

Making Your Landscape Hurricane-Resistant

Nearly any object can become a dangerous, flying missile in a high-wind event like a hurricane or tornado. Inspect your property and use this checklist to identify ways to make your landscape more high-wind resistant.

Remember, while you can do many of these projects yourself, you should consult a professional when projects require the use of chainsaws or any unfamiliar or dangerous equipment.

Evaluate Your Trees

Check trees for the conditions listed below to determine if you have a weakened tree that can lose limbs, topple, or create problems during a hurricane. If you are not sure, text or email a picture to your local home improvement garden center, nursery, or government extension office.

- Cracks in the trunk or major limbs
- Trees that lean or look one-sided
- Branches that hang over the house or near the roof
- Tree limbs that touch power lines
- Obvious decay or mushrooms growing from the bark
- Insect infestations



Caring for Your Trees

- Regular and proper pruning can strengthen the health and vitality of your trees.
- Remove dead, diseased, or damaged parts of the tree to stop disease spread and harmful insects that weaken or destroy the tree.
- Never prune branches flush to the tree as doing so removes not only the limb but part of the trunk. Improper pruning can make the tree susceptible to decay or insect damage.

Planting New Trees

Some tree varieties are more prone to storm damage than others. City foresters, government extension offices, home improvement garden centers, nurseries, and landscape firms can provide advice on smart tree selection for your area and soil conditions.

Landscaping Materials

Rock and gravel landscaping swiftly turn into projectiles in high-wind events. Consider replacing these types of landscaping materials with fire-treated mulch to reduce the risk of damage when severe weather begins.

