



NO: If you have a tree that looks like this shingle tree (*Pterospermum acerifolium*) at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach, you won't be able to save it. The tree's vascular system is too damaged.

SHANNON O'BRIEN
Staff Photographer

CAN THESE TREES BE SAVED?

A guide to reviving your landscape after Hurricane Frances

Stories by BARBARA MARSHALL ■ Palm Beach Post Staff Writer



Photo by BONNIE CHYNOWETH

MAYBE, BUT WHY? There are several reasons not to plant ficus trees, and here are five of them. When they aren't pruned inside the crown of the tree to allow wind to move through, they become top-heavy

and blow over in a storm, as these did on PGA National's Avenue of the Masters in Palm Beach Gardens. In addition, several species of ficus are on the state's nonnative, invasive plant list.

They were part of our lives — part of our families, really. The tree that shaded the patio, the one our kids waited under for the schoolbus, the ones that gave us tasty grapefruit, avocados and mangoes.

Lining our streets, they softened the sharp edges of new communities and welcomed us home each night. Now, they're lying in those streets and on our

patios. In some cases, it's because we made poor choices, choosing brittle trees that splintered instead of sheltered. We didn't prune well or often enough. We didn't remove those darn coconuts!

It's not too late to save some of our trees. For advice, we turned to experts from around the state who have been through Hurricanes Erin and Opal, Andrew and Charley.

INSIDE Page 2K: Tips from the experts on tree triage. ■ Page 3K: How to prune and stake trees properly. How one tree survived 500 hurricane seasons. ■ Page 4K: Ron Sympton offers hope after the storm. Gene Joyner deals with acres of devastation. A Post editor accepts the blame for brittle trees. ■ Page 5K: A guide to the best trees to replant.

Save your fallen tree

If you have a fallen — or leaning — tree that you want to save, before reading any further, do this immediately:

Go outside and cover any exposed roots with a tarp, palm fronds, sphagnum moss, soil, brush or burlap sacks. Wet this material thoroughly, then come back inside and turn to **page 2K**.

YES, if the roots of this upended avocado are covered and kept moist until replanting. The avocados themselves can be saved and may ripen in a week or so.

Photo by LYNN KALBER



RICHARD GRAULICH/Staff Photographer

MAYBE. Citrus trees came through the storm well, as a rule, particularly those that were well-trimmed. Broken branches can be cut off, but trees like this one, whose 'feet' stayed wet for days, may develop root rot. Drenching roots with a fungicide may help. Fallen citrus fruit, which must ripen on the tree, will never be edible.

DO NOT MAKE MORE DEBRIS!

If Hurricane Ivan decides to drop in this week, it will be a major hazard.

The city of West Palm Beach and the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority are asking residents not to make new debris piles after current ones have been picked up. Secure debris with heavy limbs or by wetting it down. Also, West Palm Beach residents are asked not to trim or remove any damaged trees on public property. Trees marked with blue ribbons will be removed or repaired.