

# Landscaping Requirements for Single-Family or Duplex Homes on Residential Property

## Martin County Growth Management Department

### Tree Requirement:

Florida native trees are required on residential lots for the construction of single family and duplex homes. This can be accomplished by preserving existing trees or planting trees in accordance with the County Landscape Code. Please reference [Article 4, Division 15, LDR](#).

### Florida Native Trees:

For a guide on selecting appropriate native trees to plant for the development site please refer to the [Native Trees for South Florida, UF IFAS Extension Link](#).

### Existing Native Trees:

Existing trees may qualify for more credits than those planted, as shown in Table 2 below. To take advantage of this, it is advised to consider preserving existing *Native Trees* within the property boundaries. Protected trees must be depicted on your Land Clearing Plan/Permit and are recommended to be depicted on your site plans. For more information about Land Clearing Plans and the Permitting Process, [Click Here](#).

### Prohibited Trees:

Any prohibited trees must be identified for removal within your [Land Clearing Plan](#) before construction begins. All prohibited trees must be removed before the Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) can be issued. Common prohibited trees include but are not limited to Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine, Earleaf Acacia, Schefflera, and Carrotwood. See [Sec 4.664.A.3](#) of the landscape code for a list of Prohibited Species.

**\*All** prohibited vegetation (trees, shrubs, and ground cover) must be removed before the Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) can be issued.

## Palm Trees:

Palm trees may be used to meet the required tree credits. Where used, two palms shall constitute **One (1)** required tree. Partial credits are not granted.

### *Example Plantings:*

- 2 Royal Palms = One (1) Credit
- 2 Sabal Palms = One (1) Credit
- 3 Royal Palms = One (1) Credit (because 2 palms = 1 credit;  $3 / 2 = 1.5 = 1$  credit)

No more than 30% of the required trees to be planted can be palm trees.

## Tree Quantities:

One (1) tree is required for every 3,000 square feet of total developable lot size (excluding preserve areas).

**75%** of the required trees to be planted must be South Florida **Native** species.

### **Where Three (3) Trees or Less are Required:**

The trees **must** at least be 3-inch diameter at breast height (DBH), have a minimum crown spread of 6 feet, and be at least 12-feet-tall, and capable of growing to at least 20 feet at maturity.

### **If More Than Four (4) Trees are Required:**

The trees **must** at least be 2-inch DBH and 10-feet tall. Each tree meeting these criteria will count as one (1) tree credit.

*\*Palm Trees can only be counted as required trees when 4 or more trees are required.*

**Table 1 -Required Tree Planting Schedule**

Lot size (Square feet)	Trees Required	Percent native	Palm tree credits allowed 1 tree credit for 2 palms	Trees other than palms	Tree Size (Height, DBH)
6000 to 7,499	<b>2</b>	100	0	2	12 foot, 3-inch
7,500 to 10,499	<b>3</b>	100	0	3	12 foot, 3-inch
10,500 to 13,499	<b>4</b>	75	1 tree (2 palms planted)	3	10-foot, 2-inch
13,500 to 16,499	<b>5</b>	75	1	4	10-foot, 2-inch
16,500 to 19,499	<b>6</b>	75	1	5	10-foot, 2-inch
19,500 to 22,499	<b>7</b>	75	2 trees (4 palms planted)	5	10-foot, 2-inch
22,500 to 25,499	<b>8</b>	75	2	6	10-foot, 2-inch
25,500 to 28,499	<b>9</b>	75	2	7	10-foot, 2-inch
28,500 to 31,499	<b>10</b>	75	3 trees (6 palms planted)	7	10-foot, 2-inch
31,500 to 34,499	<b>11</b>	75	3	8	10-foot, 2-inch
34,500 to 37,499	<b>12</b>	75	3	9	10-foot, 2-inch
37,500 to 40,499	<b>13</b>	75	3	10	10-foot, 2-inch
40,500 to 43,499	<b>14</b>	75	4 trees (8 palms planted)	10	10-foot, 2-inch
43,500 and larger	<b>15</b>	75	4	11	10-foot, 2-inch

**Table 2 - Existing Native Tree Credit Table**

Existing Native Tree Diameter at Breast Height ( <b>DBH</b> ) In Inches	Tree Credits Applied
31 to 36	8
25 to 30	5
19 to 24	4
13 to 18	3
7 to 12	2
2 to 6	1

**DBH:** Diameter at breast height; the diameter of a tree measured at a height of 54 inches above the naturally occurring ground level.

## **Preserve Areas**

### **Off-site:**

If the lot is next to a preserve area in your Subdivision, permanent signage, must be installed at the preserve area boundary for a Certificate of Occupancy.

### **On-site:**

If the lot includes a preserve area, all preserve compliance requirements, including exotic plant removal, preserve area maintenance, and permanent signage must be met prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.