

Information on native trees, and trees appropriate for our coastal environment, can be obtained from the following agencies:

Florida Native Plant Society
www.fnps.org, 321.271.6702

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
www.FloridaYards.org, 352.392.1831

Association of Native Plant Nurseries
www.afnn.org, 877.352.2366

Town of Longboat Key
www.longboatkey.org, 941.316.1988

UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension
http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu, 941.861.5000

UF/IFAS Manatee County Extension
http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu, 941.722.4524

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
www.sarasotabay.org, 941.955.8085

Southwest Florida Water Management District
www.WaterMatters.org, 800.423.1476



Southern Magnolia
(Magnolia grandiflora)

Planning, Zoning and Building Department
Town of Longboat Key
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, Florida 34228
Phone: 941.316.1966
Fax: 941.316.1970
E-mail: sschild@longboatkey.org



Town of Longboat Key

www.longboatkey.org

Trees on Longboat Key



Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)

The protection of trees within the Town of Longboat Key is important to the present and future health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Longboat Key. It is the intent of the tree code to protect existing trees and encourage the planting of trees within the Town.

Phone: 941.316.1966

Why Are Trees Important?

Trees are always an important first step in any landscape project. Trees not only provide shade and wildlife habitat, they also reduce stormwater runoff into Sarasota Bay, improving the overall health of the bay. They also help remove pollutants from the air and replace carbon dioxide with purified oxygen. Tree shade on the west side of a home can reduce air conditioning costs by 50%. Deciduous or seasonal trees are very good for this purpose by providing shading in the summer and allowing sunshine to heat the house in winter when their leaves fall. The planting of shrubs under the deciduous trees removes the need for the raking of the fallen leaves and provides mulch for the planting bed.

Recommended Trees

The following native trees are recommended as replacement trees on Longboat Key.

Name	Mature Height	Growth Rate	Salt Tolerant	Cold Hardy
Mahogany (<i>Swietenia mahogany</i>)	35'	Fast	High	Low
Sea Grape (<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>)	30'	Moderate	High	Low
Live Oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>)	70'	Moderate	High	High
Gumbo Limbo (<i>Bursera simaruba</i>)	60'	Fast	High	Low
Southern Magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>)	50'	Slow	Moderate	High
Red Bay (<i>Persea borbonia</i>)	35'	Moderate	High	High
Silver/Green Buttonwood (<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>)	35'	Slow	High	Low
Wax Myrtle (<i>Myrica cerifera</i>)	25'	Moderate	High	High
Southern Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>)	30'	Slow	High	High
Black Olive (<i>Bucida buceras</i>)	40'	Moderate	High	Low
Cabbage Palm (<i>Sabal palmetto</i>)	40'	Slow	High	High
Everglades Palm (<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>)	25'	Slow	High	Moderate
Royal Palm (<i>Roystonea regia</i>)	50'	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Canary Island Date Palm (<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>)	60'	Slow	Moderate	High



Trees on Longboat Key



Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)



Red Cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*)

Tree Removal Permitting

Existing single-family homes are exempt from the tree removal permit provisions.

A tree on Longboat Key is defined as any woody plant having a diameter of four inches or more when measured four and one-half feet above ground level, and which will typically reach ten feet or more in height. All species of mangroves, and all palms with four and one-half feet of clear trunk are considered to be trees.

A tree permit may be issued if any of the following conditions applies:

- (1) The condition of the tree has significantly deteriorated because of disease or insect attack and is in danger of falling on structures;
- (2) The applicant cannot revise the proposed development or improvement plans under applicable laws and regulations to preserve existing trees.
- (3) Removal of the tree will enhance the tree canopy and removal will not result in erosion, or adversely affect the flow of surface waters; or
- (4) The tree poses a significant safety hazard to life or property.

The application fee for tree removal is \$50.00, additional costs may incur, including staff time.

Protection of Electric Facilities

No tree shall be planted where at mature height it may conflict with overhead electric facilities.

- (1) Large trees (trees with a mature height of 30 feet or more) shall be planted no closer than a horizontal distance of 30 feet from any overhead electric facility.
- (2) Medium trees (trees with a mature height of 20 to 30 feet) shall be planted no closer than a horizontal distance of 20 feet from any overhead electric facility.
- (3) Palms shall be planted no closer than three feet from the mature maximum frond length from any overhead electric facility.



Everglades Palm (*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*)

Tree Trimming

All trimming of trees shall conform to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standards — 1995, or the most recent edition.

Palm Trimming

Care must be taken when pruning palms not to cut or otherwise injure the terminal bud or the whole tree will die. Removing green fronds is not needed. However, if you wish to do so, only remove those drooping below a line drawn through the bottom of the canopy. Growth will be slowed and the palm can be damaged and attract pests and diseases when green leaves are removed above the line.

Mangrove Trimming

Mangrove trimming requires a state permit and shall be in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. No additional local permit is required for Mangrove trimming.



Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

Prohibited Trees

It is unlawful to plant, transplant, or grow from seed, any nuisance exotic plant species listed below. These species are exempt from permits for tree removal.

- (1) Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)
- (2) Punk Tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)
- (3) Ear Tree (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*)
- (4) Chinaberry Tree (*Melia azedarach*)
- (5) Cuban Laurel (*Ficus retusa*)
- (6) Silk Oak (*Grevillea robusta*)
- (7) All *Eucalyptus*, except (Silver Dollar Tree)
- (8) Strangler Fig (*Ficus aurea*)
- (9) India Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*)
- (10) Australian Pine (*Casuarina*)
- (11) Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*)

Tree Removal Required

The Town shall require the removal of Australian Pine, Brazilian Pepper, and Carrotwood trees from all property being developed or redeveloped.



Australian Pine (*Casuarina*)