

## When is a Tree Removal Permit Required?



In Florida, *all* trees on developed residential lots with tree trunks that measure 5" DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) or larger require a permit before being removed unless they are on the exception list below for Hillsborough County. This includes trees that *appear* dead, yet still have green leaves on them. The circumference of the tree needs to be measured at 4 ½ feet above the ground, and divided by 3.14.

Trees are important to the community both for their aesthetic value and for their ecological benefits. Trees reduce the impact of storm water runoff, improve air quality, moderate the effects of wind and temperatures and enhance the visual appearance of the community. If you are considering cutting or removing trees on your property you should review this material before beginning.

### **1. When is a Tree Removal Form necessary?**

A Hillsborough County Tree Removal Permit request form is required for the removal of any tree that is five (5) inches or greater in diameter when measured 4 ½ feet above existing grade. A tree of this size is a "Significant Tree" as defined by Hillsborough County. A licensed Arborist is dispatched to evaluate the tree and the situation. If approved, a permit is issued to the party that requested the permit. That person can then go forward with advising the tree removal company of their choice the tree can be removed and provide them with a copy of the tree removal permit. The permit may also entail mandatory replacement trees, which will be checked on the permit, in addition to the size and or number of replacement trees required.

The removal of landmark trees (trees 30 inches or greater in diameter when measured 4 ½ feet above grade) or the removal of more significant trees than shown below requires a **Tree Removal Permit issued by Hillsborough County, FL**

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/pgm/resources/forms/landdevelopment/treeremovalpacket.pdf>

### **Trees that do not need removal permits are listed here:**

#### **Scientific Name Common Name**

*Acacia auriculiformis*- Earleaf acacia  
*Albizia lebbek* -Woman's tongue  
*Auracaria araucana* -Monkey puzzle  
*Bauhinia variegata*-Orchid tree  
*Broussonetia papyrifera*- Paper mulberry  
*Casuarina spp.* -Australian pine  
*Citrus spp.* -Citrus tree  
*Dalbergia sissoo* -Indian rosewood  
*Enterolobium contortisiliquum*- Earpod tree  
*Eucalyptus spp.*- Eucalyptus  
*Eugenia uniflora*- Surinam cherry  
*Grevillea robusta* -Silk oak  
*Jacaranda acutifolia*- Jacaranda  
*Leucaena leucocephala* -Lead tree  
*Melaleuca quinquenervia*- Punk tree  
*Melia azedarach* -Chinaberry  
*Mimosa pigra*- Catclaw mimosa  
*Prunus caroliniana*- Cherry laurel  
*Sapium sebiferum*- Chinese tallow  
*Schinus terebinthifolius*- Brazilian pepper  
*Syagrus romanzoffiana* -Queen Palm



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