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The Association of Florida
Native Nurseries



(AFNN) has produced pot & hanging plant tags for member nurseries that proudly pro-

claim "Real Florida Native." The tags will be promoted to the general public through the upcoming *Guide for Real Florida Gardeners* and website, as well as Florida Native Plant Society chapters and publications.
<http://www.afnn.org/>

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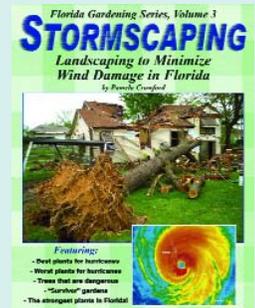
Stormscaping - Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage in Florida

 by Pamela Crawford

Featuring the best and worst plants for hurricanes, trees that are dangerous, "survivor" gardens, and the strongest plants in Florida.

According to the author, a landscape architect with a nursery and garden design business, hurricanes are the most costly natural disaster in the United States. *Stormscaping* was written in response to the damage to and from trees during Florida's devastating 2004 hurricane season.

Chapters are Understand Hurricane Basics, Know Your Plant's Wind Tolerance, Other Reasons Why Trees Fall, Designing to Minimize Wind Damage, and Proper Storm Aftercare. The book is richly illustrated with large color photographs of twisted, cracked, broken, uprooted and fallen trees, as well as many other color photographs illustrating additional points made by the author. The book covers related topics such as wind-tolerant trees, shrubs and groundcovers, palms used as wind barriers, other reasons why trees fall, wind tolerance of Florida plants, care of damaged trees, and historical information on hurricanes from the last century throughout 2004.



"If you have a *Ficus benjamina* within falling distance of a structure, remove it before it removes you during the next hurricane."

The author offers a four-page spread on appropriate trees for high winds and thirty pages on the wind-tolerance of Florida Plants with information gathered from throughout the state. She also covers the three worst trees: Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), *Ficus benjamina*, and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*).

The author states that in 2004, ficus trees in south Florida caused more damage than any other species. Ironically, Miami had the same problem in 1991 after Hurricane Andrew, but tens of thousands of ficus trees were planted in Broward and Palm Beach Counties *after* Hurricane Andrew because they are fast growing and inexpensive. She further states that Queen palms (*Arecastrum romanzoffianum*), one of the most common palms used in south and central Florida, have very little tolerance for wind. "Some trees, like ironwoods, have very strong wood and a root system that goes deep into the ground to keep the trees stable. Their canopies are loose enough to let the wind blow through them rather than blowing them over. Other trees have shallow root systems, weak wood, and dense canopies. These three factors cause trees to fall easier."

One section of the book asks, "Do native trees hold up better than exotics?" Dr. Mary Duryea, with the University of Florida IFAS Agricultural Experiment Station, found that native trees fared better than exotics in south Florida after Hurricane Andrew: "...34% of the exotic trees were still standing after the hurricane (Andrew) while 66% of native trees were standing." However, in central and north Florida, "Water oaks and laurel oaks, both natives, were two of the worst trees in these areas during the four storms of 2004." Dr. Duryea has conducted post-hurricane surveys in Florida since the mid-1980s. "We had more reports of laurel oaks down than any other tree in central and north Florida...Laurel oaks are weaker and shorter lived than live oaks, and the four storms of 2004 proved that the older ones were particularly dangerous."

Stormscaping describes the six most expensive landscaping mistakes and underscores the point with the high expense connected to fallen trees: 2 million cubic yards of vegetative debris was collected in Santa Rosa County alone and \$19 million spent as of December 20, 2004. The total cost to the county is expected to reach \$30 million. "According to Dr. Robert Loflin, the Natural Resources Director of Sanibel, it cost \$6 million to haul and burn the trash from [Hurricane] Charley." He further stated that sixty percent of this cost (\$3.6 million) was for Australian pine alone. Dr. Mary Duryea reiterated this point by stating that 96% of Australian pines fell in Hurricane Andrew in 1991.

This book is absolutely stuffed with information and amazing photographs. *Stormscaping - Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage in Florida* is Volume 3 in the Florida Gardening Series.

\$29.95 (ISBN 0-9712220-2-9) Available through most booksellers and many garden centers in Florida. To find the nearest source, contact the publisher at www.easygardencolor.com or colorgdn@aol.com