

STOP HARMFUL HURRICANE CUTTING

Read what tree experts say at www.hurricanecut.com

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DIVISION

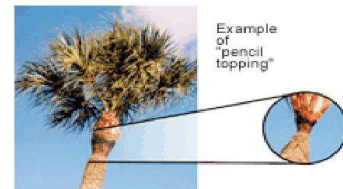
Palm Tree Care

Pruning Palm Trees:

Avoid pruning trees whenever possible. Most palms shed their fronds naturally, but others drop the fronds after some time. When it is necessary to prune the trees, never remove fronds that do not hang below a line parallel to the ground. The hurricane or candle cut pruning of palms is a violation of Broward County Code and is subject to enforcement action. As palms recycle nutrients from the browning fronds to the heart of the palm (translocation of nutrients), frond removal deprives the tree of needed nutrients and weakens its defenses against invasive molds and fungi. Allowing self-pruning or self-cleaning is especially important for species that have a 'crown shaft' which is a green column below the fronds. Additionally, repeated hurricane cuts produce a condition known as "pencil top" which is the narrowing of the palm trunk just below the fronds. Hurricane winds may snap off the top of the palm where the thinning has occurred allowing the top of the palm to become airborne.



For trees without crown shafts, prune fronds by sawing them off close to the trunk after they have turned brown.



County Code prescribes that Palms will be pruned leaving fronds within an angle from the 9:00 to 3:00 o'clock positions. This means that the "Hurricane Cut" or "Candle Cuts" are not only harmful to the Palm, but are County Code violations. Code violations can result in fines, tree removals and tree replacement.

Never pull or rip off fronds. Permanent wounds to the trunk can occur allowing for fungus or rot invasion and produces ever-enlarging holes in the trunk.

Removing green fruit and seeds with pruning saws, does not hurt the palm and keeps the ground clear. The blooming stalk can be removed as soon as it appears.

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