

# Prepping Trees for Hurricane Season

## Lake County Factsheet #HYG2103

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Tree health is important to keep up with year-round but, as hurricane season approaches, it is important to check trees for safety concerns.

- **Dead/broken/hanging branches** are most likely to fall in any wind event. It is best to manage these as they come up to keep your family and property safe.



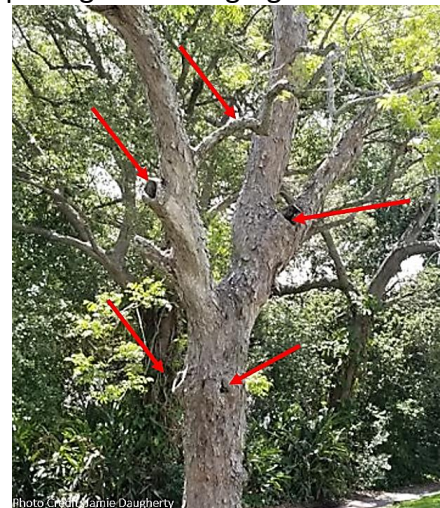
- **Branch attachments.** Branches have the strongest attachments in a 'U' shape while they are weakest in a 'V' shape as in this photo. Corrective pruning is often an option to correct bad branch attachments in your tree. It is also possible, though more limiting, in older trees.



- **Trunk Lean.** A leaning trunk tells you which way the tree will fall if it fails. Young trees should be pruned to straighten using stakes. Older trees can be a safety issue if leaning over a home or area with high traffic (people or cars).



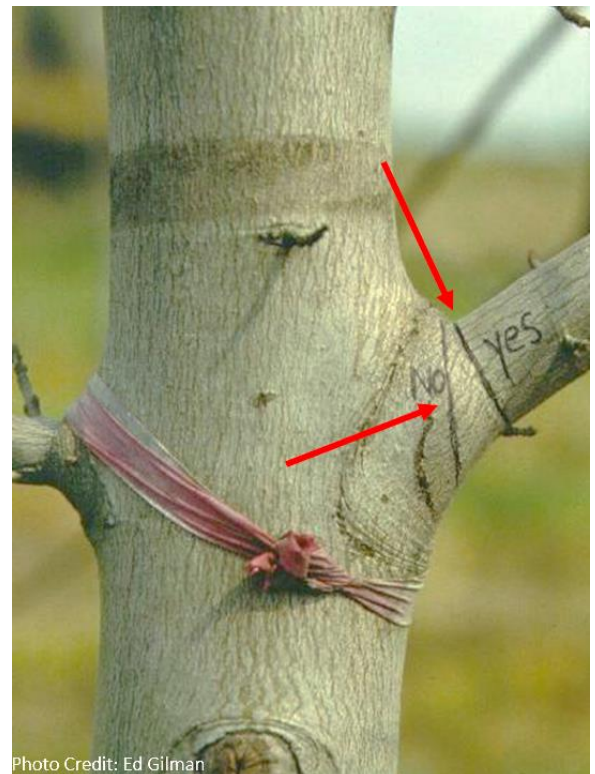
- **Trunk Damage** can indicate rot, disease, or physical damage. Any of these could mean that the health of the tree is failing. This image shows a tree with hollow openings indicating significant rot.



- **Root damage** is often indicated by a reduction in leaves at the top of the tree, or by mushrooms at the base of the trunk.



- **Pruning.** If you are pruning limbs yourself, make cuts at the branch bark collar. The correct location is indicated in the image below with the 'yes.' Additional pruning information is available in the resources below.



To hire a tree work professional go to <https://www.treesaregood.org/>. Here you can find a certified arborist near you. This Arborist certification shows that the arborist is trained tree care and biology. They work to keep your tree safe and healthy so that you can enjoy it for years to come.

**For additional information on this topic please visit:**

Is my tree safe? Recognizing Conditions that Increase the Likelihood of Tree Failure. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep507>  
Pruning and Maintaining Trees <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/pruning/pruning-and-maintaining-trees.html>  
Pruning Trees for Hurricanes: Video <https://youtu.be/7i5oPQw5Ofg>

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lake/>