



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Dead Tree Snags

Question: : Are dead tree snags hazardous to a neighborhood? My lot next door has a dead pine tree that has not been removed. Emily, Cape Coral

Answer: Dead tree and palm snags are usually left in wooded areas to increase bird and other wild-life habitat. The top of dead trees in your yard can be cut to a lower, more stable size and left for vines to climb like Virginia creeper. A tall tree snag in a firewise landscape would be at a minimum distance of 30 feet or more from any structure. In place of a snag, consider using bird and bat boxes fastened to live trees. I do recall, several years ago in the Cape, damage occurred to houses and cars in one neighborhood after a dead tree was struck by lightning and exploded on impact

Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>.

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