

# Trees for Pinellas County

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**Choosing correctly:** Always select plants for the specific site conditions of sun, soil moisture, salt tolerance and size. Be sure to allow for the mature size of the plant when selecting a site.

When selecting trees look for those with a single main trunk that is not divided and has evenly spaced side branches. Young, immature trees establish more quickly than older, more mature trees. Young, immature trees are also cheaper to buy and catch up very quickly to planted older, mature trees.

**Before planting:** Read *Specifications for Planting Trees and Shrubs in the Southeastern U.S.* This document can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep112>

Make sure you have the proper amount of space for the tree so it does not encroach on buildings, roads, walkways, etc. Also, be sure to look up and make sure there are no objects such as power lines that can be impacted by the height of the tree.

**Soil requirements for trees based on their size at maturity:** Small trees (shorter than 30 feet) need a 10 x 10 foot soil area and need to be 2 feet from a paved surface. Medium trees (\*height or spread less than 50 feet) need a 20 x 20 foot soil area and need to be 6 feet from a paved surface. Large trees (\*height or spread greater than 50 feet) need a 30 x 30 foot soil area and need to be 10 feet from a paved surface. \*For soil less than 3 feet deep, such as with a high water table, smaller maturing trees are recommended.

**Pruning is necessary to keep your tree in good condition.** A Suggested minimum pruning cycle: At planting; year 2 or 3; year 5 or 6; year 8 to 10 year 13 to 15. It is a worthwhile investment to hire an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) trained and certified person. Trees increase property value when they are well maintained, but can be a liability if poorly

pruned or unhealthy. For more information see *Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Young Trees*. This document can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP31500.pdf>

**When hiring someone to do your tree pruning be sure to ask these questions:**

1. Are you insured for property damage, personal liability, and worker's compensation? You can be held responsible for medical bills and lost wages for injured workers if you hire an uninsured company. Ask to see their insurance in writing with a current date to make sure it is valid.
2. Are you certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and will you personally be pruning the tree? Being certified requires professional experience and knowledge of the best techniques in the industry. Just as with any profession, some are much better than others at their job (ask to see their prior work). Make sure either they personally do the work or are on-site supervising their workers.
3. What are the ANSI Z133.1 and ANSI A300 guidelines? The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) prints these two guidelines, with which all tree care professionals should be familiar. ANSI Z133.1 represents safety standards for tree care operations in the United States. ANSI A300 represents the best management practices in the industry for pruning and other tree care operations.
4. What are the procedures involved, equipment used, price, and time frame? Get more than one written estimate. Keep in mind that specialized equipment, qualified skills, and insurance will cost more. Quality tree work is worth the additional investment. Improper pruning can ruin a tree and cost much more in the long run.

Remember that a healthy tree can save you money by keeping your house cool. Trees improve air quality and benefit your health. They reduce flooding and erosion and help to lessen hurricane force winds (especially when grouped together). Healthy trees increase the value of your property. Take good care of your trees and be sure to care for them properly. If a tree is removed, plant another one to take its place.

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Name	Light	Moisture range	Salt Tolerance	Native habitats	Uses	Height x Width	Notes
Sand live oak <i>Quercus geminata</i>	FS, PS	Very dry	Moderate	Scrub, sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, flatwoods, coastal hammocks.	Specimen tree.	Height: 40 feet; Width: 30 feet	Evergreen. Highest hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Valuable for wildlife food and cover. Slower growing and generally smaller than live oak. Extremely drought tolerant.
Sand pine <i>Pinus clausa</i>	FS	Dry to very dry	None	Dry sites. Scrub, scrubby flatwoods.	Forest plantings for dry sites, specimen tree.	Height: 30-60 ft Width: 20-40 ft	Evergreen. Interesting foliage. Squirrels and other animals eat the seeds. Lowest wind resistance. Best not planted adjacent to buildings.
Varnish leaf, hopbush <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	FS, PS	Dry to very dry	High	Dry sites near the coast. Hammocks and pinelands. Sand. Alkaline soil.	Small specimen tree.	Height: 1-15 (25) ft	Evergreen. Showy fruits, interesting foliage. Attracts pollinators. Dense foliage can be good bird nesting habitat.
Myrtle oak <i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>	FS, PS	Dry to very dry	Moderate	Scrub, scrubby flatwoods, scrubby sandhill.	Forms a thicket with many sprouts from spreading roots.	Height: 5-30 feet	Evergreen. Larval host for Horace's Duskywing. Scrub-jays may use for nesting and use acorns for food. Small mammals use the acorns. Also an important food source for Florida's scrub jay.
Turkey oak <i>Quercus laevis</i>	FS, PS	Dry to very dry	None	Sandhill, scrub, scrubby sandhill.	Specimen or shade tree.	Height: 30-40 ft Width: 10-15 ft	Deciduous. Fall color, interesting foliage. Birds, squirrels and other wildlife eat the acorns.
Red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	FS	Slightly moist to very dry	High	Calcareous soils, shell mounds, coastal hammocks, second growth on open rocky fields.	Screen by planting in one or two fairly dense rows. Also useful as a background tree.	Height: to 40 ft Width: to 20 ft	Evergreen. Interesting foliage. Birds eat the fruit and use for cover.

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Longleaf pine <i>Pinus palustris</i>	FS	Slightly moist to very dry	None	Sandhill, mesic to dry flatwoods.	Shade tree. Woodland tree. Huge pine cones litter the ground, so not a good tree for a lawn.	Height: To 120 ft Width: 30-50 ft	Evergreen. Medium-low hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Known for its use by squirrels, especially fox squirrels. Needed by endangered red-cockaded woodpecker that needs longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem.
Simpson's Stopper <i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	FS, PS	Slightly moist to dry	Moderate	Tropical rockland hammock, coastal hammock.	Specimen plant. Roadsides, parking lot edges, and medians. Smaller forms can make good foundation screens.	Height: 5-20 ft Width: 3-15 ft	Evergreen. Fragrant white flowers. Showy fruits, aroma, interesting peeling bark. Long-lived perennial. Attracts bees and butterflies (pollinators). There are shrub and tree forms.
American holly <i>Ilex opaca</i>	PS, S	Slightly moist to dry	None	Upland woods, second bottom but will not tolerate long flooding. Often an understory plant. Acidic soils.	Specimen tree.	Height: 40-60 ft Width: 15-25 ft	Evergreen. Showy red fruits, hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Berries eaten by various bird species. Flowers are pollinated by bees. Fruits predominantly eaten by birds. Pollinated by bees, night-flying moths, other insects.
Sweet acacia <i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	FS	Moist to very dry	High	Coastal uplands, ruderal, shell middens. Alkaline soils.	Specimen tree. Good for barrier shrub and as wildlife thicket. Not near walkways.	Height: 8-20 ft Width: 6-10 ft	Evergreen. Showy yellow flowers, aroma, fragrance, thorns, interesting foliage. The thorny branches make good cover for birds and other wildlife. Fruits are not generally valued. Attracts pollinators.
Buttonwood & Silver buttonwood <i>Conocarpus erectus</i> &	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Upper edges of mangrove swamps and on lower parts of dunes. Calcareous soil	Specimen plant, shade tree, hedge. Will tolerate shearing. Helps prevent	Height: 20-40 (50) ft Width: 20-40 ft	Evergreen. Showy fruits, high hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Nectar source and larval host plant for martial scrub hairstreak and tantalus sphinx.

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<i>Conocarpus erectus</i> var. <i>sericeus</i>				(high pH).	coastal erosion.		
Hercules-club <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Hammocks, wet woods, dunes, shell middens.	Specimen tree.	Height: 10 to 25 (50) ft Width: 10-25 ft	Deciduous. Showy white flowers, <u>thorns</u> , interesting foliage, interesting bark. Larval host for Giant Swallowtail. Birds and other wildlife eat the yellow fruit.
Seagrape <i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Coastal uplands.	Specimen plant where its coarse (heavy, thick, large leaves) is an asset.	Height: 10-50 feet Width: 3-35 ft	Semi deciduous. Showy edible fruits, medium-high hurricane wind resistance, fall color, interesting foliage. Attracts pollinators. Birds and other wildlife consume fruit. Tends to sprawl. Leaves take a long time to decompose, so plant where leaf litter is not a problem.
Yaupon holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Coastal scrub, coastal dunes, coastal flatwoods, river swamps, scrub, secondary woods, pine-oak-hickory woods.	Specimen tree. Remove suckers, if you wish to have a specimen tree. Need one male plant in the vicinity to produce berries on the females.	Height: 8-25 ft Width: 5-8 ft	Evergreen. Dioecious. Showy white flowers, showy red fruits on female trees, hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Various bird species eat the fruit and many use the evergreen foliage for cover. Bees and other insects pollinate the flowers.
Jamaica caper-tree <i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	Moderate	Dry sites. Coastal hammocks. Disturbed sites. Neutral to alkaline soils.	Small specimen tree or plant. Can also be used as a hedge.	Height: 6 to 12 (18) ft Width: 6-10 ft	Evergreen. Showy white/pink flowers, hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Larval host for Florida white butterflies. Attracts various pollinators.

Name	Light	Moisture range	Salt Tolerance	Native habitats	Uses	Height x Width	Notes
Gumbo-limbo <i>Bursera simaruba</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	Moderate	Moist hammocks, dry hammocks, dry hardwood forests, coastal uplands, urban areas. Calcareous soils (high pH).	Plant as a specimen tree to show off its bronze-colored peeling bark. Also makes a good shade tree.	Height: 20-60 feet Width: 20-50 feet	Deciduous. High hurricane wind resistance, interesting bark. Larval host for dingy purple-wing. Birds and other wildlife consume seed.
Wild lime <i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	Moderate	Hammocks. Scrub.	Hedge, buffer or screen plant where its thorns will be an asset.	Height: 5-20 ft Width: 3-12 ft	Evergreen. Aroma, fragrance, thorns, interesting foliage. Larval host for Giant Swallowtail. Provides wildlife cover. Fruit is used by birds and other wildlife.
Slash Pine <i>Pinus elliotti</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	None	Moist sites. Low flatwoods, swamp edges, pine rockland, cutthroat seeps. Often cultivated in dry sites.	Shade tree. Forest tree.	Height: 80-100 feet; Width: 20-60 feet	Evergreen. Medium-low hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Squirrels and other animals eat the seeds. Highly adaptable. While frequently in moist areas, broadly tolerant of dryness.
Chickasaw plum <i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	None	Woodland edges, fencerows, open woods. Zone 9B.	Plant as a screen where its suckers are welcome (woodland edges, casual but large garden settings).	Height: 20 feet; Width: 10 feet	Deciduous. Showy white flowers and showy orange fruit. Flowers attract bees. Birds, squirrels and other animals eat the fruit.
Hog plum, flatwoods plum <i>Prunus umbellata</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	None	Hammocks, pine woods, mixed woods.	Specimen tree, street or parking lot tree.	Height: 12-20 feet; Width: 12-20 feet	Deciduous. Showy white flowers. Pollinated by bees. Birds and other animals eat the fruit. Fruit is edible, but best used for jelly.

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Sabal palm, cabbage palm <i>Sabal palmetto</i>	FS, PS, S	Moist to very dry	High	Flatwoods, moist hammocks, swamps, river floodplains, ruderal.	Specimen plant or in a hurricane resistant grove.	Height: 100 feet; Width: 10-20 feet	Palm. Evergreen. Highest hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage, interesting bark. Larval host plant for Monk Skipper butterfly. Seeds used by small mammals such as raccoons. Used by birds for nesting. Brown fronds provide nesting for bats. Never prune above 9 and 3 o'clock position.
Live oak <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	FS, PS, S	Moist to very dry	Moderate	Upper edges of floodplains, margins of ponds and lakes, levees and second bottoms, secondary woods, roadsides, mesic to dry mesic hammock.	Large specimen tree, shade tree	Height: 40-60 feet; Width: 40-100 feet	Evergreen. Highest hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Massive low hanging branches often droop to touch the ground--make sure you allow plenty of room for this tree. Can be somewhat messy especially if loaded with Spanish moss. Produces mast used by many mammals, good nesting habitat for birds and squirrels. Acorns provide a good food source for many types of birds and mammals.
Florida privet <i>Forestiera segregata</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	High	Dry sites. Coastal hammocks, coastal scrub, thickets. Alkaline soil.	Small tree. Hedge or screen. Very tolerant of pruning.	Height: 5-15 ft Width: 5-10 ft	Deciduous. Birds and other wildlife consume the fruit and use the privet for cover. Its nectar attracts insects, butterflies and honeybees.
Marlberry <i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	Moderate	Moist to dry hammocks. Alkaline soils.	Small specimen tree.	Height: 8-15 (20) feet Width: 3-8 ft	Evergreen. Showy white flowers, showy black fruits, hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage, interesting bark. Birds eat the berries.
White stopper <i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	Moderate	Coastal hammocks.	Small tree.	Height: 10 to 20 (30) ft; Width: 5-20 feet	Evergreen. Showy flowers, aroma, fragrance, hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Attracts pollinators. Larval host for tantalus sphinx.

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Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	None	Flatwoods, swamps, moist secondary woods.	Shade or fall color tree for moist areas.	Height: 45 to 50 feet Width: 35 to 50 feet	Deciduous. Flowers and fruit red. Long-lived perennial. Showy fruits, fall color, interesting bark. Medium-low wind resistance. Fast growing, fairly weak. Shallow, wide-spreading root system. Birds and other wildlife consume seeds. Larval host for imperial moth, cecropia silkmoth, polyphemus moth and rosy maple moth.
American elm <i>Ulmus americana</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	None	Floodplain forest, wet mesic forests, hardwood swamps. This tree is subject to Dutch elm disease.	Shade tree, formerly used as a street tree noted for its spreading urn-shaped crown. Tolerant of root disturbance.	Height: 60-80 ft Width: 20-40 ft	Deciduous. Fall color, interesting foliage. Seeds used by birds in spring when little else is available. Used for nesting. Larval host for: Eastern Comma, Question Mark, Painted Lady.
White fringe tree <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	None	Moist hammocks, but adaptable to many situations. Acidic soil.	Small specimen tree where a small drought-tolerant tree is desired. 9B zone.	Height: 10-20 (30) feet Width: 8-15 (20) feet	Deciduous. Showy white flowers, aroma, fragrance, interesting foliage. Said to attract bats. Larval host for rustic sphinx, waved sphinx, and laurel sphinx.
Sweetgum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	None	Dry-moist sites. River bottoms, upland hardwood forests, roadsides.	Shade tree. Screening.	Height: 60 feet Width: 30 feet	Deciduous. Aroma, fragrance, medium-high hurricane wind resistance, fall color, interesting foliage. NOTE: Plant where its persistent bur-like fruits (gum balls) will not be underfoot. Also, its resinous leaves will stain cement driveways and car finishes.
Water oak <i>Quercus nigra</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	None	Floodplains, seep slopes, mesic secondary woods. May invade	Shade tree. Tolerant of a wide variety of soils and	Height: 50-80 ft Width: 20-50 ft	Semi-evergreen with leaves falling just before new leaves emerge. Many bird and animals consume the acorns. Acorns can be a maintenance problem.



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				flatwoods if there is fire exclusion.	habitats.		
Southern Magnolia <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	FS, PS, S	Moist to dry	None	Slope forest, dry-mesic to mesic upland hardwood forest.	Specimen tree. Can also be used in a woodland setting.	Height: 50 to 100 feet Width: 15 to 50 feet	Evergreen. Showy white flowers, showy red fruits, high hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Fruits are eaten (and spread) by squirrels, opossums, quail, and turkey.
Myrsine <i>Myrsine cubana</i>	FS, PS, S	Moist to slightly dry	High	Hammocks, pinelands, sloughs, seasonally flooded marshes in pine rocklands.	Hedge or screen plant. Can be used on the edges of parking lots. Fairly narrow in form.	Height: 8-20 feet; Width: 3-5 feet	Evergreen. Interesting foliage. Good wildlife shelter. Hardy and tolerant of difficult environments.
Wax myrtle <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	FS, PS	Very moist to dry	None	Wet-dry sites. Upland mixed forest, floodplains, wetland edges, cutthroat seeps, old fields, scrub, fencerows, etc.	Small tree, multi-stemmed. Good as a background or hedge plant that also attracts wildlife.	Height: 10-15 (20) ft Width: 8-25 ft	Evergreen. Separate male and female plants. Medium-low wind resistance. Good wildlife cover. Seeds eaten by birds. Larval host for banded hairstreak ( <i>Satyrium calanus</i> ) and red-banded hairstreak ( <i>Calycopis cecrops</i> ) butterflies.
Paurotis palm, Everglades palm <i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>	FS, PS, S	Very moist to dry	High	Moist hammocks, swamps, but can adapt to drier sites.	Specimen plant. The lower fronds can be removed for a sculptured look. Sometimes used as a street tree. Allow for its clump-forming habit and tendency to lean.	Height: 20 to 30 feet Width: 15 to 25 feet	Palm. Evergreen. Showy flowers, thorns, interesting foliage.

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Hackberry, sugarberry <i>Celtis laevigata</i>	FS, PS	Wet to dry	None	River floodplains, ruderal.	Suited to informal areas. Tolerant of root disturbance, so appropriate to parking lots and street tree uses.	Height: 60 to 80 ft Width: 30 to 50 ft	Deciduous. Interesting foliage, interesting bark. Fruits are eaten by a number of birds and small animals. Attracts various pollinators. Provides valuable wildlife cover. Larval host for hackberry emperor, and mourning cloak butterflies. Also larval host for tawny emperor, question mark butterflies.
Royal palm <i>Roystonea regia</i>	FS, PS	Wet to dry	None	Tropical rockland hammock, Everglades tree islands.	Specimen plant or street tree. Tall palm make sure it has enough room to grow. Zone 10a.	Height: 50-100 ft Width: 15-30 ft	Evergreen. Showy white flowers, medium-high wind resistance, interesting foliage, interesting bark. Attracts pollinators. Various birds and other wildlife eat the fruit. Fruit can irritate the skin.
Elderberry <i>Sambucus nigra</i> subsp. <i>canadensis</i>	FS, PS	Wet to dry	None	Disturbed wetland edges, wet roadsides, etc.	Casual settings, wetland edge or screen plant. Long bloom period. Can be clonal.	Height: 10-15 feet Width: 6-10 feet	Deciduous. Showy white flowers, showy blue, purple, black fruits, interesting foliage. Fruits popular with birds. Flowers attract many pollinators. Can prune it or cut to the ground periodically to make more bushy and form a screen.
Dahoon holly <i>Ilex cassine</i>	FS, PS, S	Wet to dry	None	Dome swamps, coastal flatwoods, transitional edges of dome swamps in flatwoods, coastal flatwoods, bay swamps, cutthroat seep. Acidic to neutral soil pH.	Specimen tree.	Height: 20-40 (50) ft Width: 8-30 ft	Evergreen. Showy red fruits, hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Berries eaten by various bird species. Flowers are pollinated by bees.

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Swamp dogwood <i>Cornus foemina</i>	FS, PS, S	Wet to dry	None	Riverine swamps, bluffs, bluffs, gum swamps. Typically in areas of relatively brief, shallow inundation.	Use along streams or edges of retention areas. Can be a screen or specimen tree in moist areas. Blooms better in moderate to high light settings. Acid soil.	Height: 10-30 ft Width: 10-20 ft	Deciduous. Showy white flowers, showy blue fruits, interesting bark. Attracts pollinators. Birds and other wildlife consume the fruit. Larval host for cecropia silkmoth ( <i>Hyalophora cecropia</i> ) and spring azure butterfly ( <i>Celastrina ladon</i> ).
Pond cypress <i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	FS, PS	Wet to moist	Moderate	Restricted to areas that dry out periodically (for reproduction) and naturally found in areas that flood (for seed dispersal).	Specimen tree. Mass plantings in moist areas. Wetland restoration and enhancement. Acidic soils.	Height: 50-85 feet; Width: 15-30 feet	Deciduous. Highest hurricane wind resistance, fall color, interesting foliage. May form knees. Seeds are used by some mammals and seed-eating birds.
Bald cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	FS, PS	Wet to moist	Moderate	Riverine swamps, large swamps around lakes. Inundated areas associated with some form of flowing water. Floodplains, sloughs, strands.	Specimen tree, planted in floodplain areas, or planted in relatively moist uplands.	Height: 50-75 feet; Width: 30-45 feet	Deciduous. Highest hurricane wind resistance, fall color, interesting foliage. Attracts seed-eating birds. Valuable as roosting and nesting areas for colonial wading birds. Larval host for baldcypress sphinx moth.

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Loblolly bay <i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	FS, PS	Wet to moist	None	Moist-wet sites. Seepage swamps, bay swamps, edges of cypress domes, low flatwoods. This species is likely restricted to wetland edges both by its need for high soil moisture and due to lack of tolerance of fire. Acidic soil.	Makes a good specimen tree or a cluster of trees in wet areas along margins of lakes and ponds.	Height: 30-60 feet Width: 20-30 feet.	Evergreen. Showy white flowers and interesting foliage. Flowers attract a variety of insects.
Sweet-bay <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	PS, S	Wet to moist	Moderate	Bay swamp, forested seep slopes, floodplains of small streams.	Specimen plant in moist areas. Wetland tree. Can sucker.	Height: 40 (60) feet; Width: 20-40 feet	Evergreen. Showy white flowers, medium-high hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Larval host for swallowtail butterflies. Seeds are eaten by woodpeckers, kingbirds, red-eyed vireos, mockingbirds, robins, thrushes, crows, cardinals, squirrels, mice among others. Deer browse leaves and twigs.