

A clear message about Sabal Palms, the State Tree of Florida: **DO NOT DO THIS!**

Harsh pruning takes away food and shelter from native migratory songbirds, woodpeckers, butterflies, bees, tree frogs, bats, anoles, squirrels, and other wildlife. Over-pruned palms may develop weakened trunks, which will eventually cause them to break off and die. Work boots with climbing spikes incur wounds in the trunk, leaving the palm prone to disease.

Say NO to landscapers who want to prune green fronds, spring flowers, and berries. Exclude annual harsh pruning from your landscape contract. **No hurricane cuts!**

Say YES to a rounded crown with no fronds cut above the 9 to 3 o'clock lines. Only remove completely brown fronds.



Green fronds are the palm's source of nutrients!

Cutting green and yellowing fronds stunts growth, invites disease, and reduces the palm's natural resilience to high winds.



Small, white, fragrant flowers are produced in large clusters and are a good source of nectar for bees and butterflies. The black berries which follow are a critical food source for a variety of birds and small mammals.



Adapted from FANN Mar 2012 www.PlantRealFlorida.com
Summary information from the University of Florida Extension Service;
Betrock's Guide to Landscape Palms, by Alan Meerow; *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning*, by Delmar Publishers; *The Sabal Palm, A Native Monarch*, by Barbara Oehlbeck