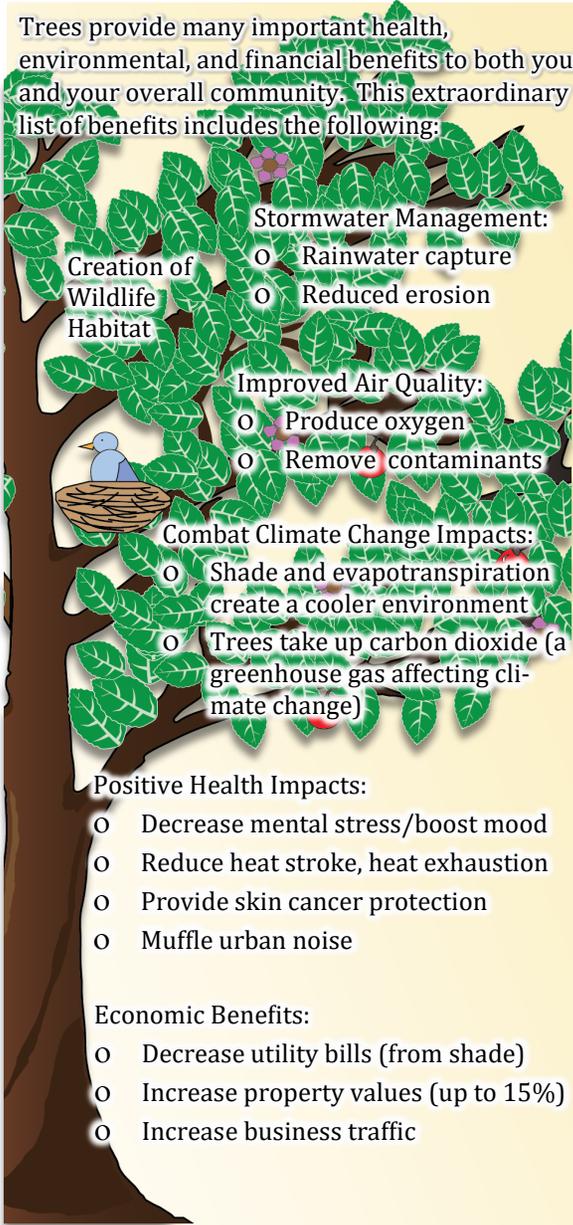


Trees provide many important health, environmental, and financial benefits to both you and your overall community. This extraordinary list of benefits includes the following:



Creation of  
Wildlife  
Habitat

**Stormwater Management:**

- Rainwater capture
- Reduced erosion

**Improved Air Quality:**

- Produce oxygen
- Remove contaminants

**Combat Climate Change Impacts:**

- Shade and evapotranspiration create a cooler environment
- Trees take up carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas affecting climate change)

**Positive Health Impacts:**

- Decrease mental stress/boost mood
- Reduce heat stroke, heat exhaustion
- Provide skin cancer protection
- Muffle urban noise

**Economic Benefits:**

- Decrease utility bills (from shade)
- Increase property values (up to 15%)
- Increase business traffic

This pamphlet provides guidelines for proper tree selection, installation, and pruning to promote tree health, storm resiliency, and life span. Increasing tree life spans ensure that benefits will endure for future generations .

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## Benefits of Urban Trees and How to Create a More Storm Resilient Tree Canopy in Your Community



*Live, Work, Learn and Play*

## Tree Selection and Installation

When selecting a tree, consider a native species that is wind and drought tolerant. Please reference the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) "Right Tree, Right Place" Guide ([www.fufc.org](http://www.fufc.org)). When choosing a tree, make sure the tree meets Florida Grade 1 standards, described below. Refer to the Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants 2015 for guidance (<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Business-Services/Florida-Grades-and-Standards-for-Nursery-Plants-2015>).

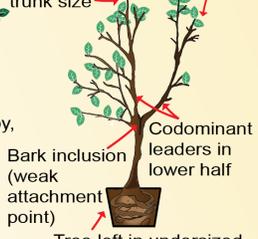
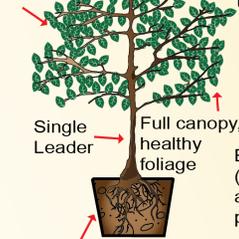
High Quality (Florida #1)

Low Quality (Cull)

Appropriate height and spread for trunk size

Narrow canopy for trunk size

Sparse canopy, unhealthy foliage



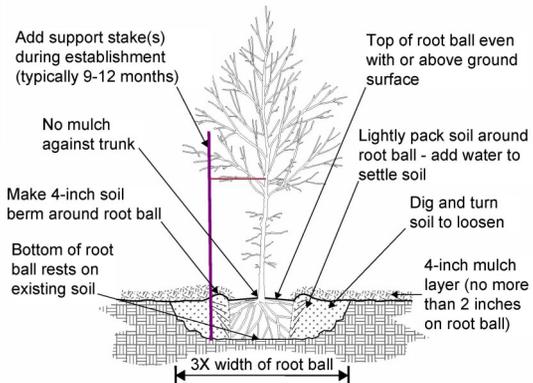
Single Leader

Full canopy, healthy foliage

Codominant leaders in lower half

Tree left in undersized container, which has constricted the root system, causing the roots to circle

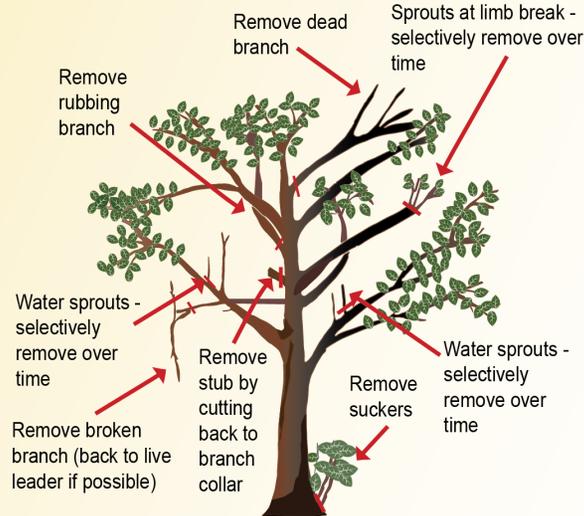
When choosing a planting location, allow for adequate space for the tree's canopy and roots. Avoid conflicts, including houses and underground and aboveground utilities. When planting the tree, follow the installation guidelines below:



## Care for Existing Trees

High winds and heavy rain can wreak havoc on weak and stressed trees. With proper care and timely maintenance overseen by an ISA Certified Arborist, trees can be more resistant to storm damage. The following pruning measures can reduce hazards both before and after storm events.

### Hazard Pruning and Storm Restoration



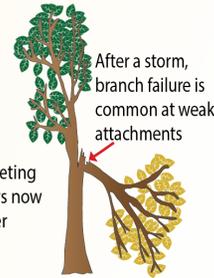
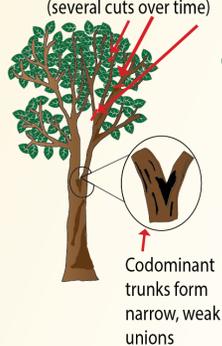
### Structural Pruning — Codominant Leaders

Before Pruning

After Pruning

No Pruning

Reduction cuts to shorten, eventually remove leaders (several cuts over time)

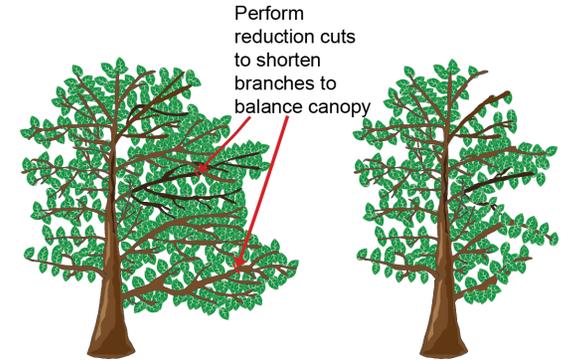


## Care for Existing Trees (Continued)

### Structural Pruning — Lopsided Canopy

Before Pruning

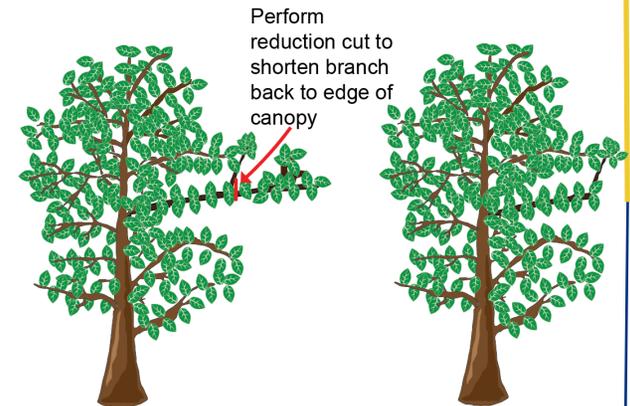
After Pruning



### Structural Pruning — Over-Extended Limbs

Before Pruning

After Pruning



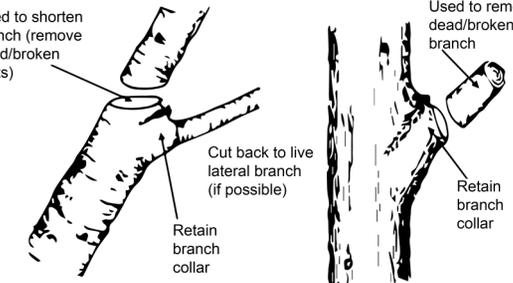
### Proper Pruning Cuts

Reduction Cuts

Removal Cuts

Used to shorten branch (remove dead/broken parts)

Used to remove dead/broken branch



Base image Source: UF-IFAS (modified text)