

LANDCRAFTERS'  
EXPERTS PRESENT:  
**YOUR GUIDE TO  
HURRICANE SEASON:  
THE TOP 5 TIPS FOR  
HOW TO PREPARE**

LANDCRAFTERS



When you live in Florida, you look at landscaping differently. Instead of just putting in plants, flora, and fauna based off aesthetics, fruiting, and appearance, you have to consider the ultimate event of the entire year – hurricane season.

If you've lived through Florida for at least one hurricane season, you know how unpredictable the season can be. Years can pass without a single hurricane, and then suddenly, the potential for storm onslaught is imminent. Because it's so unpredictable, you always have to be prepared.

But how do you prep your landscape for hurricane season? What steps can you make sure you're taking to keep your yard (and your home) safe?

After working in the landscape business for over two decades, we've learned a thing or two about storm prep for landscape. We've laid out our top five tips for hurricane readiness here!

## Trim Those Trees, But Do So Carefully

When it comes to trees in Florida, you should always start considering hurricane safety measures when you're planning your planting, which means you should only consider adding trees to your yard that will be hurricane sound. You can't always plan for that, though. So, to prepare your trees for hurricane season, you should check out your tree roots, canopies, and stems. Consider thinning your tree canopies to avoid any branches snapping off in the wind. Check your roots for root rot to ensure your tree roots aren't weak and subject to being pulled up. A tree with weak roots can easily topple over in high winds, so ensure you're checking out the general health of your trees, too. Last, but not least, you'll want to partner with a landscaping company that knows the proper way to trim your trees --- in other words, find someone who won't lion-tail, hat-rack, or improperly trim your trees in a way that will kill them off in the long-run.

## Check Your Drainage Areas

This absolutely has to be done before hurricane



season hits because it can be hazardous if you leave a storm drain full of debris. If storm drains are left full of debris, then your stormwater isn't going to be able to flow properly and might lead to flooding! If water is left flooded in your yard, it can loosen root systems and make after-storm damage a greater possibility!

## Stake New, Young Trees Down

If you have new, tiny trees in your yard that are still on their way to growing into giant, thriving, independent trees, you'll need to make sure you're staking these down. Young trees don't have the same number of roots, meaning they're not going to be anchored as well. In other words, when those high winds hit, those young trees are liable to go flying. Try driving

2x4s into the ground and tie your trees. Be careful to tie them loose enough so they have some flexibility in the wind, but not so loose that the rope will whip around during the storm and be a hazard.

## Tall Plants Need Attention, Too

It's important that you don't just give the trees all the pre-hurricane love, you need to look out for your tall plants, too! If possible, lay down the tall plants in your yard on their sides to keep them from tipping over, getting caught in the wind, and flying around all over the yard. If you have vines on trellises, attempt to remove them before the storm comes, or, as we said, make sure you lay them on the ground. If you have plants that are too large and heavy to lay down, we suggest staking them and tying them down before the storm hits, so they won't fly around in the wind!

## Irrigation Systems to the Off Position

This is one of the last things you should do before your storm hits but forgetting it could be disastrous!

Turning your irrigation system off before the storm can save you some serious heartache. If left on, it's way more susceptible to damage which can lead to flooding, which, as we discussed, can make for perfect standing water conditions. We suggest having a professional check out your irrigation system at the start of hurricane season to ensure that it's fully functional and won't cause you any problems when you turn it off for the storm.



## Want an Expert's Help?

With over 20 years of hurricane prep under our belt and care for landscapes across the Gulf Coast, Landcrafters is used to solving all kinds of weather-related problems. Landcrafters is home to seasoned experts who use modern equipment and employ sustainable landscaping technologies. What's our secret, you ask? We tailor our approach to suit your (and your landscape's) exact needs – no cookie-cutter solutions here.

Get in touch with us today so we can provide you with the advice, inspiration, or answers you need! Give us a call for a no-obligation quote and get ready for stunning landscape!