

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

Martin County Growth Management Department

Tree Requirement

FL Native trees are required to be planted or retained on residential lots for the construction of single family and duplex homes in accordance with the County Landscape Code ([Article 4, Division 15, LDR](#))

Florida Native Trees [Download link](#) (Native trees for South Florida, UF IFAS Extension)

Existing Native Trees Identify - to be surveyed and protected on your [Land Clearing Plan/Permit](#). Native trees can count for multiple tree credits as shown in Table 2 below.

Palm Trees May be planted but get less tree credits - 2 palm trees count as one tree credit. No more than 30% of the required trees to be planted can be palm trees.

Prohibited Trees Identify - for removal with your [Land Clearing Plan](#) before construction begins. All prohibited trees must be removed before the Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) can be issued. See [Sec 4.664.A.3](#) of the landscape code for Prohibited Species.

Tree Quantities:

One 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 3 trees or less are required, the trees must be 3-inch diameter at breast height (DBH), have a minimum crown spread of six feet, and be at least 12-feet-tall, and capable of growing to at least 20 feet at maturity.

If more than 4 trees are required, they must at least be 2-inch DBH and 10-feet tall (= one 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	2	100	0	2	12 foot, 3-inch
7,500 to 10,499	3	100	0	3	12 foot, 3-inch
10,500 to 13,499	4	75	1 tree (2 palms planted)	3	10-foot, 2-inch
13,500 to 16,499	5	75	1	4	10-foot, 2-inch
16,500 to 19,499	6	75	1	5	10-foot, 2-inch
19,500 to 22,499	7	75	2 trees (4 palms planted)	5	10-foot, 2-inch
22,500 to 25,499	8	75	2	6	10-foot, 2-inch
25,500 to 28,499	9	75	2	7	10-foot, 2-inch
28,500 to 31,499	10	75	3 trees (6 palms planted)	7	10-foot, 2-inch
31,500 to 34,499	11	75	3	8	10-foot, 2-inch
34,500 to 37,499	12	75	3	9	10-foot, 2-inch
37,500 to 40,499	13	75	3	10	10-foot, 2-inch
40,500 to 43,499	14	75	4 trees (8 palms planted)	10	10-foot, 2-inch
43,500 and larger	15	75	4	11	10-foot, 2-inch

Table 2 - Existing Native Tree Credit Table

Existing Native Tree diameter at breast height (DBH) 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.

Prohibited Plant Removal

All prohibited plant species must be removed from the developed lot in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy.

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 Certificate of Occupancy.