

Oak Trees – Trimming and Removal Guidelines

Introduction and Background: We in Peppertree can be proud of our canopied, live-oak-lined streets, making us unique among other developments. Unfortunately, there have been an increasing number of oak tree “trimming” circumstances by owners that have been harmful to the tree’s health as a result of hiring non-qualified tree trimmers (see examples of photos which follow). For this reason, the following guidelines are intended to help maintain the beauty and the health of the oaks which we have a common interest in preserving.

Guidelines:

- Association annually trims approximately one-third of the oak trees located on front yards and on common property.
- Trimming of oak trees is scheduled annually in the dormant growing phase (January/February).
- **If homeowner desires to trim his own oak tree(s), he may do light trimming at his own expense at any time but must hire a licensed and insured tree trimming company.**

“Light trimming” is defined as:

- Removal of dead or diseased branches
- Lifting and thinning of the tree’s canopy to allow greater light penetration and air movement
- Only removing limbs or branches 3” in diameter or less (the removal of larger limbs or branches must first be approved by the Peppertree ARB).

In some cases, the branches of an oak tree on an owner’s property may overhang an adjoining property. In such cases, both owners must be agree on the trimming to be done and on how to share the cost.

- If homeowner desires an oak tree on common property to be trimmed in an off-year schedule, he must submit his request to the Peppertree ARB in writing which must include a survey in sufficient detail to depict the location of the tree for the ARB's review and decision.
- Association is responsible for the removal and replacement of all dead or diseased oak trees on common property.
- Homeowners are responsible for the removal and replacement of any dead or diseased oak tree on their own property. Replaced oak trees must have a minimum of a 4” diameter at time of planting and is at the homeowner’s expense. If homeowner desires to remove a diseased or dead oak tree on his own property, he must first submit his request to the Peppertree ARB in writing which must include a survey in sufficient detail to depict the location of the tree. If approved, he must submit his request to the Town of Indian River Shores to obtain the proper permit. The homeowner **must hire a certified arborist** to remove any oak tree. (See above for several tree services with certified arborists.)