



# University of Miami Coral Gables

## Tree Care Plan



11/10/2024

### Campus in a Tropical Garden

The University of Miami Coral Gables campus has a unique landscape character with elements designed specifically for its climate and natural setting. It conveys a positive and unified sense of place, coherency, and consistency. Its thoughtful landscape planning has become renowned worldwide as a “campus-in-a-tropical garden”.

## INTRODUCTION

The campus enjoys a number of important vegetated areas which include Lake Osceola, The Gifford Arboretum, the Cypress Dome, the Sustainability Garden, the Ibis Natural Trail, the Palmetum, the Florida Keys Arboretum and various Butterfly Gardens. Our goal is to preserve and enhance the following important features:

1. Lake Osceola, the central and distinctive body of water which should be surrounded with tropical vegetation. Natural edges should be preserved, and Native landscaping surrounding it should be promoted.
2. The Palmetum: Established in cooperation with Fairchild Tropical Garden and the Montgomery Botanical Center, the University's palmetum includes nearly 800 palms and cycads that are native to South Florida or represent distinct, rare, or endangered species from 38 nations.
3. The Butterfly Gardens: Located along the Ibis Walking Trail behind Eaton Residential College, next to the Gifford Arboretum, in front of the Campo Sano Building, behind the Knight Physics Building and along the Miami Herbert Business School canal, the UM Butterfly Gardens are living laboratories. They are home to some 23 different varieties of plants and attracts butterflies such as the monarch, sulfur, and brush foot, as well as the zebra longwing, Florida's state butterfly.
4. The Gifford Arboretum is part of the College of Arts and Science and it is managed by its Director with advice from an Arboretum Committee which includes faculty, students, administrators, and community members. The Arboretum contains a diverse collection of over 650 trees and shrubs representing over 500 species from every continent except Antarctica. The collection is maintained for purposes of education and research, as well as to inspire interest in tropical plants and a better understanding of their importance.
5. The Sustainability Garden at the Arboretum is host to various edible trees, shrubs, and herbs. The Garden is used by a wide range of faculty members from the College of Arts and Science who chose to teach part of their class there and use it as an academic and research tool.
6. The Cypress dome, located behind the Student Services Building was created by the University to deal with an area that had repeated flooding. The dominant species are bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), and pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), which are a genus of conifer native to Florida.



# University of Miami Coral Gables

## CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL GARDEN

### Standard 2

#### 1- PURPOSE

The goal of the University of Miami Tree Care Plan is to establish and highlight good and sustainable landscaping practices on our Coral Gables campus.

The general purpose of the plan is to describe the standards of beauty, sustainability and environmental stewardship applied on our campus landscape.

Specific objectives of this plan are:

- Develop environmentally friendly landscape designs to conserve energy and water, reduce the urban heat island effect on campus, and promote improvements in air quality.
- Use of Native plants or low-maintenance plant species
- Administer environmentally sound arborist practices to enhance and maintain the campus landscape.
- Increase species diversity and tree canopy.
- Protect existing campus canopy during construction and renovation projects.

#### 2 - RESPONSIBILITY

UM Facilities Management Department will manage the Coral Gables Campus Tree Care Plan in partnership with the Campus Tree Advisory Committee members.

### Standard 1

#### 3 - CAMPUS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee is comprised of students, faculty, staff, and community partners. The committee meets twice a year to review progress on yearly objectives. The committee responsibilities include: providing suggestions for improvements of the campus landscape and the Tree Care Plan; organizing an annual Arbor Day celebration and service learning projects; increasing tree value awareness throughout the university community, and activities that supports its Tree Campus USA certification each year. New members are nominated and approved by the standing committee members each year. Here is the list of our 2024 committee members:

Name	Status	Title	Email
Teddy Lhoutellier	Staff	Sustainability Manager	<a href="mailto:teddyl@miami.edu">teddyl@miami.edu</a>
Son Vo	Staff	Sr, Manager for Contract Admin, Contract Administration	<a href="mailto:s.vo@miami.edu">s.vo@miami.edu</a>

Anthony Clark	Staff	ABM Grounds-Landscaping Manager	<a href="mailto:Anthony.Clark@abm.com">Anthony.Clark@abm.com</a>
Nathaniel Cockshutt	Faculty	ISF Certified Arborist – Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	<a href="mailto:trees4soul@gmail.com">trees4soul@gmail.com</a>
Prof. Kenneth Feeley	Faculty	Director of the Gifford Arboretum, and Professor of Biology	<a href="mailto:kxf347@miami.edu">kxf347@miami.edu</a>
Alicia M. Corral	Staff	Campus Planner Real Estate & Facilities	<a href="mailto:acorral@miami.edu">acorral@miami.edu</a>
Ricardo Herran	Staff	Campus Planner Real Estate & Facilities	<a href="mailto:rherran@miami.edu">rherran@miami.edu</a>
Ryan Chaffee	Student	Biology – Student Gov. ECO Agency	<a href="mailto:rjc284@earth.miami.edu">rjc284@earth.miami.edu</a>
Stephen D. Pearson	Community	Treemendous Miami President	<a href="mailto:sdpearson@bio.miami.edu">sdpearson@bio.miami.edu</a>
Helene H. Valentine	Staff / Community	Director, Research Support- UM Miller School of Medicine / South Miami Landscape Committee board member	<a href="mailto:Hvalentine2@med.miami.edu">Hvalentine2@med.miami.edu</a>
Aida Curtis	Community	CURTIS + ROGERS DESIGN STUDIO Landscape Architecture- Planning- ISA Certified Arborist®,	<a href="mailto:aida@curtisrogers.com">aida@curtisrogers.com</a>
Prof. Tim Norris	Faculty	Librarian Assoc. Professor, Richter Library	<a href="mailto:tnorris@miami.edu">tnorris@miami.edu</a>

#### 4 - TREE CARE POLICIES

All trees, shrubs, and turf areas are maintained according to landscape management best practices. Those practices include proper and sustainable fertilization, irrigation, and pest management on campus grounds. These guidelines allow us to guarantee the esthetics as well as the health of our landscape while reducing our environmental impact on local ecosystems.

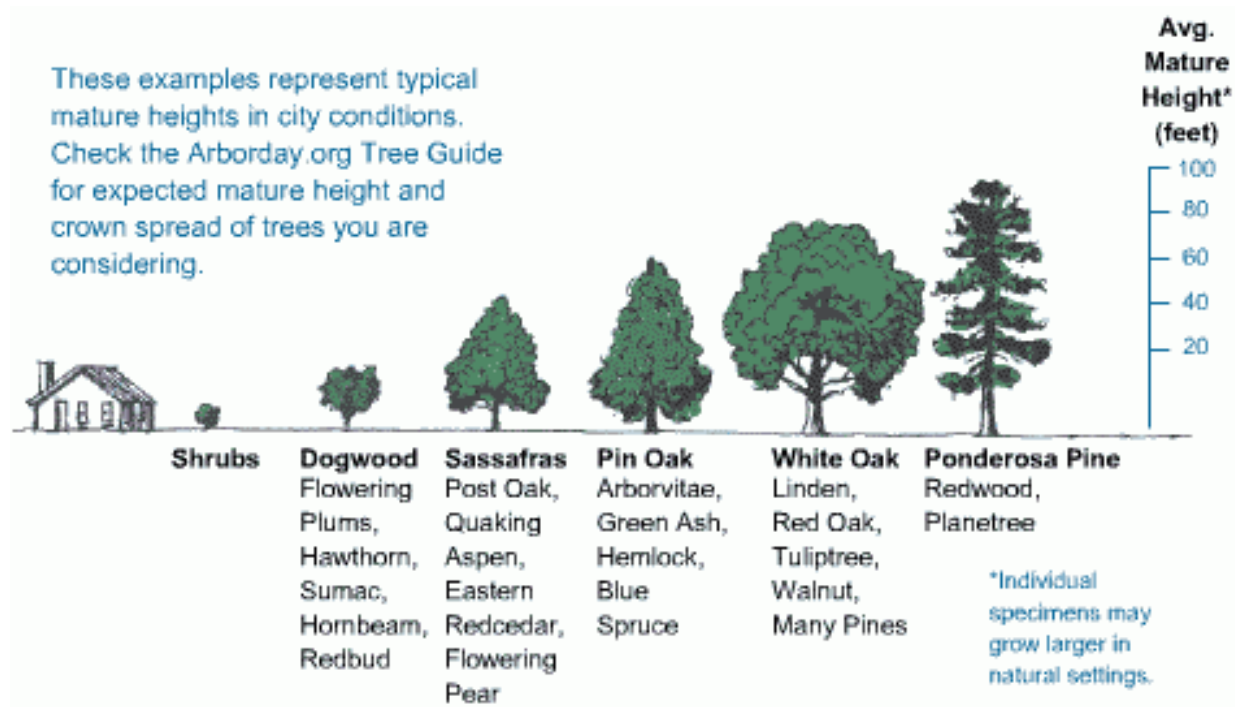
##### Plant Selection

As stipulated in the *South Florida Water Management District's Xeriscape Plant Guide II* and the *Miami-Dade County Landscape Ordinance, chapter 18 A*, our choice of plant species is guided by the Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) principles. Native and Low maintenance, drought tolerant species are always preferred. Our irrigation systems also follow FFL's recommendations, conserving water and promoting soil integrity everywhere possible. The "Right tree in the Right place" concept is applied in our guidelines to avoid any damage to existing and future infrastructure.

All plant material are required to be Florida No. 1 or better as specified within "Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants" from the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. (See *Annex III*)

##### "The Right Tree in the Right Place"

This concept shall be applied for all trees planted in order to avoid damages such as clogged sewers, cracked sidewalks and power service interruptions. It shall also address specific conditions such as drainage, soil quality, and site orientation.



<http://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/size.cfm>

### Tree Species Inventory and Selection

- Tree selection shall strive for use of Florida native or "Florida-Friendly" species as much as possible. The Florida-Friendly plant database can be found at <http://www.floridayards.org>
- The University shall not use category I exotic species, and shall avoid or use judiciously, category II exotic species, as listed within the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's Invasive Plant Species List (*Annex II*).
- Tree selection shall address the following factors: Species diversity, Maintenance cost, urban environment tolerance, Wind tolerance, and Invasive replacement

See our *Tree Species Inventory in Annex I* for a complete list of species on campus.

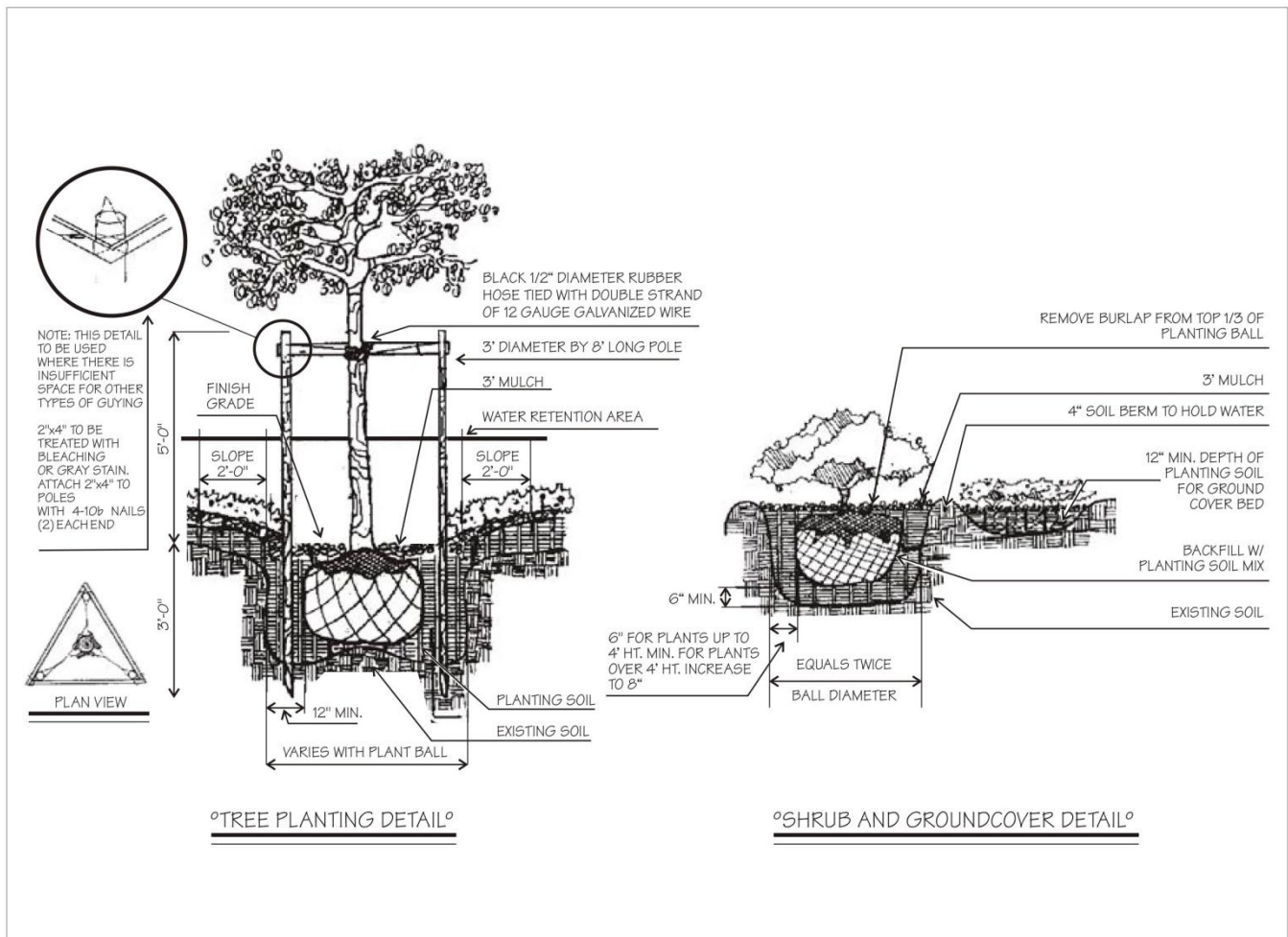
### Tree Planting

Here are the general requirements for Tree planting in UM landscaping Design standards based on the Miami Dade County Landscape Design Manual (See illustration and Annex III):

- Groundcovers or low growing shrubs shall be used wherever possible to reduce landscape maintenance. Examples include sloped areas, replacement of turf grass in inaccessible or highly shaded areas, erosion prone areas, and areas where mulch washes away or is otherwise difficult to maintain, such as parking lot islands.
- A minimum tree planting area or island shall be ten (10) feet wide by ten (10) feet long.
- Trees shall be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from any underground utility to remain and a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from any overhead utility to remain unless it can be demonstrated that the mature size of the tree will not interfere with the utility.
- Landscape overhanging walkways and plazas to be clear overhead = (10) feet min.
- Trees with circling or girdling roots will not be permitted.
- Install planting soil and amendments as outlined in Division 32 91 00 of UM Building Standards.
- Planting shall be performed by a licensed contractor to the expected standards of care of landscape contractor professionals within the state of Florida.



- Trees and palms shall be planted such that two (2) inches of the root ball is above finished grade.
- Design professional shall be responsible for providing staking and bracing details specific to tree and palm sizes and types for review and approval prior to installation.
- Braces for palms shall be made of sound, new pressure preservative-treated softwood, free of knots, holes, cross grain, and other defects, 2 by 4 inches or 4 by 4 inches, and sized appropriately for the size of the palm.
- Tree staking systems shall use a polypropylene material in green, Arbor Tie by Deep Root, or other approved equal protective material where in contact with branches.



<https://www.miamidade.gov/zoning/code-landscape.asp> - p67

### Irrigation and Watering

Proper Irrigation shall be provided for all proposed landscape, unless otherwise directed by UM Project Manager according to plant requirements, recent rainfall, temperature extremes and soil moisture.

- Water use for irrigation must comply with the Miami-Dade County and SFWMD regulatory requirements as well as with the University's water use agreement with the SFWMD.
- All efforts should be made to connect irrigation to existing well water sources on the University campus.

- Potable water may only be used for irrigation with prior authorization by the UMBS Committee.
- Reclaimed or reuse water shall be utilized as much as possible for irrigation. If used, follow requirements of Florida Statutes Chapter 62- 610, "Reuse of Reclaimed Water and Land Application"
- Drip irrigation shall be utilized as much as possible.
- The irrigation system shall be regulated by a rain-gauge or a moisture sensor.
- Irrigation to provide 100% "head-to-head" coverage.
- Rain Bird brand components or equal shall be specified for all irrigation systems unless otherwise authorized by the University.
- Trees and plants shall be watered in accordance with specifications as provided on the irrigation plan I-5. (See Annex III)

### **Mulching**

Plants shall be mulched on a yearly basis or as needed to maintain healthy growth and reduce weed growth. The maintenance plan follows the best practices stipulated in the Miami Dade Landscape Design Manual

- Mulch shall be organic wood mulch, free from deleterious materials and suitable as a top dressing for planting bed areas.
- Wood mulch shall be used for planting bed areas, as opposed to gravel or other inorganic mulches, as wood mulch inhibits weed germination and growth, holds in soil moisture, moderates soil temperature fluctuations (reducing plant stress), improves the soil fertility through the decomposition of organic material, and decomposes at a moderate rate (reducing maintenance).
- Mulch shall be installed at a depth of 2"-4" and shall be pulled back a minimum of 3 inches from the trunk of the tree or shrub so that the trunk and root flare are exposed.
- Cypress and red color mulch will not be accepted. (See Annex III)

### **Pruning**

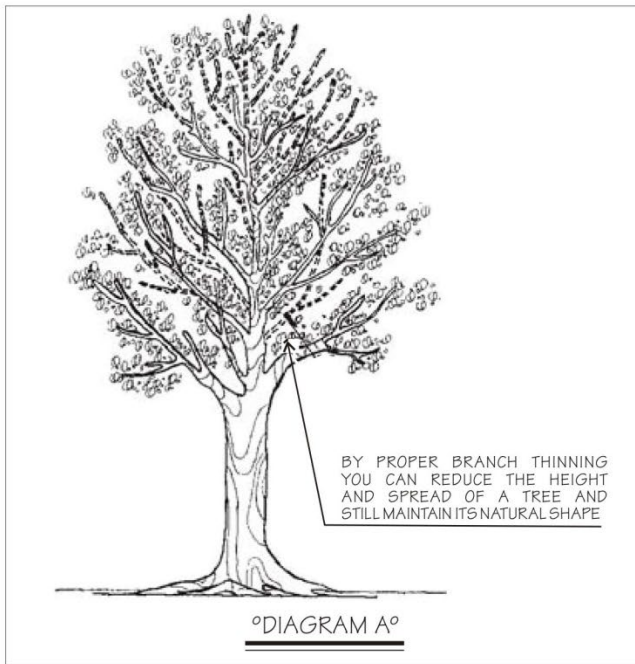
The correct pruning of shade trees is critical both for safety as well as for aesthetic reasons. The following criteria are adopted from the ANSI A-300 and are recommended as specifications to be included in landscape plans.

Class 1 - Fine pruning shall consist of the removal of dead, dying, diseased, decaying, interfering, obstructing, and weak branches, as well as selective thinning to lessen wind resistance. The removal of such described branches is to include those on the main trunks, as well as those inside the leaf area. An occasional undesirable branch up to one-half inch in diameter, as described above, may retain within the main leaf area to its full length when it is not practical to remove it. (Diagrams A and B)

Class 2 - Standard pruning shall consist of the removal of dead, dying, diseased, decaying, interfering, obstructing, and weak branches, as well as selective thinning to lessen wind resistance. The removal of such described branches is to include those on the main trunks, as well as those inside the leaf area. An occasional undesirable branch up to one inch in diameter may remain within the main leaf area where it is not practical to remove it.

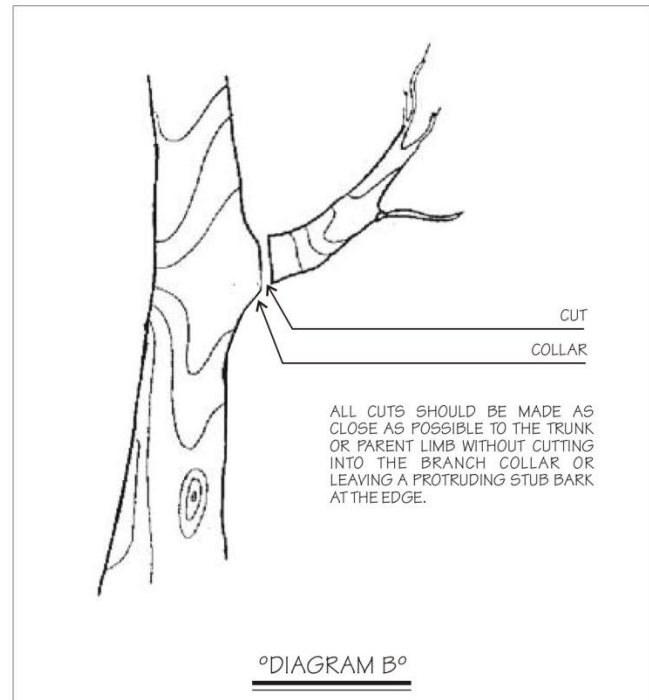
Class 3 - Hazard pruning is recommended where safety considerations are paramount.

Class 4 - Crown reduction pruning shall consist of the reduction of tops, sides or individual limbs. It involves the removal of a parent limb or dominant leader at the point of attachment of a lateral branch.



Fine pruning is recommended for premium quality work with an emphasis on aesthetic considerations in addition to structural integrity.

<https://www.miamidade.gov/zoning/code-landscape.asp- p92>



## 5 - PROTECTION GUIDELINES DURING CONSTRUCTION PHASES

Tree Protection: All existing trees and specimen plants to remain shall be protected during construction activities.

- Tree barricades shall be used to protect specimen plants and trees to remain larger than four (4) inches in diameter.
- Barricades shall be four feet high, minimum, and constructed of 2" x 4" rails with 4" x 4" posts, minimum. Barricades shall enclose the specimen plants, trees, or collective tree group's drip line or a fifteen (15) foot by fifteen (15) foot area, whichever is less. No stockpiling of debris, trash, or materials shall be permitted within the barrier area.
- No parking of vehicles or vehicular/equipment traffic shall be permitted within the drip line area or within the tree barricade once erected.
- No landscape planting shall occur prior to a fully functioning irrigation system to support it.
- Each tree proposed for transplanting needs to be inspected by a certified arborist, as certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, for recommendation of the tree's general health and expected success rate of transplanting. Arborist shall prepare report with recommended preparation and relocation procedures and schedule.
- All transplanting and trimming activities shall be performed by or directly overseen by a certified and licensed arborist.
- A tissue test shall be performed on all trees proposed for relocation.
- A soils test shall be conducted at all proposed relocation points of the site.
- All crown and root pruning shall be conducted as per approved transplanting plan and schedule.
- Transplanting activities other than root and crown trimming will not occur within hurricane season, June 1st through November 30.



## 6 – CURRENT PROJECTS, GOALS AND TARGETS

The current projects, long term goals and targets of the UM Tree Campus USA Plan is as follows:

- Preserve and increase the presence of Native species to promote biodiversity and water conservation.
- Preserve and enhance our tree canopy on the Coral Gables campus and extend this plan to other UM campuses in the future.
- Use our landscaping design strategy as a way to reduce our carbon footprint, selecting trees that sequester more carbon per square foot and provide shading that will have an impact on the cooling needs of our buildings. This has been the case in all new constructions that are at least LEED Silver. The Lakeside Village residences reached LEED Gold and included native landscaping as well as Green Roofs (a first for student residences in the region).
- Allow for storm water retention berms, and bio swales when possible: this was the case in the design of the new Lakeside Village residence that translated in Rain gardens allowing for better management of storm water and water quality. This guideline is part of our water management plan and is intended to also reduce the accumulation of nutrients and pollutants in the runoff to our canals that in turn affect the environmental health of our coastal line.
- Creation of a Cypress Pond next to the Student Services Building. A cypress pond ecosystem was planted to address a constant flooding problem the building had in one of its green paths.
- Mapping of our Tree inventory has been a project managed by our Data Science Department and our GIS department with the help of interns from the Office of Sustainability. This map will be delivered in May. 2025.
- An ongoing research project (ECS 301 on multiple semesters) involves the study of nutrient cycling in live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) using stable isotopes. In particular: 1) potential nitrogen sources signals in N isotopes; 2) nitrogen withdrawal from leaves pre-drop; 3) effects of 1 & 2 on use of oak leaves for mulch and compost; the International Studies Department, the Writing Studies department and various other academic entities are using the landscape as living lab.
- The Native Habitat Biome located in front of the Arboretum got yearly maintenance (especially against invasives that represent such a threat to our local ecosystems).
- Increase the number of learning service projects at the JC Gifford Arboretum.
- Development of the [Sustainability Garden](#), adjacent to the JC Gifford Arboretum with Dr. Weisskoff, and the student group CommUnity Garden Club. Creation of a composting site to help soil amendment in the garden. Opening the garden to staff plots, and to Nursing classes.
- Reach out to the community to bring awareness about the necessity of increasing our canopy, especially in disenfranchised areas of our county.
- Integrate new items in our Tree care plan on a yearly basis: our new Gifford Arboretum Director and Professor of Biology, Kenneth Feeley. Inauguration in 2020 of the College of Arts and Science new Green House located in front of the Arboretum ([PDF](#)). Use that new facility to help grow new seedlings for transplants in the Arboretum and in the Garden.
- The Student Government ECO Agency partnered with Fairchild Botanical Tropical Garden to create a “Connect to Protect” pollinator native ecosystem in front of our Campos Sano historical building. ECO is working on a second site for 2024.

- A butterfly garden with Wild Lime was planted on earth Day by students and alumni behind the Knight Physics building to serve as an example of future potential alternative to turf on campus.
- ECO Agency planted another native butterfly garden along the MH. Business School canal, on the right side of a path dedicated to Mangrove restoration.
- Host an annual Arbor Day event on the Coral Gables campus.
- The Medical Campus has planted 3 more butterfly gardens in the past year. A food forest garden was planted in 2021. New shrubs and raised beds have been planted in 2023.
- In 2023, the University restored the northern border of the Coral Gables campus with native landscaping including Slash Pines, Cabbage Palms, Simpson Stoppers, Coco Plums and more. This new ecosystem extending over 0.7 miles was designed to replace Ficus hedges that were attracting pests and diseases.
- The Gifford Arboretum started a new program for environmental monitoring. As part of this program, 100 logging thermometers as well as 40 automatic logging dendrometers (to measure tree growth rates) and two full research grade weather stations were installed in the Arboretum. We are currently working to make a public website to display all climate data and make it available for free public download.

## 7 - TREE DAMAGE AND DISEASE ASSESSMENT

Trees susceptible to serious infectious diseases should not be pruned at the time of year during which the pathogens causing the disease or the insect vectors are most active.

- The presence of any disease condition, fungus fruit bodies, decayed trunk or branches, spilt crotches or branches, cracks or other structural weakness shall be reported in writing to a supervisor and/or the owner, and corrective measures recommended. Native tree species survive better than non-native species.
- The stress to trees as a result of a hurricane damage initiates outbreaks of pests such as bark beetles, ambrosia beetles, sawyers, plant hoppers, and blue stain fungi that preferentially attack stressed damaged trees. These secondary problems have led to the death of trees, including palms, even several years after the storm.
- In addition, after such an event, many trees are damaged internally due to vibration and twisting experienced during the period of high winds. Some of these may die over time. Only 7% of trees studied (Annex III) caused damage to property. Live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) has exceptional wind resistance here, and in other hurricane prone southern areas. Palms are ranked second in wind resistance. It is important in urban areas for tree plantings to have species, age, and size diversity.  
(See annex III)

## 8 - PROHIBITED PRACTICES

### Tree Preservation and Vegetation removal

- Tree removal permits or natural forest community vegetation removal permits are required prior to the removal of trees or any vegetation in a natural forest community pursuant to City Code Chapter 82 and Miami-Dade County, Chapter 18A. ( See Annex IV)

- Desirable landscaping shall be preserved in its natural state to the maximum extent possible. Desirable native plant materials and well adapted exotic plant materials shall be preferred in plant selection.
- Existing trees required by law to be preserved on site and that meet the requirements of Section 18A-6(C), Miami-Dade County Code, may be counted toward fulfilling the minimum tree requirements.
- (See Annex III)

### **Plant Materials**

Plants installed should conform to, or exceed, the minimum standards for Florida Number One as provided in the most current edition of "Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants" prepared by the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Vegetation requirements shall be installed in accordance with all of the following:

- Large shade trees. Large shade trees shall have a mature height of greater than twenty-five (25) feet and an average mature spread of crown of greater than fifteen (15) feet.
- Substitutions. Palms trees or medium shade trees as described in below Section 6(b) (ii) may be substituted at three-to-one (3:1) ratio. A maximum of twenty-five (25%) percent of the total may be palm varieties. (See Annex IV)
- A minimum of thirty (30%) percent of the total trees shall be native species.
- Palm trees and medium shade trees. A minimum of thirty (30%) percent of the total trees shall be native species.
- Shrubs. All shrubs shall be a minimum of eighteen (18) inches in height at planting, with a maximum average spacing of twenty-four (24) inches on center. Shrubs shall be planted and maintained to form a continuous, unbroken, solid, visual screen within a maximum of one (1) year after time of planting. A minimum of thirty (30%) percent of total shrubs shall be native species.

### **Tree Abuse**

All trees shall be trimmed in accordance to Miami-Dade County tree preservation code. Any type of tree abuse, hat racking, topping or heading shall be prohibited except in emergency situations. Contracts with vendors to perform tree services or building construction/maintenance services shall include fines for violating provisions of this plan. Damage to campus trees caused by students, faculty or staff shall be treated as acts of vandalism and punished accordingly.

## **10 - COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

The Facilities Management Department will make sure those guidelines are applied to maintenance of landscaped areas performed by UM employees and contractor's employees alike. The Tree Care Plan and the Tree Campus USA certification will be promoted on campus and in the community to spread best practices in sustainable urban forestry. The Plan will serve as a platform for discussion about sustainability and landscaping on our campus.

Below are some of our projected outreach campaign highlights:

- Organize an Arbor Day observance celebration and invite students, faculty and staff.
- Develop Service Learning projects that will involve students, faculty and staff.
- Partner with community organizations and government such as Miami Dade UF IFAS Extension, Florida Forest Service, City of South Miami, City of Coral Gables, Florida Power and Light, Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER), Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, the Underline and others.

- Organize Conferences and lectures by local experts for Earth Month, Arbor Day, Gandhi Day or Day of Service.
- Promotion of native landscaping and invasive removal activities through student clubs' involvement.
- Promotion of the right tree in the right place and the importance of tree canopy in the community.

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Annex I: <https://greenu.miami.edu/assets/pdf/greenu/tree-inventory-2023.xlsx>

Annex II: <http://greenu.miami.edu/assets/pdf/prohibited-plant-species.pdf>

Annex III: [Miami Dade County Landscape Code and Manual](#)

Annex IV: [City of Coral Gables Development Standards](#)



**Standard 3****EXPENDITURES:**

<b>Tree Planting and Initial Care</b>	
(Tree purchases, labor and equipment for planting, planting materials, staking, watering, mulching, competition control)	\$400,000 Campo Sano, IM Wall, CV
<b>Campus Tree Management</b>  (Pruning, public education, professional training, association memberships, campus tree inventory, pest management, fertilization, tree removals, Invasive removal)	\$300,000
<b>Volunteering hours:</b> # of students: 290h x \$18/h	\$ 5,220.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$ 705,220.00

- **Number of trees planted:**  
CG campus= 250
- **Number of trees maintained:**  
CG campus= 9012 (Removal of invasive, pruning, clearance requirements)
- **Tree removed:**  
CG campus = 15
- **Reason for removal:** Diseases
- **Volunteering hours:**  
volunteering hours on campus, arboretum, garden = 290 volunteering hours
- **Full Time Student population:** 19,593

**Standard 4****Arbor Day Observance on Monday, April 18, 2024**

- The University has been recognized as a Tree Campus USA by the nationally renown organization Arbor Day Foundation for the tenth consecutive year! The program will start on **April 18** at **6 pm**, at the Arboretum Stone Circle, with our land acknowledgement, don't miss the free concert from Frost School of Music artist **Jasmine Harris and her band**. Finger food will be served. Event sponsored by the **Gifford Arboretum**.

**Standard 5****Service-Learning Projects Educational and recreational projects in 2024:**



- Oct 20, 2023: Underline planting with UM

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CyodyzHOnK-/>

- Nov 3, 2023: Rain Barrel Workshop

Rain barrels are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff and save water for a dry spell. If you have gutters on your house, you may be able to collect 55 gallons of water during a 1/2-inch rain by directing a downspout to a rain barrel. Join us for this workshop on Friday, November 3 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Campos Sano Building, room 250 [https://events.miami.edu/event/rain\\_barrel\\_101](https://events.miami.edu/event/rain_barrel_101)

- Nov 7, 2023: Bee Keeping 101

Ray Santamaria has been working in Facilities Management as Lead Technician for over 10 years. Ray is also the proud owner of honeybee colonies certified by the Apiary Division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Join us on Tuesday, November 7 from 12-1 p.m. to share Ray's passion, discover the world of bees, and learn the basics of bee keeping with the experts..

[https://events.miami.edu/event/florida\\_bee\\_keeping\\_101\\_496](https://events.miami.edu/event/florida_bee_keeping_101_496)

- Dec 6, 2023: Butterfly Garden 101

If you are interested in starting a Florida butterfly garden or attracting more butterflies to your existing garden, you will need plants that provide nectar, water, and shelter for every stage of a butterfly's development. Learn about butterfly garden design with Giselle Jordan, Master Gardener at the Miami Dade IFAS extension. Join us on Wednesday, December 6 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Campos Sano building, room 250.: [https://events.miami.edu/event/butterfly\\_garden\\_101\\_4318](https://events.miami.edu/event/butterfly_garden_101_4318)

- Jan. 2024: Plant your seed card!

Freshmen who want to plant their Green U seed card can do so in the Sustainability Garden. Find the raised bed marked as Green U, pick a wooden tag from the jar, write your name on it, and plant your card using the trowel. [Learn more.](#)

- Feb 16: Local Farm Tour

Join us on Friday, February 16, from 2-4 p.m. for a tour of one of UM dining's local produce farmers, [Hammock Greens](#), located in Miami Overtown. Thomas Smitherman, the founder, built the first Hammock Greens farm inside a refurbished shipping container. "After a few years of blood, sweat, and greens, Hammock Greens has expanded into 11 farms" .

[https://events.miami.edu/event/local\\_farm\\_tour](https://events.miami.edu/event/local_farm_tour)

- Feb 8: Compost 101

[https://events.miami.edu/event/compost\\_101\\_workshop\\_7863](https://events.miami.edu/event/compost_101_workshop_7863)

- Every Thursday, 4.30-5.30 pm: Garden volunteering

[https://events.miami.edu/event/garden\\_volunteers\\_wanted\\_7767](https://events.miami.edu/event/garden_volunteers_wanted_7767)

- Feb 23, 2023: Bee Keeping 101

Ray Santamaria has been working in Facilities Management as Lead Technician for over 10 years. Ray is also the proud owner of honeybee colonies certified by the Apiary Division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. [https://events.miami.edu/event/florida\\_bee\\_keeping\\_101\\_7446](https://events.miami.edu/event/florida_bee_keeping_101_7446)

- March 22: Edible Garden 101

Gardening in Florida can be both incredibly rewarding and entirely frustrating. Our subtropical climate is perfect for growing an abundance of different vegetables, fruits, and herbs, but the challenges can sometimes be a bit overwhelming. Learn with experts from the Miami Dade UF/IFAS Extension Urban Horticulture Program.

Connect to Protect site maintenance: Thanks for the Underline volunteers to help with the Campo Sano Connect to Protect site this morning: Weeding, trimming, and planting new natives under the supervision of Daniella from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Great partnership!

[https://events.miami.edu/event/edible\\_gardening\\_101\\_1792](https://events.miami.edu/event/edible_gardening_101_1792)

- March: Release of our Tree Campus Video: The University of Miami has been recognized for the 10th consecutive year as a Tree Campus USA from the Arbor Day Foundation. Watch this video and learn about native landscaping at the U! <https://youtu.be/tW89Y2MAAfw>

- April 6, 2024: Mangrove Planting with ECO

Student Government ECO Agency, in partnership with Coral Gables Vice Mayor, Rhonda Anderson, and Miami Dade County Artist in Residence, Xavier Cortada, will be planting mangroves along one of our canals. Mangroves have long been described as the best natural buffer against sea level rise and storm surge impacts. Volunteering opportunities are limited. <https://greenu.miami.edu/initiatives/nature/earth-day/index.html>

- April 12: Butterfly Garden 101

Come learn about butterfly garden design with Giselle Jordan, Master Gardener at the Miami Dade IFAS extension. Join us in room 250 of the Campos Sano Building (1300 Campo Sano Ave, [map](#)).

<https://greenu.miami.edu/initiatives/nature/earth-day/index.html>

- April 18: Arbor Day Concert

The University has been recognized as a Tree Campus USA by the nationally renown organization Arbor Day Foundation for the tenth consecutive year! The program will start on April 18 at 6 pm, at the Arboretum Stone Circle, with our land acknowledgement, don't miss the free concert from Frost School of Music artist [Jasmine Harris and her band](#). Finger food will be served. Event sponsored by the Gifford Arboretum.

<https://greenu.miami.edu/initiatives/nature/earth-day/index.html>

- April 23: Adopt a Plant with ECO

Learn about local native ecosystems and edibles. Pass by the Breezeway and register for one of ECO's planting events in April. ECO will be giving away plants that were grown on the on-campus grow walls!

<https://greenu.miami.edu/initiatives/nature/earth-day/index.html>

- April 23: Bee Keeping 101 at Richter

Ray Santamaria is the proud owner of honeybee colonies certified by the Apiary Division of the Florida Dpt of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Come share Ray's passion, and learn the basics of bee keeping with the experts! <https://greenu.miami.edu/initiatives/nature/earth-day/index.html>

- April 19: 'Canes Day of Service

Join our team of alumni and students for a day of planting and gardening at the U! Small groups of volunteers will help beautify various green spaces of the Coral Gables campus. Student Government ECO Agency, in partnership with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will be planting a Florida Native Butterfly Garden! Bring closed shoes, a hat, a reusable bottle and some elbow grease! Volunteering opportunities are limited.

<https://greenu.miami.edu/initiatives/nature/earth-day/index.html>

- April 28: Native Planting with ECO

Student Government ECO Agency, in partnership with Miami Dade County Artist in Residence Xavier Cortada will be planting a native butterfly garden along one of our canals. This natural ecosystem will promote biodiversity, mental health and wellbeing on our campus. Volunteering opportunities are limited.

<https://greenu.miami.edu/initiatives/nature/earth-day/index.html>

- April 29: Compost 101

Composting is the next evolution of recycling. Redirecting food waste from landfills create less methane, while returning nutrients from food scrap to the soil through compost application in your vegetable garden.

- Sept 10: New signage at the Cypress Dome

The Cypress Dome next to the Student Services Building got new educational signage, thanks to SG ECO Agency. [https://www.instagram.com/p/DAZG47VS3K1/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DAZG47VS3K1/?img_index=1)

- Sept 28: Great Pollinator Garden planting

Great Pollinator Garden planting with community members and families today. Thanks to the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful team for another amazing event!

[https://www.instagram.com/p/DADygrwul9O/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DADygrwul9O/?img_index=1)

- Oct 19: Tour of the Agro Eco Park

Agro Eco Park is an initiative aimed at showcasing the principles of agroecology to both farmers and the local community. It's our chance to do Agroecology. Our mission is to promote environmentally conscious

and socially responsible farming practices in South Florida, even in the face of challenging conditions such as inert soil, harsh climate, and limited resources.

The tour will start at 10 am: 18905 SW 280th St, Homestead, FL 33031 -

**2024 Educational and recreational projects:**

<https://arboretum.as.miami.edu/calendar/index.html>

- Sunday August 18th, 2024, at 9:00am in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for Florida Chapter of the Bike Walk Coral Gables
- Saturday September 29, 2024, at 9:30am in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for Florida Chapter of the Native Plant Society
- Friday October 11th, 2024, at 11:30AM in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for School of Architecture faculty and staff
- Friday October 18th, 2024, all day in Gifford Arboretum: Multiple Tours for highschool classes through University of Miami Bio Reach youth-serving outreach program
- Thursday October 24th, 2024, at 7:00PM in Gifford Arboretum: Tour of Sacred and Magical Trees led by Dr. John Cozza
- Friday November 1st, 2024, at 11:30AM in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for School of Architecture faculty and staff
- Friday November 8th, 2024 8:00am in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for the Miami Herald
- Friday November 8th, 2024, at 9:00AM in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for Department of Writing Studies
- Friday November 8th, 2024, at 11:00AM in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for Department of Writing Studies
- Friday November 8th, 2024, at 12:30pM in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for Department of Writing Studies
- Friday November 8th, 2024, at 1:30PM in Gifford Arboretum: Guided Tour of Arboretum for Department of Writing Studies