

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 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.

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](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/southwest/erp/mangroves.htm)

239-344-5600

Protecting Florida’s Natural
Environments:

<http://www.chnep.org>

239-338-2556

866-835-5785

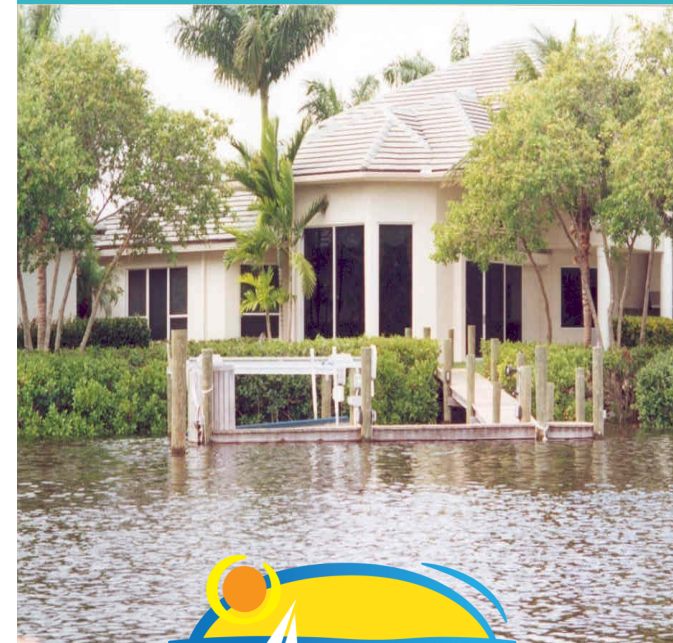
City Tree Removal Requirements:
www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/
941-575-3372

This brochure is done in cooperation with

- Burnt Store Villas Homeowners Association,
- City of Punta Gorda
- Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida’s Harborside Hometown

Living with Mangroves



Punta Gorda

FLORIDA

What are Mangroves:

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

Types of Mangroves:

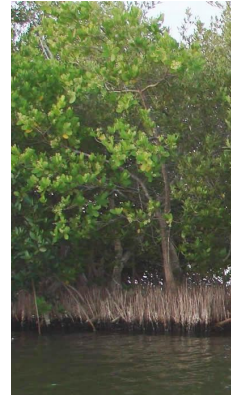
Red Mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*)

- Identified by their arching prop roots, sometimes referred to as “walking trees”
- Typically grows closest to the water



Black Mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*)

- Usually occupies slightly higher elevations than the red mangroves
- Identified by the numerous finger like projections, pneumatophores, that come up from the soil around the tree's trunk



White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*)

- Usually occupies the highest elevations farther upland than either the red or black mangroves
- Two small glands just below the leaves produce a nectar, a sugary substance



Buttonwood (*Cornocarpus erectus*)

- Not a protected species in our area
- Leaves are similar to black mangrove in shape
- No prop roots or pneumatophores



The Pruning of Mangroves:

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.

- 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.