



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

## Tree Removal Permits

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Since 1993, Ponce Inlet has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Town has earned this distinction annually for its efforts to protect trees and native vegetation, which includes its tree removal permitting regulations.

### **Can I remove trees from my property?**

The Town requires a permit for the removal of most trees. If trees are removed, replacement trees must be planted to restore the tree canopy. Replacement requirements are based on the size of the tree(s) being removed, and can be found in Table 8.4-1 of the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC).

Trees that are dead, weakened and diseased or that may cause imminent personal injury or significant property damage can be removed without a permit after being documented by Town staff.

### **What is a specimen tree?**

Trees of certain species above a certain size are considered to be specimen trees worthy of special protection. To be considered a specimen tree, the tree must be 6" in diameter, measured at 4.5 feet (DBH) above average grade, and be one of the following species:

Florida Privet	Slash Pine
Hercules Club	Southern Magnolia
Live Oak	Southern Red Cedar
Magnolia "Little Gem"	Sweetbay Magnolia
Myrtle Oak	Tough Bumelia
Red Bay	Wax Myrtle
Scrub Live Oak	Wild Olive
	Yaupon Holly

Cabbage Palms measuring 12" DBH are also specimen trees.

### **How much will a permit cost?**

The cost of a tree removal permit and length of review time depends on the level of review required. Trees measuring 12" or less DBH are reviewed by Town Staff, with a fee of \$125.00. If review by the Parks, Recreation and Tree Advisory Board is also required (trees larger than 12' DBH), the fee is \$200.00, and if the trees to be removed measure greater than 18" DBH, Town Council approval is required, with a fee of \$650.00.

### **Removal of Exotic, Invasive Trees**

You can remove invasive species such as Brazilian Pepper and Melaleuca without first obtaining a permit. However, please call 386-236-2182 prior to starting the work so Town Staff can document the species being removed.

The Town's tree protection regulations can be found in Article VIII of the Town's LUDC and [online](#). For more information, please call 386-236-2181.

Additional information about the Arbor Day Foundation can be found on-line at [www.arborday.org/](http://www.arborday.org/).