



Town of Ponce Inlet
Planning & Development Department
Professional, Caring, and Fair

Right Tree in the Right Place

The following information is provided courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation as a guideline for properly planting trees in your landscape.

A healthy community forest begins with careful planning. With a little research and a simple layout, you can produce a landscape that will cool your home in summer. A well-planned yard will contain trees that grow well in the sand, salt and wind. Your trees should be properly placed to avoid collisions with power lines and buildings. Proper planning will ensure the health of your trees, which will increase the aesthetics and value of your property.

A proper landscape plan takes each tree into consideration:

1. **Height:** Will the tree bump into anything when it is fully grown? Take care not to plant under overhead power lines.
2. **Canopy spread:** How wide will the tree grow? Take care not to plant too close to your house or pool screen.
3. **Deciduous or coniferous?** Will it lose its leaves in the winter? Most trees native to Florida are not deciduous, although some do lose their leaves in the winter months.
4. **Form or shape:** A columnar tree will grow in less space. Round and V-Shaped species provide the most shade.
5. **Growth rate:** How long will it take for your tree to reach its full height? Slow growing species typically live longer than fast growing species.
6. **Soil, sun, and moisture** requirements. Take care to choose trees that will grow in the sand and can withstand the salt carried on the wind. Some trees will do better when protected by structures or other trees.
7. **Fruit:** Fruits and berries provide food for local and migrating birds. Take care not to plant where messy droppings may fall in unwanted areas.
8. **Hardiness zone:** Indicates the temperature extremes in which a tree can be expected to grow. Ponce Inlet is located in Hardiness Zone 9, as established by the US Department of Agriculture.

What plants grow best here?

The Parks, Recreation and Tree Advisory Board created a list of trees, palms, shrubs, vines and ground covers that grow in our coastal island environment. The list was adopted as the Town Plant list by Council in 2003. Copies are available in the Planning & Development Department.

The Town's landscape requirements and tree protection regulations can be found in Article VIII of the Town's Land Use and Development Code, [online](#), or on the Town's website at www.ponce-inlet.org. For more information, please call 386-236-2182.

Additional information about the Arbor Day Foundation can be found on-line at www.arborday.org/.