



# the Hedgelines

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## The **VALUE** of Trees Within Our **COMMUNITIES**

More and more communities are beginning to recognize trees' tangible benefits in the urban environment. Healthy trees reduce air and noise pollution, provide energy-saving shade and cooling, furnish habitat for wildlife, enhance aesthetics and property values, and contribute to community image, pride, and quality of life.

Objectives include reducing tree or branch failures, providing clearance, creating views, stimulating fruit or flowering, improving structure, maintaining health, restoring damaged or vandalized trees, and managing pests. Our Certified Arborists utilize various pruning types to meet these objectives. Improper pruning can cause long-lasting damage to trees and, in extreme cases, may lead to premature mortality. Injuries to trees can result from a variety of different sources. Trees respond to injuries by reallocating resources to help prevent the spread of decay (physically and chemically) by blocking off sections of impacted wood through compartmentalization. Please note that this includes improper pruning cuts.

LMP is your complete tree care service company with an industry track record of excellence. We ensure peace of mind for our clients by meeting quality, safety, and service standards and offering competitive pricing. Covering everything from plant health care, tree and stump removal, ISA-certified arborists, tree care management plans, 24-hour emergency service, and risk assessment for your property.

### Why Hire an ISA Arborist?

You may think of tree pruning as something that is done to make a tree look better. While improved appearance is undoubtedly among the upsides, pruning is fundamentally a tree health practice. And it's an important one.

A Certified Arborist is a landscape professional with years of experience, specialist degrees, and training, and qualified by the International Society of Arboriculture to provide professional tree care. To become a certified arborist requires a career in landscaping and tree care and a deep knowledge of the many facets of tree health and how trees interact with their environment.

The level of the assessment determines the fee for a tree risk assessment. There are three levels. Each is a little more involved.

#### Tyree Brown

ISA Certified Arborist

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Certification

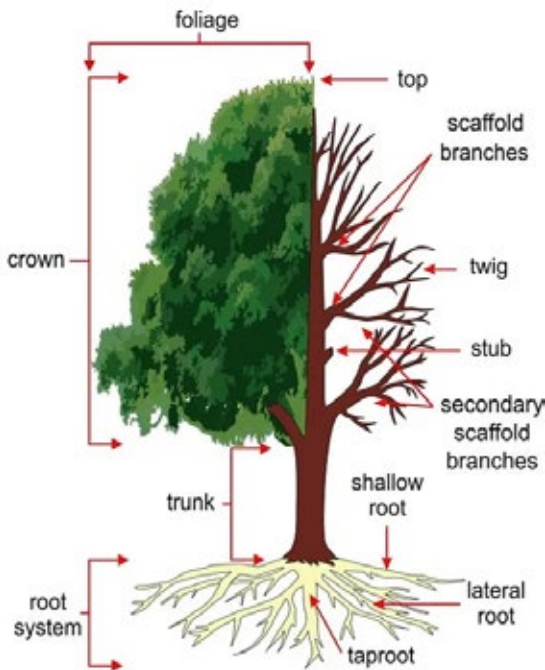
FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional

*Consultations are free to LMP clients. Tree risk assessments are charged on an hourly basis. It depends on the number of trees to be assessed and the level of assessment. Creating a report is an additional fee.*



# Benefits of Tree Pruning by a Certified Arborist

## Tree Trimming & Pruning Services for the Health of Your Trees, for the Safety of Your Property



Seasonal pruning is one of the most valuable things you can do for the health and longevity of your trees. Expert pruning services by the professionals at LMP will help to preserve your trees' structural integrity, shape, health, and beauty. Seasonal pruning also reduces the risk of falling tree limbs during severe weather, helping safeguard your property's people, pets, and buildings.

### Tree Removal

While we much prefer to focus our efforts on caring for trees, there are situations when removing a tree is the wisest course of action:

It may be a "hazard tree" — that is, it has a structural defect that makes it likely to fail. When the hazard tree is adjacent to buildings, walkways, and driveways, it poses a significant risk to people, pets, and property.

The tree threatens the health of other trees and shrubs nearby. Its removal can allow competing species a chance to develop and mature.

LMP also offers emergency tree removal services when a tree or major limb falls suddenly and requires immediate clearance. Regardless of the circumstance, please refrain from attempting to remove a tree alone. To do it safely requires careful techniques, specialized equipment, and qualified arborists. Tree removal should be left to the professionals.

### Tree Disease Treatment

The proper diagnosis and well-targeted treatment plan from your LMP arborist can prevent the emergence and spread of the fungi and bacteria that cause tree diseases. Prompt and comprehensive disease treatment — which may include the preventive application of anti-fungal and anti-bacterial materials, as well as corrective tree care services — can improve your tree's condition and preserve the vitality of your property.

### Fertilization and Soil Enhancement Give Your Trees What They Need to Thrive

Through laboratory soil tests and a visual inspection of your property, LMP's professional arborists can assess the unique condition of your trees and the soil they grow in. Armed with that information, they can recommend the nutrient and soil enhancement regimen to help them thrive. In most cases, just one or two fertilization treatments yearly are sufficient to remedy a nutrient deficiency, discourage disease and insect problems, and help achieve beautiful, sustainably healthy trees.

### Tree Cabling, Bracing, and Staking Using Supplemental Support Systems to Remedy Unstable Trees

When trees are not properly pruned or trained when young, they can grow in ways that threaten their health — and the safety of the people, pets, and buildings around them.

When installed and maintained correctly by a certified LMP arborist, supplemental support systems can be appropriate remedies for trees with structural deficiencies and instability. Support systems can reduce the likelihood of tree or limb failure, extend the life of an old or valuable tree, or provide added stability to newly transplanted trees while they build supportive root systems.

### Insect Management & Treatment

The LMP insect management program can protect your landscape from the damaging effects of insect infestation. Our insect management approach is to maintain ecological sustainability by using low-impact methods and ingredients to minimize populations of damaging insects while preserving beneficial insects. Beginning with thoroughly inspecting your landscape, your arborist will identify any insect problems and prescribe treatment, along with routine monitoring and maintenance.



# Crape Myrtle: The Tree of 100 Days



The crape myrtle's roots (no pun intended) date back to China, where it was called "Pai Jih Hung," which means a hundred days red and is still known today as "the tree of one hundred days" because of its beautiful, long-lasting summer blooms.

The crape myrtle is not considered a true myrtle – an evergreen shrub – but retains the name due to its similar leaf shape. The "crape" refers to how the flowers appear crinkled like crape paper. Crape myrtle is a group of roughly 50 tree and shrub cultivars in the genus Lagerstroemia. There is great diversity among these plants – some are deciduous. In contrast, others are evergreen; sizes range from barely one-foot tall dwarf varieties to towering giants that can grow taller than 100 feet. What they share and make all crape myrtles distinct and desirable in landscaping is their stunning frilly, crinkled, or rippled blooms and peeling bark that gives textural distinction to their trunks and stems as well. Flower colors range from deep purple to lavender, ivory, bright white, pale pink, magenta, and red.

## But what must you do to ensure these stunning specimens will thrive in your landscape?

Crape myrtle is adaptable to many soil conditions but prefers well-drained ones. Like any newly planted tree, regular watering is critical for establishment. Crape myrtles are extremely drought tolerant in the second growing season. Therefore, occasional deep root watering (once or twice a month) is required for optimal growth.

Unless the plant has grown out of control, light trimming is all that's needed to eliminate the weaker stems and encourage flower-producing new shoots. The heavy pruning of branches back to limbs thicker than thumb size may delay flowering for months, possibly even until the following year.

Severe pruning, where large trunks are cut short, will encourage a lot of stem growth, which must mature before flowering can occur. In comparison, a yearly light trimming may result in flowering shoots as early as the end of May.

Seldom fatal crepe myrtle can be plagued with aphids and powdery mildew. The original variety Indica is hardier to these problems. Sprays of insecticide soap or horticultural oil are the most environmentally safe pesticides for controlling the crepe myrtle aphid. This will also wash off the black 'sooty mold' that results from the aphids. The best way to avoid powdery mildew problems is to plant a cultivar that is resistant to the problem.

## Training is Key to Retaining Top Talent

The landscaping around your commercial property can be a huge undertaking for any business – caring for the grounds, maintaining its aesthetics, and keeping it safe for clients and customers. That's one reason why it's important to hire a certified commercial landscape contractor – one that should alleviate any landscape concerns you have, proactively identify areas of improvement, add value to your property, and – most importantly – provide a lasting first impression for your clients.

GI-BMPs teach environmentally safe landscaping practices that help conserve and protect Florida's ground and surface waters and natural resources. This science based educational program for Green Industry professionals is provided by the UF/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping program and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

LMP takes pride in investing in the training and certification of our team to enhance their professional knowledge and judgment of turfgrass and landscape workers. Training is a constant at LMP because the effectiveness of any program is only as good as the understanding of the personnel responsible for final application.



# Do Your Part, Be Water Smart

Water is on the minds of some people lately, especially people involved in planning for growth and development in Florida. Few people think of how little good fresh water is available and what the best use is for it. Water is the most limiting resource for the growth and must be carefully conserved and distributed equally to benefit all, including nature.

A typical homeowner uses fifty percent of the water for irrigating their landscape. We must increase efficient use and conservation efforts when water is at a premium.

LMP is committed to helping Floridians conserve water for the best uses, offering solutions for water conservation in the landscape, how to maintain your irrigation system and Florida-Friendly Landscaping. Our services include predictive weather capability and rainfall detection using smart sprinkler controllers and scheduled water management to prevent over watering.



## *April is Water Conservation Month*

### **Water Management & Equipment**

Using smart water management technology and system selection will significantly minimize water consumption. But making sure it is appropriately scheduled and maintained is equally as important.

Proper water management will also encourage deeper root growth and healthier, weather-tolerant landscapes.

### **Right Plant in the Right Place**

Choosing the right plant for specific growing conditions will help prevent pest and disease problems. This helps eliminate unnecessary pesticide usage, which further protects our waterways.

### **Planting for Efficient Water Use**

The most efficient way to organize your landscape is to group plants according to their water needs and soil conditions. If plant placement is done correctly, plants will need little to no supplemental irrigation once established.

Plants native to Florida can play a very dependable role in the landscape. Many of Florida's plants have evolved through periods of extreme wet and then dry weather, so they survive through drought and don't get root rot standing in water. They have also developed defenses to the diseases, fungi, and insects that originate in Florida. And many have proven wind tolerances in areas that experience tropical storms and hurricanes.

### **Mulching**

Mulching is one of the best ways to conserve water in your garden. Mulch preserves moisture by reducing soil temperature. Mulch also reduces erosion by diffusing the force of water before it reaches the soil. It discourages weed growth by burying seeds. And while decomposing, it improves topsoil condition.



**LINKS TO LEARN MORE**  
about WaterWise Rebates and Grants  
for Residential and Commercial properties.





# WATER INCENTIVES SUPPORTING EFFICIENCY

## Funding Available for Water Conservation Projects

Cost-share reimbursements are available for water conservation projects throughout the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) that improve water use efficiency and help protect the region's water resources. The District will reimburse approved applicants 50% of project costs up to \$20,000 per project. Applications will be accepted year-round until all project year funds are awarded.

RECEIVE UP TO **\$20,000**

## Conservation Projects That May Be Eligible

- Toilet, showerhead and plumbing fixture replacements
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ conversions
- Irrigation system modifications
- Weather stations for irrigation control
- Cooling tower modifications and pretreatment systems
- High-efficiency commercial/industrial processing equipment

**Additional projects not listed may be eligible for funding. Please contact District staff to discuss ideas.**

## Benefits

- Save money on utility bills and operating expenses
- Improve process and system efficiency
- Reduce your project costs through reimbursement
- Protect Florida's water resources

Visit [WaterMatters.org/WISE](https://WaterMatters.org/WISE) to learn more, or contact Josh Madden at (352) 796-7211, ext. 4197 or [Josh.Madden@WaterMatters.org](mailto:Josh.Madden@WaterMatters.org).



# Perennial Blooming Beauty

## Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)

Its most distinctive feature is the stunning purple fruits that form clumps on the stems of the American beautyberry shrub.

It is adaptable to a variety of conditions, but will flower and fruit more in full sun. Many bird species rely on these berries as a major food source, and white-tailed deer prefer the leaves. Pruning in late winter is recommended to encourage denser growth.



## Firebush (*Hamelia patens* var. *patens*)

Scarlet bush or firebush plants produce berries in the fall and continuous bunches of long tubular flowers in the summer. These colorful bushes have a quick growth rate and draw pollinators like butterflies and hummingbirds.

Firebush is one of Florida's best plants for attracting butterflies and birds. It can be used as a specimen plant or in a border or mass planting. It is relatively tolerant of salt and wind and is a moderately fast grower. Plant in full sun for best flowering or more shade for attractive flowers. Calusa firebush is a native cultivar that may be used if a more compact size is desired.



## Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia* spp.)

Butterfly bush is a sun-loving, flowering shrub that reaches heights of 3 to 5 feet. *Buddleia* is available in a huge variety of colors, including white, pink, purple, yellow, red, lavender, and blue. The butterfly bush has a fibrous root system, instead of a taproot, which means the roots get their nutrients from the upper layers of soil. Their graceful arching habit is appealing as a background in informal gardens, and smaller varieties may be grown closer to the front border as accents or in groupings.

They bloom in spring and summer, but the naturally attractive shape of the shrub and evergreen foliage keep the bush interesting, even when it is not in bloom.



## Scarlet salvia (*Salvia coccinea*)

Scarlet salvia, a perennial native to Florida, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies with its rich red tubular flowers (sometimes pink or white) that appear from spring through fall.

This herbaceous plant can grow up to three or four feet tall, and can work in a Florida-friendly landscape anywhere in the state. Scarlet salvia grows in many different conditions, and is fairly drought tolerant. Mass it together, mix it with other perennials in a border, or feature it in a container garden.



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