

After The Storm!!!!

CLEANUP IS THE FIRST PRIORITY after any major storm. Here are some suggestions to help you with this task. Remember, most roots extend well beyond the outer branches and heavy equipment can damage roots and compact soil even after the storm. Plants that are leaning should be reset and staked. Select replacements as close to size as feasible and don't be tempted to severely prune remaining plants.

- Wait until late winter for hard pruning to help reestablish uniform size.
- Trim partially damaged shrubs and trees as lightly as possible to reshape.
- Leave woody plants that are doubtful as to survival in place and wait. Check periodically by scraping bark lightly to reveal green (living) tissue.
- Some uprooted plants can be reset if the root ball is fairly intact. **DO NOT GET IN A HOLE WHERE A TREE ROOT BALL HAS COME OUT OF THE GROUND.** If the tree suddenly rights itself you could get crushed. Caution children to stay out of dangerous situations.
- Don't fertilize newly set plants. Wait until late winter or very early spring just before new growth.

HELPFUL WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON DISASTERS

Researchbased disaster information may be found by accessing the Disaster Response Information from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service website: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster/>

This site provides educational materials to help individuals, prepare for hurricanes and to cope with the storm aftermath.

Topics include:

- Reconditioning Flood Damaged Farm Equipment
- StormRelated Pest Problems in and Around Home
- Mosquitoes
- Yellow Jackets and Other Wasps
- Spiders
- Flies (Residential)
- Flies (Farms & Stables)
- Rodents
- Snakes after a Storm or Flood
- Termites
- Carpenter Ants
- Pests Associated with Decaying Organic Matter
- Damaged Pesticide Containers
- After the Flood: Pesticide Storage Facilities On the Farm
- Emergency Contact List for Flooded Pesticide Storage Facilities
- Future Potential Problems

also from the University of Florida

<http://treesandhurricanes.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Assessing Landscape Tree Loss

The following factors help determine the value of damaged trees and other landscape materials:

- The decrease in the fair as a result of the casualty.
- The adjusted basis in the
- The amount of insurance or



market value of the property
property.
other compensation received.

Home owners who sustain landscape trees may wish to contact methods are currently being used to Recordkeeping is important in loss recovery. These are some of

significant damage to the IRS to determine what evaluate tree value. substantiating any claims for the things you will need:

- 1.Homeowners must be prepared to show:
- 2.The nature of the casualty and when it occurred.
- 3.That the loss was the direct result of the casualty.
- 4.That the claimant is the owner of the property.
- 5.Proven property value before and after the casualty.
6. The amount of insurance or other compensation received or recoverable.

Tips for Filing Claims for Casualty Losses

- Photographs of the property before and after the damage help show the condition and value of the property prior to the casualty.
- Local newspaper articles complete with dates and the newspaper's name serve as evidence of the casualty and its time and location.
- Appraisals are the most desirable tools for establishing values before and after casualties.
- Keep receipts for repair and replacement for claims.

I hope you will not need this information this fall. If you do have questions concerning plant damage please contact your local extension office or check first the above websites.

Third, promote and encourage your master gardener friends to get their registration in as soon as possible. We want to have a good showing from our county and to show off our talents. You are the best and I am proud of the work you do.

Sincerely and with much thankfulness,
David Barkley