

## Summer Season Stress: *Preventative Measures that can Reduce Hurricane Damage*

by Melanie Albright

It's summer time, which means the hurricanes are threatening to turn your beautiful landscape into an unsightly mess. There are some helpful preventative measures you should take this season in order to reduce the damage to your lawn and home as well as those surrounding your property.

If you don't already have a drainage system installed it is a good time to do so. Draining any excess water from your yard is an important tool in reducing muddy messes, bacteria and the excess water itself which will kill your plants.

The ground isn't the only place to take action in preventing hurricane damage. Trimming trees will reduce damage to your home as well. High winds can cause canopy trees to act as a sail, causing the tree to be uprooted and tip over, leaving behind a nasty path of destruction for you to be burdened with. When trimming trees, you should not forget your big oak trees. If your oaks have any loose limbs, a hurricane will likely encourage those to fall, leaving your house at risk to be the landing pad.

Summer season is an enjoyable one for going on vacation and relaxing. Don't let coming home be a disaster upon seeing your yard. Taking preventative measures, like

installing a drainage system and trimming trees, will help reduce hurricane damage. ♦



## Tips and Tricks

### *to Optimize Your Landscaping*

1. The rain showers that summer gives us will not only make plant life flourish, but will also send weed growth into overdrive. Some things you can do to avoid having your landscape turn into a weed jungle are pulling big weeds, spraying little ones, and replenishing mulch beds to decrease the likelihood of germination. Spraying weeds should also be increased this time of year from once a month to every two weeks. Taking these little preventative steps can protect not only your yard, but your pocketbook from being emptied on a big clean up.
2. This next tip may seem obvious, but it should be stated nevertheless. The good thing about the heavy rains is that the water bill will be much smaller than in the dry season. If it rains twice in one week you should turn your sprinkler system off completely. This is not just to save water, but also to keep fungi like mushrooms at bay.
3. Another thing you may see in your yard, literally piling up, because of the rains is fire ant mounds. Keep your fire ant killer on hand this summer to ensure the safety and fun of anyone who steps onto your yard.



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