Wilcox Nursery & LANDSCAPE

Trees: A Keystone to Life As We Know It

What is a Keystone Species?

A keystone plant species is a plant that supports the life cycle of many species. Without these keystone species, the life cycles collapse, which collapses the ecosystem. In other words, without these species present, we enter a waste land, void of life and full of struggles.

According to entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy, keystone species make up 14% of native plant life which supports 90% of all moth and butterfly species. 96% of terrestrial birds rely on keystone species. And there is a long list of why birds are important for humans: natural pest control (insects and rodents), native seed and beneficial fungus dispersal, soil fertilizer, pollination, and providing us happiness! We need them more than they need us.



Native Landscape featuring palms, pines, and cypress

Wind in the Willows

Trees get a bad rap because of Hurricanes. But we need trees to slow hurricane winds. Why have so many recent hurricanes sustained high winds for so long into the interior of our state? One reason is there are only fragmented forests and buildings to slow the wind. Buildings are terrible at slowing winds while trees are very effective at it.

A big myth is that oak trees should be cut down to protect your house in a hurricane or high winds. Of course, if it is diseased or declining, it's best to bring it down. The truth is, trees protect buildings from strong winds. Think of it as creating a wall or moat around your castle (home). Similar to any sports team, one tree by itself isn't a great defense. It takes many trees working together to achieve the best results. Groups of trees work together to slow winds and support each other through high winds.

What if instead of cutting down healthy trees, we planted more? We need more than just lone trees. Many trees support each other and keep us safer. We must connect our fragments.



Lignum Vitae



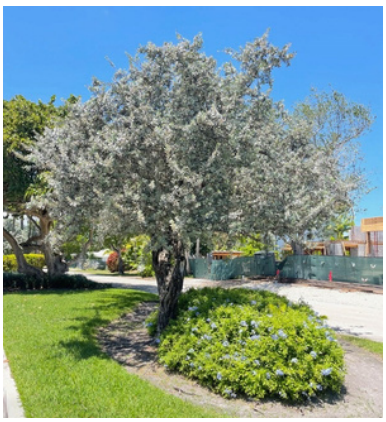
Mature Sand Live Oak

Choosing Trees for your Landscape

First, take inventory of your site. Look for utilities, driveways and pathways, and how much space you have on your property. You may also need to consider pools and septic tanks in your planning.

Next, consider tree size. Large trees exceed 50 ft in height, medium trees are up to 20-50 ft, and small trees are up to 20 ft.

Large trees should be planted at least 15 ft from your foundation, medium trees10 ft, and small trees 6-8 ft. Plant medium and large trees at least 20 ft from over head obstacles such as power lines. For all other ground level site considerations, such as water meters, place most trees 4-6 ft away.



Silver Buttonwood

Planting a Seed for the Future

We can apply these thoughts and ideas to our home landscapes. There are many different size trees that can fit any size landscape, especially as we build homes closer and closer together. We select our native keystone species that support hundreds or even thousands of life cycles that we as humans rely on, to plant our homes. We construct our environment with these keystone species and build our walls. House by house, we create a community of trees, and an ecosystem bustling with life.

Small Trees (Under 20 feet)

Name	Height	Width	Water	Sun	Salt	Host	Blooms	Notes
American Fringe Tree	15-20 ft	8-15 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun		X	Spring, Winter	Showy Flowers
Bahama Strongbark	10-15 ft	8-12 ft	Avg-Dry	Part-Full Sun			Spring-Summer	Showy Fruit, Fragrant Flowers
Bay Cedar	5-20 ft	5-8 ft	Dry-Very Dry	Part-Full Sun			Year-round	
Chapman's Oak	15 ft	10-15 ft	Dry-Very Dry	Full Sun		X	Summer	Keystone
Chickasaw Plum	15-20 ft	15-20 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring, Winter	Showy Flowers, Keystone
Cinnecord	8-12 ft	5 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Full Sun			Spring-Summer	
Fiddlewood (Std)	8-18 ft	5-12 ft	Dry-Very Dry	Full Sun	BR, I, S, Wi	X	Spring-Fall	
Flatwoods Plum	12-20 ft	12-20 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun		X	Spring	Showy Flowers, Keystone
Lignum Vitae	10-15 ft	9-12 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring-Fall	Showy Flowers
Little Gem So. Magnolia	15-20 ft	8-10 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring-Summer	Showy/Fragrant Flowers
Marlberry (Std)	10-15 ft	8-12 ft	Moist-Dry	Shade-Full Sun	I, S, Wi		Year-round	Showy/Fragrant Flowers
Myrsine (Std)	8-15 ft	4-8 ft	Moist-Avg	Shade-Full Sun	BR, I, S, Wi		Spring-Summer	
Myrtle Oak	10-30 ft	5-20 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Full Sun			Spring	Keystone
Orange Geiger Tree	20 ft	10-15 ft	Moist-Dry	Part-Full Sun			Spring-Summer	Showy Flowers
Silver Buttonwood (Std)	20 ft	20 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Full Sun	I, S, Wi	X	Year-round	
Simpson's Stopper (Std)	10-15 ft	8-10 ft	Moist-Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun	Wi		Year-round	Fragrant Flowers, Showy Fruit
Spanish Stopper (Std)	12-15 ft	6-8 ft	Avg-Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun	I, S, Wi		Summer	
Sweet Acacia	8-20 ft	6-10 ft	Average-Dry	Full Sun			Spring-Fall	
Yaupon Holly, Upright	10-20 ft	8-15 ft	Moist-Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun	BR, S, Wi	X	Spring-Summer	Showy Fruit, Keystone

Salt Tolerance Key

Wi Salt Wind
S Salt Spray
Br Brackish Indundation
I Salt Inundation



Pigeon Plum

Medium Trees (20-50 feet)



Densa Slash Pine

Name	Height	Width	Water	Sun	Salt	Host	Blooms	Notes
Bracken's Brown Beauty So. Magnolia	30-50 ft	15-25 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring-Summer	Showy/Fragrant Flowers
Dahoon Holly	20-25 ft	10-15 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun	Wi	X	Spring-Summer	Showy Fruit
Florida Thatch Palm	20-25 ft	5-15 ft	Moist-Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun			Year-round	
Green Buttonwood (Single Trunk)	15-30 ft	1--30 ft	Moist-Very Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun	I, S, Wi	X	Year-round	Fast-growing
Gumbo Limbo	20-30 ft	20-30 ft	Moist-Very Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun	I, Wi	X	Spring, Winter	Fast-growing
Pigeon Plum	20-40 ft	10-20 ft	Moist-Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun	BR, I, S, Wi		Year-round	
Sand Live Oak	20-30 ft	20-30 ft	Dry-Very Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun	Wi	X	Spring	Keystone
Southern Red Cedar	25-40 ft	20-30 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Full Sun	BR, I, S, Wi	X	Spring	
Sweetbay Magnolia	20-30 ft	10-15 ft	Littoral-Moist	Shade-Full Sun	BR	X	Spring	

Large Trees (50+ feet)

Name	Height	Width	Water	Sun	Salt	Host	Bloom Season	Notes
American/Florida Elm	50-70 ft	20-40 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun		X	Spring	Deciduous, Keystone
Bald Cypress	50-70 ft	20-30 ft	Submerged-Avg	Part-Full Sun			Spring-Summer	Deciduous
Cabbage/Sabal Palm	100 ft	10-20 ft	Moist-Very Dry	Shade-Full Sun	I, S, Wi		Spring-Summer	State Tree
DD Blanchard So. Magnolia	50-80 ft	30-60 ft	Moist-Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring-Summer	Showy/Fragrant Blooms
Densa Slash Pine	50-80 ft	40-50 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Part-Full Sun	I, Br, Wi, S	X	Summer	Keystone
Longleaf Pine	80-100 ft	30-50 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun		X	Winter	Keytone
Mahogany	30-60 ft	20-60 ft	Average-Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring-Summer	
Pignut Hickory	50-65 ft	30-40 ft	Moist- Very Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring	Deciduous, Fall Color
Pond Cypress	50-85 ft	15-30ft	Submerged-Moist	Part Shade-Full Sun			Spring-Fall	Deciduous
Red Maple	45-50 ft	35-50 ft	Moist-Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun		X	Spring, Winter	Deciduous, Fall Color
Southern Live Oak	40-80 ft	40-100 ft	Moist-Very Dry	Shade-Full Sun	I, S, Wi	X	Spring	Keystone
Sycamore	75-100 ft	75-100 ft	Moist- Avg	Part Shade-Full Sun			Year-round	Deciduous
Winged Elm	40-60 ft	30-40 ft	Avg-Very Dry	Part Shade-Full Sun		X	Spring	Bird-nesting, Keystone



Pignut Hickory