

Landscaping Before & After the Storm

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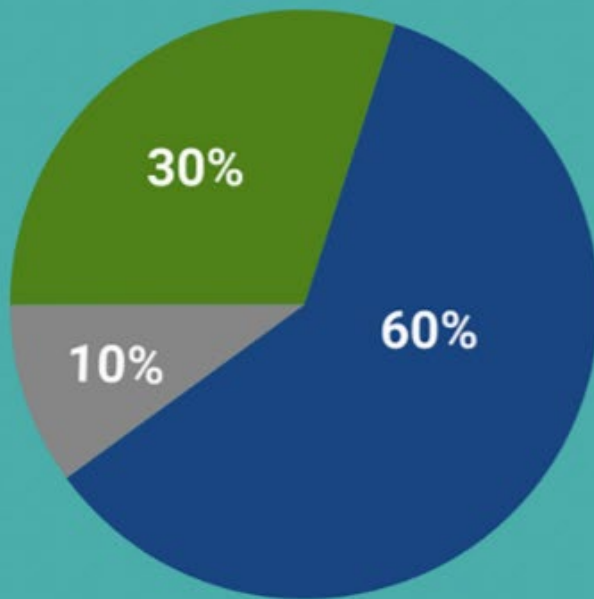


It's Hurricane Season!

- June 1 – November 30
- Tropical storms have winds 39mph+
- Hurricanes have winds of 74mph+
- Both can be accompanied by rain, lightning, hail, flooding and tornadoes



2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook



■ Above-normal ■ Near-normal ■ Below-normal season

Season probability

Named storms

13-20

Hurricanes

6-10

Major hurricanes

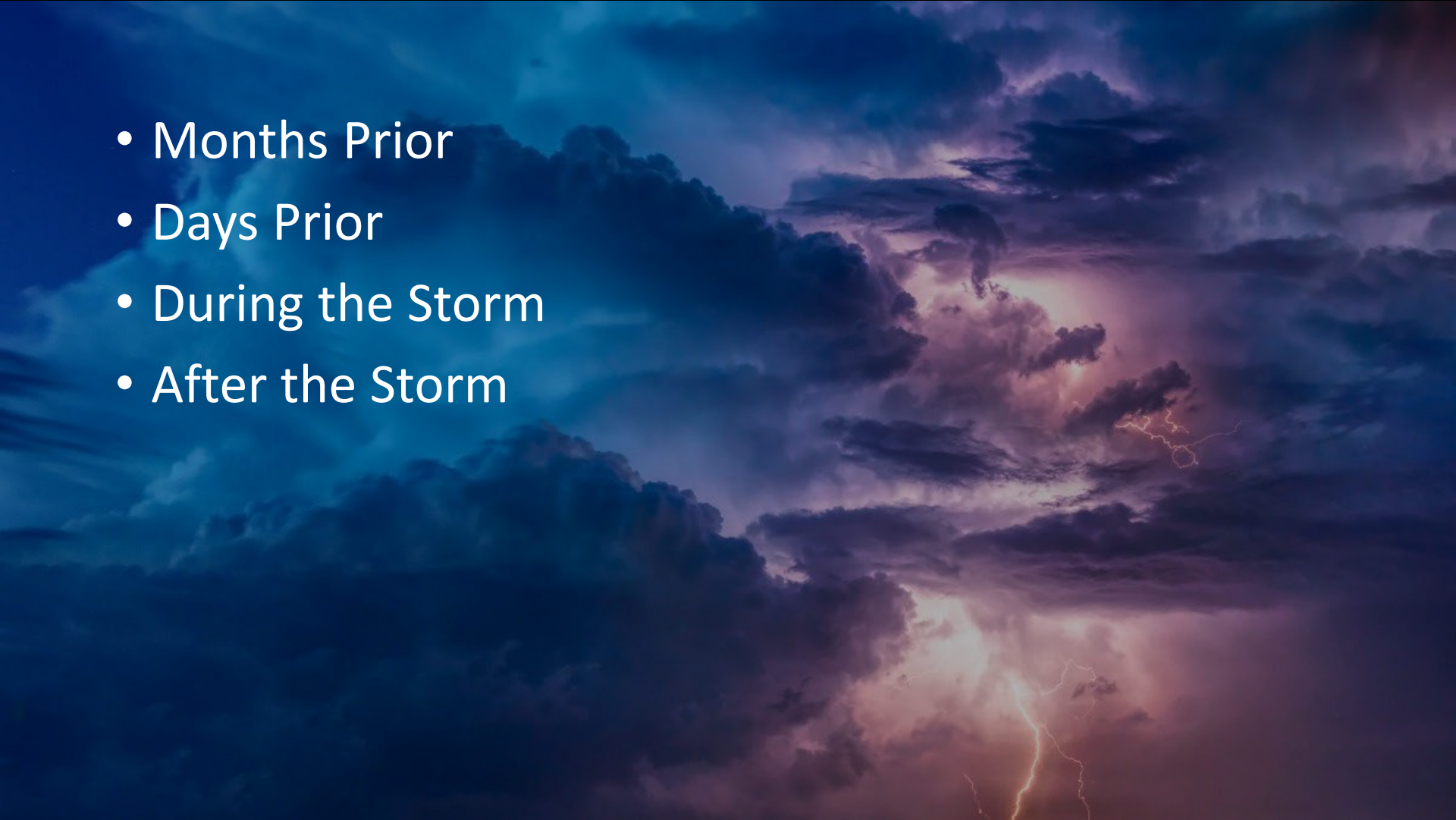
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Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter.

May 2021

Landscaping Before & After the Storm

- Months Prior
- Days Prior
- During the Storm
- After the Storm





Months Before a Storm

- Inspect your trees
 - Laurel Oaks
 - Water Oaks
- Trees should be at least 15 feet from foundations
- Hire an ISA Certified Arborist to inspect for risk and to properly prune
 - <https://www.treesaregood.org/>
 - Avoid hurricane pruning palms and lion tails!
- Remove problematic trees



Credit: Redlands Daily Facts



Credit: Citrus County Chronicle



Days Before a Storm

- Check drainage around your property
- Clear storm drains
- Swales should be clear of plants and debris; properly mowed
- Do not leave debris in yard!
- Inspect and clean gutters
- Disconnect and empty rain barrels; place in secure location
- Cover bare soil with pavers to reduce erosion
- Turn off irrigation!

Days Before a Storm

- Take down and secure hanging baskets, lawn ornaments, furniture, etc.
- Secure trellising
- Stake trees that
 - are newly planted (<1 year)
 - have weak root balls
- Root stabilizers are preferred way of staking or use a flexible strap material



During a Storm

STAY INSIDE!





After the Storm

Assess the damage

- Uprooted or damaged roots
- Broken stems and branches
- Wind burn and defoliation
- Change in light conditions
- Washed away mulch
- Diseased grass



After the Storm

- Older, established trees that are completely uprooted are best removed
 - Recovery is unlikely
 - Rot and decay can set in
 - Unstable in future storms
- Younger uprooted trees can be salvaged
 - Replant as soon as possible
 - Keep roots covered and moist until replanting
 - Stake-up and keep well watered
- Exposed roots of small leaning trees should be covered as soon as possible; stake up and treat like a newly planted tree



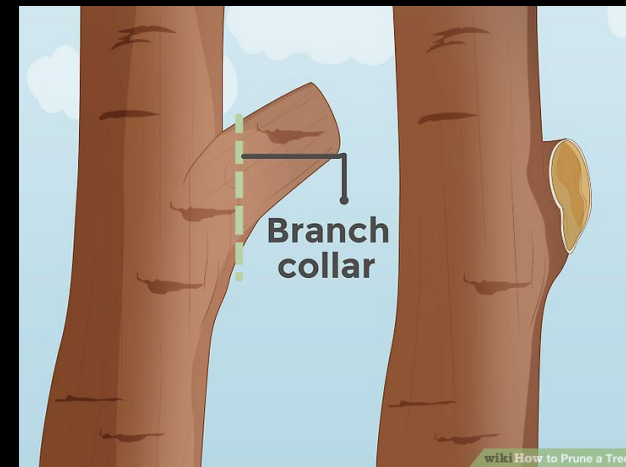
After the Storm

- Air pockets may occur around the roots of badly swaying trees
 - Fill with soil and water
- Look for signs of root damage up to a year + after the storm
 - Wilting, dropping of leaves
 - Signs of root rot from flooding
 - Have trees of concern inspected by an arborist
- Do not fertilize root damaged trees



After the Storm

- Cleanly cut any broken branches making sure you leave the branch collar (no flush cuts)
- Larger branches should be cut off in multiple chunks to prevent tearing
- Disinfect pruning equipment between trees if cutting into palms or diseased branches
- If more than 1/3 of the canopy or all of the branches are gone, best to remove plant



After the Storm

Windburn and defoliation from exposure to high winds

- Symptoms may appear days – months after damage
- Partial or entire leaf turns brown and eventually fall off
- Most plants recover just fine with time
- Prune out dead or severely damaged branches
 - Check for green tissue under bark

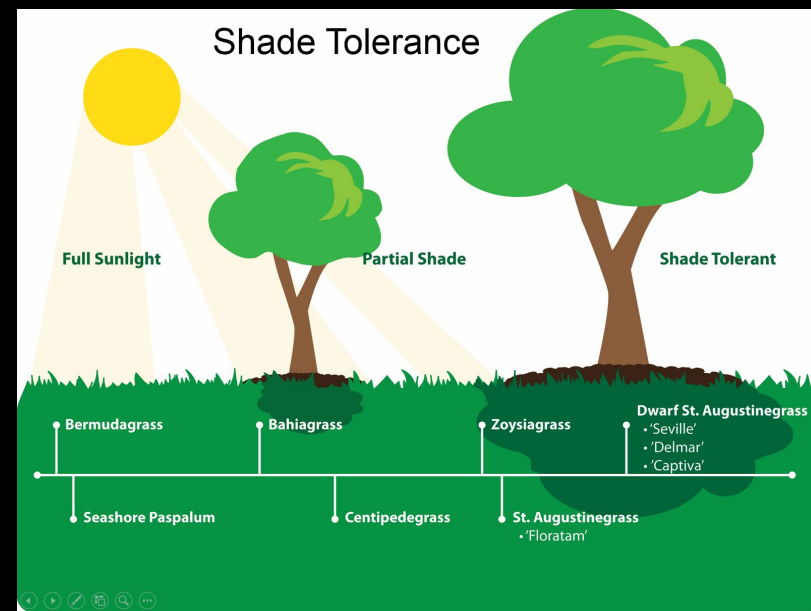


Windburn on sea grape from Hurricane Irma.
Credit: Elliott Jones/TCPalm



After the Storm

- Sunburn or scorch from sudden exposure to full sun when shade trees fall
- Plants now in full sun will either adapt, die or need to be transplanted
- Adjust watering and mowing needs





EUCALYPTUS

After the Storm

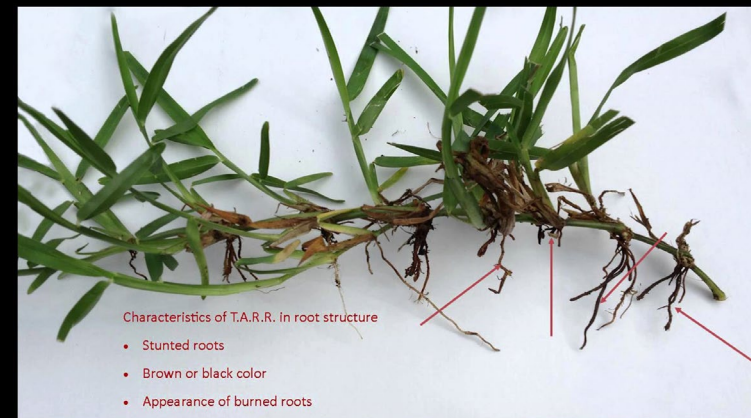
- Replenish washed away mulch
 - 2-3" depth is recommended for optimal weed suppression
- Organic mulches such as pine straw, pine bark, melaleuca or eucalyptus around plants
 - Use rock sparingly (drip line, walk-ways)
- Keep mulch ~10 inches from tree trunks and a few inches from base of plants



After the Storm

Lawn diseases

- Promptly remove fallen limbs and large piles of debris from yard
- Flooding and waterlogged soils can lead to root rots, pests, other fungal and bacterial pathogens
- Reduce/turn off irrigation, aerate, use fungicides when warranted



Recovering from the Storm



Replace plants with Florida-Friendly plants best suited for your site conditions and manage using the 9 FFL Principles

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle Yard Waste
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront

Resources

- Treating Storm Damaged Trees: <https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/storm-damage.shtml>
- Tree Staking: <https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/staking.shtml>
- Restoring Trees After a Hurricane: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf%5CEP%5CEP30000.pdf>
- Hurricane Landscaping: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/weather/hurricane-landscaping.html>
- Handling Lawn and Landscape Problems After a Storm: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/escambiaco/2013/10/07/handling-lawn-and-landscape-problems-after-a-storm/>
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/marion/>

Any Questions?

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