

OGPOA Palm Tree Policy

Ocean Gallery has approximately 1800 palm trees spread throughout the complex. These were planted by the developer in the mid 1980's, and they provide a "signature" look unlike any other condo association along the beach.

The palm trees are maintained by the OGPOA to ensure the health and uniformity of the trees throughout the grounds. The trees were trimmed annually to remove the berries and dying fronds. In past years, the palms were trimmed to a 10-2 cut or even an 11-1 cut. Our certified arborist advised us that these cuts were jeopardizing the health of the trees. In order to improve the health of the trees, he strongly recommended that we let the trees grow to at least a 9-3 canopy. This is highly supported by other palm tree experts who recommend not trimming fronds that are above the 9-3 canopy, as it weakens and stresses the trees. These recommendations were adopted by the Board in 2021, which has significantly improved the health of our palm trees.

Therefore, the Board approved and adopted the following policy:

- 1) The annual trimming will remove berries and dying fronds, while maintaining a 9-3 canopy until the arborist advises us otherwise.
- 2) The arborist will examine the trees at least annually. The OGPOA will maintain the palms according to the arborist's recommendations.
- 3) Palm fronds that encroach the walls, roofs, balconies, or patios will be trimmed appropriately.
- 4) Dying or dead palm trees will be removed immediately to prevent the spreading of diseases.
- 5) Palm trees removed will be replaced by a "like" tree at the discretion of the GM and the OGPOA Board, after consultation with affected association and the ARC.
- 6) The OGPOA will review this policy annually at the December OGPOA Board meeting to consider any modifications to this policy for the following year.

Sherri Johnson

From: Daniel Lippi <dlippino@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:41 PM
To: Sherri Johnson
Cc: Chuck Lippi
Subject: Re: our palm trees

Hi Sherri,

Last week we performed a site visit at Ocean Gallery to observe the current condition of the landscape palms. The prescribed pruning regiment of only removing the fruiting bodies and allowing the canopies to maintain more mature fronds was evident in the abundance of healthy palms. No significant nutritional deficiencies or other metabolic stressors were observed. The elapsed year has allowed time for any potentially diseased palms to manifest their symptoms. No signs of ganoderma, lethal bronzing, fusarium wilt, or palmetto weevils were observed. The palms in Ocean Gallery are among the healthiest and most vigorous palms we have seen in a living community any where in Florida. This is in large part due to the reduction of unnecessary over-management and pruning of the palms. Reducing the amount of pruning means the palms are less likely to be exposed to diseases that are transmitted by unsanitized pruning equipment. Reducing pruning his also has the added benefit of reducing the stress on a palm which makes it more susceptible to attacks by native and lethal palmetto weevils. Allowing palms to maintain more fronds means they can produce more sugars and starches (food) from photosynthesis, which makes them healthier and better able to resist pests and diseases. Having fuller canopies also makes palms less susceptible to wind and cold damage (the opposite of what "tree cutters" promote).

Please continue to resist the detrimental practice of "hurricane trimming" the palms, which as a reminder is illegal in other parts of the State, such as City of Palm Coast and Brevard County. Please continue to only remove lower dying fronds, and to selectively remove fruiting bodies as they occur while keeping the lower and central fronds intact. Pruning palms more than once a year is generally unnecessary.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Danny Lippi
ADVANCED TREE CARE
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist FL-6145B
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
M.S. Soil and Water Science
(904) 794-4200

On Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 2:47 PM Sherri Johnson <sjohnson@ogstaug.com> wrote:

Hi Danny,

Are you still sending me your writeup? Our meeting is tomorrow morning!!