

Mangrove Management

Mangroves are found along warm-weather shorelines around the world. They provide habitat and nursery for a wide array of animals, and help buffer the effects of tropical storms. But, managing mangroves and knowing the regulations around these essential plants can be difficult.

We can help.

Our “Neighborhood Best Practices” program provides tips and techniques on mangrove care, along with information about efficient irrigation, preserves, wildlife, protecting our local waterways, composting initiatives, and much more. Register online at tiny.cc/ufsaraext_nbp to make a difference in your neighborhood.

Mangrove Distribution

There are roughly 80 species of mangroves worldwide, with three in Florida: red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), and white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*).

Mangroves grow in soils with low oxygen, where slow-moving waters allow fine sediments to accumulate. Mangrove forests only grow at subtropical and tropical areas near the equator because they cannot withstand freezing temperatures.



Mangrove Importance

Mangroves are extremely important because they:

- Filter pollutants
- Protect coastlines during storm events
- Reduce erosion
- Provide privacy to property owners
- Serve as important habitat for many organisms, providing food and shelter from predators
- Sequester carbon

Mangroves are so important to Floridians that they have special protections. Florida developed a state law to protect mangroves from unnecessary removal or destruction. And, Sarasota County received state delegation in 2016 to administer local mangrove trimming and alteration permits.



Mangrove Management

(cont'd)

Should/Can You Trim?

How much should you trim?

Mangroves are not shrubs, they are trees. So, trimming should be limited. Trimming too much (six feet or more) at once can harm the trees over time, reducing the benefits they provide. That includes decreasing habitat available for many birds and other animal species, including snook, red drums and other commercially harvested fish.

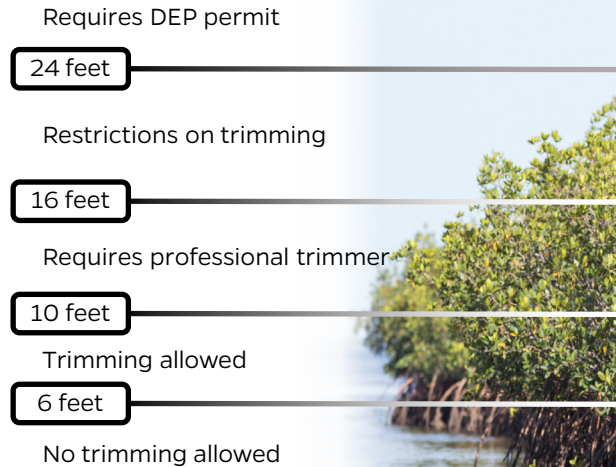


Do you need a permit to trim mangroves?

Trimming regulations depend on the tree height, and the length and width of the mangrove shoreline. Some activities might require a permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

In Sarasota County, many trimming activities require a permit. A professional mangrove trimmer (PMT) is required for any permitted trimming or alteration of mangroves, and is recommended for any exempt trimming on private property.

For questions about permitting or becoming a registered PMT, please contact a Sarasota County environmental specialist at 941-861-5000.



More About Mangroves

Sustainable Mangrove Trimming

If you decide to trim your mangroves, the most sustainable way to do so is to use what is known as a “window system.” This type of trimming creates a view through large trees by selectively removing limbs from the central and/or lower areas of trees. Learn more with FDEP’s “Mangrove Trimming Guidelines for Homeowners,” available at floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Mangrove-Homeowner-Guide-sm_O.pdf.

A Guide to Mangrove Trimming and Protection
tiny.cc/saraco_mangrovetrimguide



Mangroves: Keys to the Coast
tiny.cc/saraco_mangrovebenefits



Guide to the Mangroves of Florida
tiny.cc/ufifas_floridamangroves



Learn more in our “Neighborhood Best Practices” program

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