm

*Sabal palmetto*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 115

Height 10' - 40' Spread 10' - 15' Trunk Diameter 10" - 15"

Cold hardy palm, full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant



### Carpentaria Palm

*Carpentaria acuminata*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 75

Height 40' Spread 8' - 10'

Full sun, smooth trunk, low salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant



### Everglades Palm / Paurotis Palm

*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*

Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 115

Height 15' - 25' Spread 10' - 15'

Grows in clumps, full sun, moderate salt tolerant and moderate drought tolerant



Foxtail Palm  
*Wodyetia bifurcata*  
Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 490  
Height 25' - 30' Spread 8' - 20'  
Full sun, self-cleaning trunk, moderate salt tolerant, not drought tolerant



Majesty Palm  
*Ravenea rivularis*  
Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 0  
Height 20' Spread 10' - 15'  
Shade tolerant, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Thatch Palm  
*Thrinax morrisii*  
Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 25  
Height 20' - 30" Spread 6' - 10'  
Partial shade, full sun, slow growing, thin trunk, salt tolerant, drought tolerant



## APPROVED PALMS

NOT Permitted within eight feet (8') of seawall

Bismark Palm\*  
*Bismarckia nobilis*  
Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 75  
Height 20' - 30'  
Evergreen, part shade to full sun, white flower, salt tolerant, drought tolerant  
\*Requires a minimum 20' clearance



Royal Palm  
*Roystonea spp*  
Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 490  
Height 60' - 70' Spread 15' - 25'  
Self-Cleaning partial shade-full sun, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant



Yellow Butterfly Palm (Areca Palm)\*

*Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*

Non-Native - 50% Mature Canopy = 115

Height 15' - 25' Spread 10'

Grows in dense clumps, forms privacy screen, full sun-shade, medium salt tolerant, drought tolerant \*Not permitted in side wards a hedge material



## APPROVED LARGE SHRUBS

Bay Cedar

*Suriana maritima*

Native

Height 5' - 20' Spread 5' - 20'

Evergreen, full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant, beach stabilizer



Coastal Plain Willow

*Salix caroliniana*

Native

Height 25'

Part shade, no salt tolerant, medium drought tolerant, good for wet areas



Cocoplum

*Chrysobalanus icaco*

Native

Height 15'

Full to partial sun, salt tolerant for "horizontal" cultivar, lower salt tolerant for "Red Tip" cultivar, can be pruned to hedge height



Copper Leaf

*Acalypha wilkesiana*

Non-Native

Height 3' - 5' Spread 2' - 5'

Full sun. low salt tolerant, medium drought tolerant, poisonous to animals



Croton  
*Codiaeum variegatum*  
Non-Native  
Height 3' - 5' Spread 2' - 5'

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Dwarf Firebush  
*Hamelia patens* var. *glabra*.  
Native\*  
Smaller than the "Croton", orange/yellow flowers  
\*Species is non-native, but counted as native do to the fact that the flower structure provides the same natural function to native nectar gathering insects as the native variety

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Firebush  
*Hamelia patens*  
Native  
Height 5' - 12' Spread 5' - 8'  
Part shade, low salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant, orange-red flower year round

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Florida Fiddlewood  
*Citharexylum fruticosum*  
Native  
Height 15' - 25' Spread 8' - 15'  
Evergreen, part shade, moderate salt tolerant, high drought tolerant, white flowers

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Green Buttonwood  
*Conocarpus erectus*  
Native  
Height 30' - 40' (if not trimmed) Spread 15' - 20'  
Full to partial sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant once established, white flower

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Hibiscus  
*Hibiscus* spp. (*grandiflorus*)  
Non-Native  
Height 15' Spread 4' - 8'  
Part shade to full sun, some species salt tolerant, not drought tolerant, flowering shrub, varied colors

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Natal Plum  
*Carissa grandiflora*  
Non-Native  
Height 6' - 10' Spread 4' - 10'

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Oleander  
*Nerium oleander*  
Non-Native  
Height 6' - 10' Spread 10' - 15'  
Full sun, moderate salt tolerant, high drought tolerant once established,  
poisonous cold hardy plants

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Pigeon Plum  
*Coccoloba diversifolia*  
Native  
Height 25' - 30' Spread 20' - 30'  
Evergreen, part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, high drought  
tolerant, trim to desired height

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Seagrape  
*Coccoloba uvifera*  
Native  
Height 15' - 25' Spread 20' - 30'  
Evergreen, part shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, high drought  
tolerant, trim to desired height

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Silver Buttonwood  
*Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus*  
Native  
Height 15' - 25' Width 15' - 20'  
Full sun, salt tolerant, drought tolerant, may be used as hedge

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Snowberry  
*Chiococca alba*  
Native  
Height Varies on supporting structure Spread 6' - 10'  
Part shade

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Croton  
*Codiaeum variegatum*

Non-Native

Height 3' - 5' Spread 2' - 5'

Part shade, low salt tolerant, medium drought tolerant, fruit provides food for birds, poisonous to humans



Yaupon Holly (Dwarf)

*Codiaeum variegatum*

Native

Height 4' - 7' Spread 6' - 10'

Part shade, moderate salt tolerant, high drought tolerant, small orange/red fruits



## APPROVED MEDIUM AND SMALL SHRUBS & ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Allamanda

*Allamanda spp.*

Non-Native

Height various depending on where it is planted and the structure is on Full sun, variety of colored flowers, high drought tolerant



Awabuki Viburnum

*Viburnum odoratissimum var. awabuki*

Non-Native

Height 15' - 20' Spread 15' - 20'

Partial to full sun, fragrant small white flowers, red berries, moderate drought tolerant



Bougainvillea

*Bougainvillea spp.*

Non-Native

Full sun. sprawling thorny flowering shrub, can be trained on a trellis





Cardboard Plant

*Zamia maritima*

Non-Native

Height 2' - 5' Spread 5' - 8'

Native to Mexico, not Florida. Per shad, salt and drought tolerant, slow growing shrub

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Coontie

*Zamia floridana*

Native

Height 2' - 4' Spread 3' - 5'

Part shade, salt and drought tolerant, slow growing shrub

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Downy Jasmine

*Jasminum multiflorum*

Non-Native

Height 5' - 10' Spread 5' - 10'

Full sun, white fragrant blossoms, low salt tolerant, medium drought tolerant, hardy fluffy shrub

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Florida Gamagrass

*Tripsacum floridanum*

Native

Height 3' Spread 4' - 6'

Part shade to full sun, medium salt tolerant, drought tolerant, clump forming grass used as a shrub

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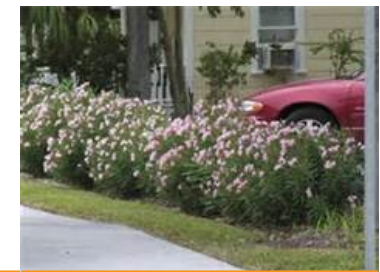
Dwarf Oleander

*Nerium oleander* spp

Non-Native

**Poisonous cold hardy plants, full sun, moderate salt tolerant, high drought tolerant once established**

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Dwarf Pittosporum

*Pittosporum tobira* 'Wheeleri'

Non-Native

Height 2' - 3' Spread 3' - 5'

Part shade, white fragrant flower, moderate salt tolerant, drought tolerant

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Dwarf Schefflera  
*Schefflera arboricola*  
Non-Native  
Height 10' - usually maintained at 4' - 6' Spread 6' - 15'

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Fakahatchee Grass  
*Tripsacum dactyloides*  
Native  
Height 4' - 6' Spread 4'  
Full sun, medium salt and drought tolerant, large clump forming grass, flowers spikes at top

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Florida Privet  
*Forestiera segregata*  
Native  
Height 8' - 15'  
Evergreen with yellow bloom, drought tolerant, attracts bees, butterflies and birds

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Inkberry  
*Scaevola plumieri*  
Native  
Height 2' - 4' Spread 3' - 8' Full Sun, pink & white flowers, high salt, drought tolerant, Holly family provides food for some species of birds

---



Ixora  
*Ixora coccinea*  
Non-Native  
Evergreen flowering bush, can be pruned for hedges, may have red, orange, yellow or pink flowers

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Locust Berry  
*Byrsonima lucida*  
Native  
Produces multi-colored flowers, drought tolerant once established, can be trimmed into a boarder shrub or hedge shrub

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Monkey Grass, Lilytuft

*Liriope muscari*

Non-Native

Height 12" - 15"

Clumping grass makes small shrub, sun or shade, drought tolerant



Muhly Grass

*Muhlenbergia capillaris*

Native

Height 3' - 4' Spread 4' - 5'

Full sun, bright pink/purple flowers in fall, high salt tolerant, drought tolerant, ornamental grass used as a shrub



Pittosporum

*Pittosporum Tobira*

Non-Native

Height 8' - 12' Spread 12' - 18'

Part shade, white fragrant flower, moderate salt tolerant, high drought tolerant



Plumbago

*Plumbago auriculata*

Non-Native

Full sun, white/blue/purple flowering shrub/vine, moderate drought tolerant, spreading round plant



Powderpuff Spp.

*Calliandra haematocephala*

Non-Native

Height 3' - 5' Spread 4' - 8'

Part shade - full sun, pink and white flowers, not salt tolerant, drought tolerant, fast grower



Sand Cord Grass

*Spartina bakeri*

Native

Height 3' - 4' Spread 3' - 5'

Full Sun, salt and drought tolerant



Sandankwa *Viburnum Suspensa*

*Viburnum suspensum*

Native

Height 6' - 12' if untrimmed Spread 15' - 20'

Evergreen, part shade-full sun, not salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant, used as hedge when kept trimmed

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Thryallis

*Galphimia glauca*

Non-Native

Height 4' - 5' - ideal pruned height

Sun, blooms in warm weather, drought tolerant, not salt tolerant

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Varigated Pittosporum

*Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata'*

Non-Native

Height 8' - 12' Spread 12' - 18' Part shade,

White fragrant flower, moderate salt tolerant, high drought tolerant, green leaves with white/cream tips

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Wax Myrtle

*Myrica cerifera*

Native

Height 15' - 25' Spread 20' - 25'

Evergreen, shade to full sun, high salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant, can be a shrub or small tree

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White Indigoberry

*Randia aculeata*

Native

Height 6' - 10' Spread 5' - 8'

Full sun to light shade, white flower, moderate salt tolerant, high drought tolerant, medium shrub, glossy leaves

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Wild Coffee

*Psychotria nervosa*

Native

Height 4' - 10' spread 4' - 8'

Evergreen, partial sun to full shade, red berries, not salt tolerant, moderate drought tolerant, dense, round multi-stemmed shrub, moist

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## APPROVED GROUNDCOVER

All groundcover used must maintained at a height of twelve (12) inches or less and maintained according to the City of Punta Gorda Code of Ordinance

Algerin Ivy

*Hedera canariensis* 'Variegata'

Non-Native

Green or variegated leaves, part sun to shade, moist soil, can also be climbing on trellis



Asian Jasmine

*Trachelospermum asiaticum*

Non-Native

Height 6" - 12" Spread 3'

Evergreen vine, small fragrant white, yellow or pink flowers, glossy leaves, prefers partial shade, but grows well in sun, drought tolerant once



Aztec Gold Daylily

*Hemerocallis* spp.

Non-Native

Height 18" - 20" Spread 18" - 20" Moderate growth, full sun to partial shade, can be mowed and used as a ground cover, otherwise would be a small shrub



Bacopa \*

*Bacopa caroliniana*

Native

Height 10" - 24" Lemon Bacopa has blue flowers and a light fragrance

\*May be used in drainage areas with prior approval of landscape plan



Blue Daze

*Evolvulus glomeratus*

Non-Native

Height up to 12" Spread up to 12"

Full sun, regular watering, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds



Bulbine  
*Bulbine frutescens*  
 Non-Native  
 Height up to 2'  
 Drought tolerant, flowers, full sun



Mondo Grass  
*Ophiopogon japonicus*  
 Non-Native  
 Height 9" - 12" Spread 12"  
 Clumping ornamental grass



Perennial Peanut\*  
*Arachis glabrata*  
 Native

Drought tolerant, low-growing ground cover, full sun and partial shade, little or no mowing  
 \*May be used in drainage areas with prior approval of landscape plan



Sunshine Mimosa\*  
*Mimosa strigillosa*  
 Native  
 Height 3" - 9"

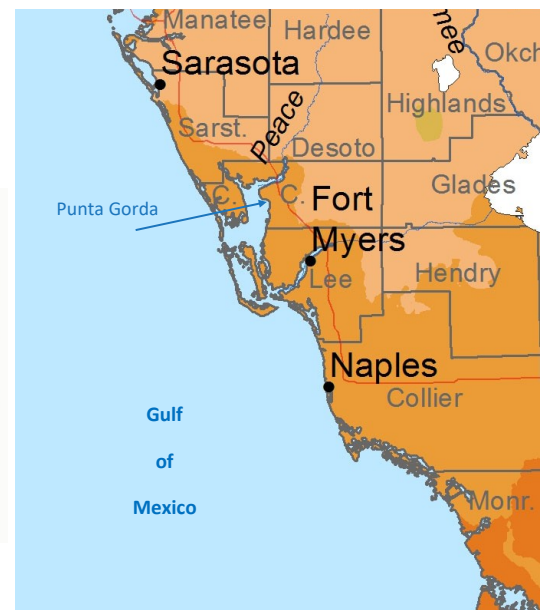
Evergreen low-growing ground cover, can be mowed when not in bloom, pink power-puff pom-pom, full sun, drought tolerant once established



## Plant Hardiness Zone Map Florida

Punta Gorda is in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 10a. Due to the micro-climates created by proximity to Charlotte Harbor, other water bodies, buildings, and other site specific conditions plants rated for 10b may perform well in this area.

Temp (F)	Zone
20 to 25	9a
25 to 30	9b
30 to 35	10a
35 to 40	10b



# CITY OF PUNTA GORDA CUL-DE-SAC MAINTENANCE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for homeowners regarding initial set-up, material replacement, weed spraying, repairs and abandonment procedures for the City's community cul de sacs.

## **1. INITIAL SET-UP**

INCLUDES: Clearing, herbicide treatment, fire ant treatment, irrigation, three 15-gallon foxtail palms, six 3-gallon shrubs (gold tip ligustrum, viburnum, hibiscus or Indian hawthorn) and mulch.

## **2. MATERIAL REPLACEMENT**

Replacement plant material will be provided upon request from the homeowner who maintains the cul de sac. Requested shrubs are delivered onto the cul de sac where they are left for the homeowner to install. City employees will install trees. Mulch will be delivered upon request, no more than once a year and delivered to the cul de sac for homeowner to spread.

## **3. FERTILIZING**

Fertilizer is provided once annually in accordance with Charlotte County's Fertilizer Ordinance\*; either in April or October. Residents must request April fertilizer no later than March 31st or October fertilizer no later than September 30th. The appropriate amount will be dropped off in the cul de sac for homeowners to apply.

## **4. REPAIRS**

Homeowner installed plant material, weed barrier, rocks, soil or landscape design and/or decoration may be removed as needed for repairs to underground utility lines, overhead utility lines, large tree removal, street/curb repairs and irrigation repairs. Upon completion of repairs, City crews will reinstall as much of the homeowners items as are salvageable. Unsalvageable items are not replaced by the City, nor are homeowners reimbursed for said material. Trees, shrubs and mulch originally supplied by the city will be replaced.

## **5. ABANDONMENT PROCEDURES**

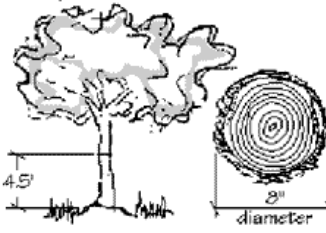

Cul de sacs which are not being maintained; have become overgrown with weeds; have dead/dying and/or overgrown plant materials are considered abandoned. Abandoned cul de sacs are stripped of all plant material and will be mulched.

## **6. OTHER MAINTENANCE**

- Active fire ant mounds will be treated by City employees on request by homeowner.
- Weeds will be sprayed up to twice a year by City employees on request from homeowner.
- Plant material, added irrigation components and other decorative items purchased and installed by the homeowners will not be maintained, repaired or replaced by City staff.
- Only Foxtail, Christmas and Queen palms will be trimmed and maintained by City staff. All other types of trees will be maintained by residents.

**Contact the City's Public Work Department at  
941-575-5050 or [pubworks@pgorda.us](mailto:pubworks@pgorda.us)  
For more information regarding the CUL-DE-SAC Policy**

# LANDSCAPE DEFINITIONS

ANSI 300	The American National Standards Institute 300 Series which provides standards for products and processes on a national and global setting. ANSI 300 requirements cover standard requirements for tree care practices. These guidelines cover general processes and procedures to prune, fertilize and transplant trees and shrubs.
Building Footprint	Building footprint will include the gross area of exterior walls of the primary structure, including the area of all windows and door installed therein. Also included are the areas of required amenities, such as driveway, and water lines, walks and equipment pads.
Building Frontage	<p>(1) Building frontage shall mean the horizontal length of a building on the side facing the street. If the building has more than one street front, each street front shall be included.</p> <p>(2) If that side is a straight wall, then the building frontage shall be the length of the wall.</p> <p>(3) If the side is not a straight wall, the building frontage shall be the horizontal distance from the corner at one end of the side of the building facing a street to the other corner on the same side of the building.</p>
Building Site	The total land area used for the proposed development including single family or duplex structures or commercial and multi-family development is a building site.
DBH – Diameter at Breast Height	<p>The caliper of a semi-mature or mature tree measured at 4 feet above the existing ground level.</p>  
Disturbed Ground	Any area of ground on a site which during construction is dug up, filled, graded, built on or used for storage or parking.
Florida Friendly Landscaping Program	A program administered by the University of Florida that includes nine basic principles designed to help property owners prevent stormwater runoff, limit irrigation usage, and preserve water quality. “Florida-Friendly Landscaping” means quality landscapes that conserve water and protect the environment and are adaptable to local conditions and which are drought tolerant. The principles of “Florida-Friendly Landscaping” include planning and design, appropriate choice of plants, soil analysis which may include the use of solid waste compost, efficient irrigation, practical use of turf, appropriate use of mulches, and proper maintenance. (Ref. §373.185 F.S.).
Florida Native	Any plant recognized as occurring naturally in the State of Florida prior to the 1500s, as identified in Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants by Wunderlin, R.P., and B. F. Hansen. 2008. ( <a href="http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/">http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/</a> ). Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa, or other scientific documentation recognized by the city.
Groundcover	Any low growing plant, twelve (12) inches in height or less, that can be used to cover areas where sod or turf is not desired or will not grow.



Hardscape	Tangible objects and features other than plant materials, including, but not limited to, steps and ramps, fountains and pools, fences, screens, dividers and walls, overhead structures (i.e. trellis), decks, retaining walls, play equipment, benches and planters, drainage structures, lighting, pavement, curbs, and site furnishings.
Hedge	Hedge means a row of closely planted shrubs or low-growing trees forming a fence or bounda-
Inorganic mulch	A mulch that was never living such as shell or rock or lava rock, or other synthetic materials such as plastic sheeting landscape fabric and pelletized bits of rubber.
Landscaped Areas	Any portion of a site or property containing vegetation following construction activity comple-
Landscaping	Landscaping shall consist of any of the following materials or combination thereof: grass, groundcovers, shrubs, vines, hedges, trees or palms; and nonliving durable material commonly used in landscaping, but excluding paving, gravel, rock, shell and artificial flora. Building permits are required for structural landscaping components such as decks, landscape walls, fountain, retaining walls, pergolas, trellis' or arbors, etc.
Landscaping Plan	The Site Plan Application prescribed by this Ordinance which details preconstruction protection of existing vegetation and post-construction supplemental plantings.
Large, Medium, & Small Maturing Trees	Tree height categories. Large Maturing trees grow to a minimum height of 40 feet. Medium Maturing trees grow to a minimum of 20 feet. Small Maturing trees grow to a minimum of 10 feet.
Organic Mulch	Non-living organic materials placed in landscaped areas that aid in moisture retention/detention, and weed control.
Ornamental Grass	A self-supporting, non-woody, perennial species of the plant family, Poaceae, Juncaceae, or Cyperaceae, that is not mowed but is allowed to grow to its full potential and is used in the landscape in the same way as a shrub.
Shade Tree	Any large maturing tree which provides a crown width sufficient to shade a minimum of 1,200
Shrub	A low growing, self-supporting woody, deciduous or evergreen species of plant.
Specimen Tree	Any healthy, existing tree over 18 inches in caliper measured at DBH, excluding invasive species found in a field or open grown condition, or along the edge of a forest stand or tree stand and displaying the root zone, canopy, and structure characteristic of the particular species.
Tree, Canopy	A tree with a height at maturity greater than 30 ft. and which produces significant shade due to the shape of the canopy tree.
Tree, Small	A tree with an expected height at maturity no greater than 30 feet.
Tree	A perennial, self-supporting, woody plant with a main trunk or multiple trunks at least seven feet in height in a clean condition at maturity, and branches forming a distinct elevated crown.

# MANGROVES

Mangroves, in the Charlotte Harbor area, live in loose wet soils associated with shorelines tidally influenced bays and inland waterways and are key to a thriving harbor. Adapted to the harsh saltwater tidal environment, mangroves provide habitat and nutrients vital to the thriving wildlife found in Charlotte Harbor.

## Benefits of Mangroves

- ◆ Assist in protecting water quality and clarity by filtering run-off and trapping sediments from adjacent uplands
- ◆ Provide physical habitat and nursery grounds for a wide variety of marine organisms, many of which have important recreational or commercial value
- ◆ Serve as roosting and nesting sites for many of our birds
- ◆ Serve as storm buffers by reducing wind and wave action in shallow shoreline areas

## General Mangrove Trimming & Alteration Regulations

*Mangroves are protected by the State of Florida's "Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act" and the State of Florida enforces the statutes protecting these important species. Proper trimming will be more beneficial to the shoreline, the fisheries, the water quality and will improve your landscaping design.*

## HOMEOWNER FACTS

- ◆ **No** herbicide or other chemical may be used for the purpose of removing leaves of a mangrove.
- ◆ Not all mangroves may be trimmed down to 6 feet especially large black & red mangroves. **NO** mangrove may be trimmed below 6 feet. One cannot legally trim below the prop root insertion on the trunk.
- ◆ If mangroves are greater than 10 feet in height a licensed professional mangrove trimmer is required for any pruning activity.
- ◆ A maximum of 25 percent of trees may be trimmed in any given year regardless of tree height.
- ◆ Mangroves trimming is best done in late spring just as trees are flowering and fruiting is minimal.
- ◆ Maintaining a healthy canopy produces shade and slows mangrove leaf production which results in less trimming.
- ◆ Do not prune Mangroves without permission. You can be fined.
- ◆ All Mangrove trimming *should* be performed under the supervision of a **Professional Mangrove Trimmer** in order to ensure the protection and important functions of these trees.



*There are several styles of pruning or trimming mangroves that can provide a unique view of the water. While hedging is the most popular, it can be the most damaging. Alternative styles may be less stressful to the mangroves, require less maintenance and improve your view of the water.*

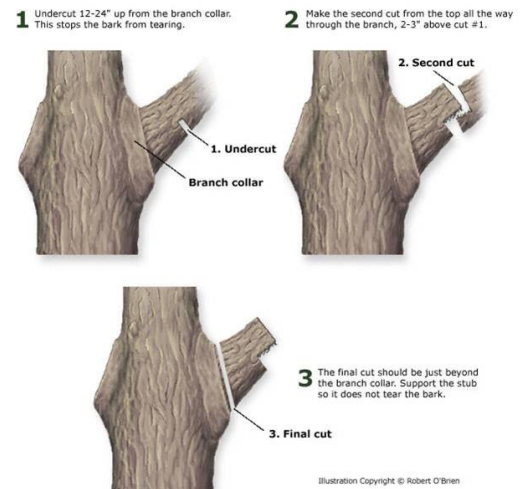
**CREATIVE TECHNIQUE**

“Windowing” creates a view through bigger mangrove trees and needs to be done by a Professional Mangrove Trimmer. Prune selected limbs through the center of the canopy. Target those that are crossing or rubbing each other. Also prune branches that appear weak or have less growth. Be careful not to reduce the canopy bearing branches.

**ILLEGAL TECHNIQUE**

“Undercutting” is an **illegal** “trimming style” because it removes branches on the bottom portion of the mangrove below the 6 foot height.

**Pruning a Large Limb**



**For more information on:**

**Mangrove Trimming:**

**Refer to the FDEP publication: “Mangrove Trimming Guide for Homeowners”**

**<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/southwest/erp/mangroves.htm>**

**239-344-5600**

**Protecting Florida’s Natural Environments:**

**<http://www.chnep.org>**

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information for this brochure came from the following organizations. Utilize these sites for more helpful information on planting, types of plants, prohibited plants and tree removal.

International Society of Arboriculture: Tree Planting & Care: <http://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/plantingatree>

Florida Friendly Landscaping: <http://www.FloridaYards.org> or <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Prohibited Species: Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council: <http://www.fleppc.org/>

City of Punta Gorda: <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/apply-for/tree-removal-permit>



## *Landscape Questions?*

*The City of Punta Gorda, Urban Design Division*

*326 W Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33950*

*941-575-3372 or [urbandesign@pgorda.us](mailto:urbandesign@pgorda.us)*

*[WWW.PGORDA.US](http://WWW.PGORDA.US)*

Based on Ordinance #1755-13 Adopted 06/19/2013  
Amended by Ordinance #1838-16 adopted 03/02/2016  
by punta gorda city council

# Florida's Harborside Hometown