

City of Coral Gables

Development Services

427 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

01/20/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On December 18, 2025, an arboricultural inspection was conducted on behalf of Alex Echvarria at 5800 Granada Blvd, Coral Gables, Florida, to assess three specimen trees (identified as Tree 1, Tree 2, and Tree 3). The subject trees are Black Olives (*Bucida buceras*). The inspection was prompted by recent pruning activities intended to mitigate litterfall (leaves, fruit, and tannic exudate) and address sidewalk infrastructure interference.

Observations and Site Conditions

The subject trees are mature *Bucida buceras*, a species known for producing significant litterfall and exhibiting allelopathic properties. These biological traits can suppress the growth of underlying turfgrass and contribute to staining of hardscapes. While canopy management is a legitimate objective to mitigate these issues, the pruning recently performed on-site deviates significantly from ANSI A300 and ISA Best Management Practices.

Pruning Analysis

The recent maintenance performed on the subject trees utilized vertical clearing (shearing) rather than industry-standard reduction cuts. Contrary to ANSI A300 standards, which dictate pruning back to lateral nodes or adhering to a 3:1 branch-to-stem diameter ratio, a vertical plane was established. This resulted in each branch being severed along a uniform line parallel to the tree row, regardless of individual branch anatomy or the presence of appropriate heading cuts.

As established by Dr. Edward Gilman in *Structural Pruning: A Guide for the Green Industry*, structural integrity must be cultivated early in a tree's developmental life cycle. Because these specimens have lacked consistent structural training since planting, they currently exhibit low-reaching limbs with excessive end-weight. The failure to establish the lowest permanent branch has left these limbs structurally compromised and aesthetically degraded. Furthermore, the removal of interior lateral foliage has eliminated natural mass damping, significantly increasing the risk of limb failure during wind events.

Recommendations

Given the current post-pruning state, the primary objective is no longer the attainment of a "perfect" callous wound, as the age of the trees and the diameter of the existing cuts make total compartmentalization unlikely. Instead, the focus must shift to remedial structural pruning.

Corrective Cuts: Existing stubs and stripped branches should be pruned back to the parent stem or to a suitable lateral branch (reduction cut) to encourage proper wound-wood formation where possible.

Crown Restoration: Future management should focus on thinning the outer canopy to reduce spread and litterfall, rather than stripping the interior.

Long-term Mitigation: While pruning can reduce the volume of litterfall, it will not eliminate the allelopathic effects on the turf. Supplemental soil management or alternative groundcovers may be necessary.

Please feel free to contact me at 850.454.9642 for further clarification regarding this assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Gonzales ISA Certified Arborist FL-10135A

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Spencer Gonzales".

MAP



TABLE

1



2



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