



Hurricanes & Trees

Hurricane Damage

Tree species vary in their ability to withstand hurricane winds and salt damage. Wind resistance generally depends on the interaction of five factors: strength of wood, shape and size of crown, extent and depth of the root system, previous moisture conditions and shape of the hole.

No tree species has perfect wind resistance but live oak, palm, pondcypress and baldcypress are among the best as shown in the table.

Table:
Resistance of tree species to hurricane-related damage (in descending order of resistance)

| Flood Tolerant | Breakage | Uprooting | Salt | Deterioration By Insect and Disease |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| baldcypress | live oak | Live oak | live oak | live oak |
| pondcypress | palms | palms | palms | palms |
| tupelo-gum | baldcypress | baldcypress | slash pine | sweetgum |
| sweetbay/willow | pondcypress | pondcypress | longleaf pine | water oak |
| sweetgum | sweetgum | tupelo-gum | pondcypress | sycamore |
| sycamore | tupelo-gum | redcedar | loblolly pine | baldcypress |
| river birch | mimosa | sweetgum | redcedar | pondcypress |
| cottonwood | dogwood | sycamore | tupelo-gum | southern red oak |
| green ash | magnolia | longleaf pine | baldcypress | magnolia |
| red maple | sweetbay | mimosa | sweetgum | tupelo-gum |
| pecan | southern red oak | southern red oak | water oak | sweetbay |
| mulberry | water oak | magnolia | sycamore | hickory |
| American elm | sycamore | slash pine | sweetbay | pecan |
| persimmon | longleaf pine | loblolly pine | southern red oak | redcedar |
| silver maple | slash pine | sweetbay | hickory | red maple |
| water oak | loblolly pine | water oak | mimosa | mimosa |
| swamp chestnut | redcedar | red maple | pecan | dogwood |
| Magnolia | hickory | dogwood | magnolia | longleaf pine |
| hickory | red maple | hickory | red maple | slash pine |
| | pecan | pecan | dogwood | loblolly pine |