Plant slow-growers for shade, strength

"The lessons we learned are to plant trees "just snapped off in the wind." slow-growing trees, not those that give quick shade," says Robert Bowden, di-rector of Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. The 50-acre botanic garden lost more than 100 trees when Hurricane Charley ripped through Central Florida last month. Brittle laurel oaks were the hardest hit; also damaged were Chinese elms, camphor and golden rain trees. Bowden says the garden's silk floss

As we survey our newly sun-blasted yards, it's easy to see what didn't stand up to a major hurricane — and what did. Linda Seals, horticulture extension agent for the Palm Beach County, has been looking around, as well. Here are her suggestions on what to plant to replace the trees now festering on the mulch piles that once were our yards.

- Barbara Marskall

Palms

Instead of queen palms . . .



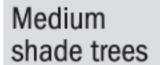
. . . Plant foxtail (right), solitaire, cabbage (above) or paurotis palms (for wet areas). For an intensely tropical look, plant coconut palms, although they are susceptible to lethal yellowing.

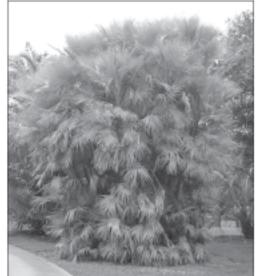


Small trees

Instead of schefflera . . .

. . . Plant pitch apple, paurotis palm (right) and cabbage palm, dahoon and yaupon holly (good for small yards like zero-lot-line houses) and pandamus (screw pine).





Instead of carrotwood . . .

. Plant paradise tree, pigeon plum, fiddlewood, ironwood, weeping podocarpus



LANNIS WATERS/Staff file photo

Flowering trees

Instead of yellow tabebuia . . .

. . . Plant crepe myrtle (various colors, shown above), tibouchina (purple flower), cassia (yellow, below left), geiger trees (orange, below right, yellow or white), bottlebrush (red), Mexican poinciana (yellow caesalpinia variety).





Additional information from Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando; Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami; and Tropical World Nursery in Boynton Beach.

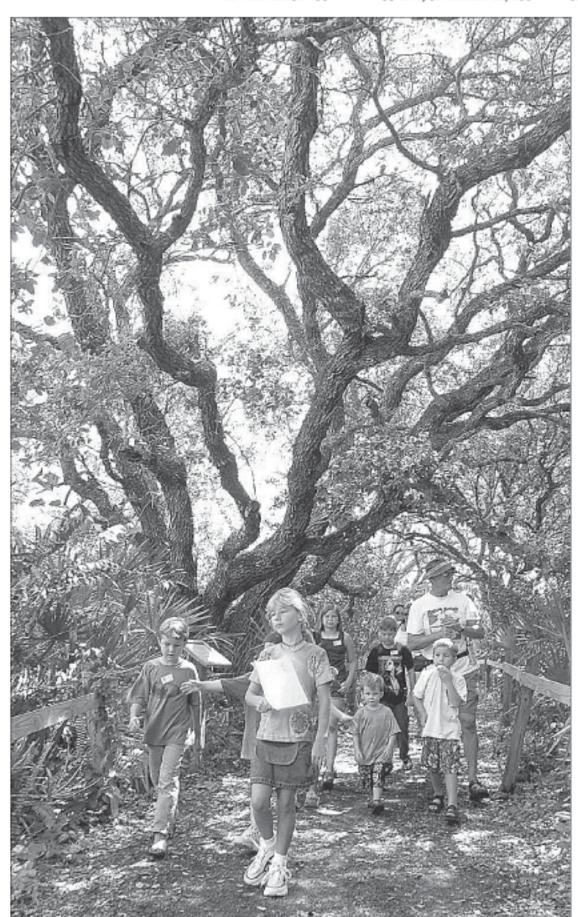


Photo by RON SYMPSO



Photo courtesy of RON SYMPSON

Large shade trees

Instead of earleaf acacia . . .

. . . Plant oaks, like Southern live oak (above), sand or myrtle oaks (which grow quickly with fertilizer and irrigation). Avoid laurel and water oaks, which are more brittle. Or plant gumbo limbos, bulnesia, green and silver buttonwood (left) or Southern magnolia.



Instead of Australian pine . . .

. . . Plant red cedar (left), slash pine (below), bald or pond cypress (above), red maples and paurotis palms (for wet areas).

