

# Plant slow-growers for shade, strength

"The lessons we learned are to plant slow-growing trees, not those that give quick shade," says Robert Bowden, director of Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. The 50-acre botanic garden lost more than 100 trees when Hurricane Charley ripped through Central Florida last month. Brittle laurel oaks were the hardest hit; also damaged were Chinese elms, camphor and golden rain trees. Bowden says the garden's silk floss

trees "just snapped off in the wind." As we survey our newly sun-blasted yards, it's easy to see what didn't stand up to a major hurricane — and what did. Linda Seals, horticulture extension agent for the Palm Beach County, has been looking around, as well. Here are her suggestions on what to plant to replace the trees now festering on the mulch piles that once were our yards.

— Barbara Marshall

## Palms Instead of queen palms . . .



JENNIFER POOKS/Staff file photo



TAYLOR JONES/Staff file photo

. . . Plant **foxtail** (right), **solitaire**, **cabbage** (above) or **paurotis palms** (for wet areas). For an intensely tropical look, plant **coconut palms**, although they are susceptible to lethal yellowing.

## Small trees

Instead of **schefflera** . . .

. . . Plant **pitch apple**, **paurotis palm** (right) and **cabbage palm**, **dahoon** and **yaupon holly** (good for small yards like zero-lot-line houses) and **pandanus** (screw pine).



TAYLOR JONES/Staff file photo

## Medium shade trees

Instead of **carrotwood** . . .

. . . Plant **paradise tree**, **pigeon plum**, **fiddlewood**, **ironwood**, **weeping podocarpus**



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## Flowering trees Instead of yellow tabebuia . . .

. . . Plant **crepe myrtle** (various colors, shown above), **tibouchina** (purple flower), **cassia** (yellow, below left), **gelger trees** (orange, below right, yellow or white), **bottlebrush** (red), **Mexican poinciana** (yellow caesalpinia variety).



File photo



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Additional information from Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando; Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami; and Tropical World Nursery in Boynton Beach.



PAUL J. MILETT/Staff file photo

## Large shade trees

Instead of **earleaf acacia** . . .

. . . Plant oaks, like **Southern live oak** (above), **sand** or **myrtle oaks** (which grow quickly with fertilizer and irrigation). Avoid laurel and water oaks, which are more brittle. Or plant **gumbo limbos**, **bulnesia**, **green** and **silver buttonwood** (left) or **Southern magnolia**.



Photo by RON SIMPSON



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Instead of **Australian pine** . . .

. . . Plant **red cedar** (left), **slash pine** (below), **bald** or **pond cypress** (above), **red maples** and **paurotis palms** (for wet areas).



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