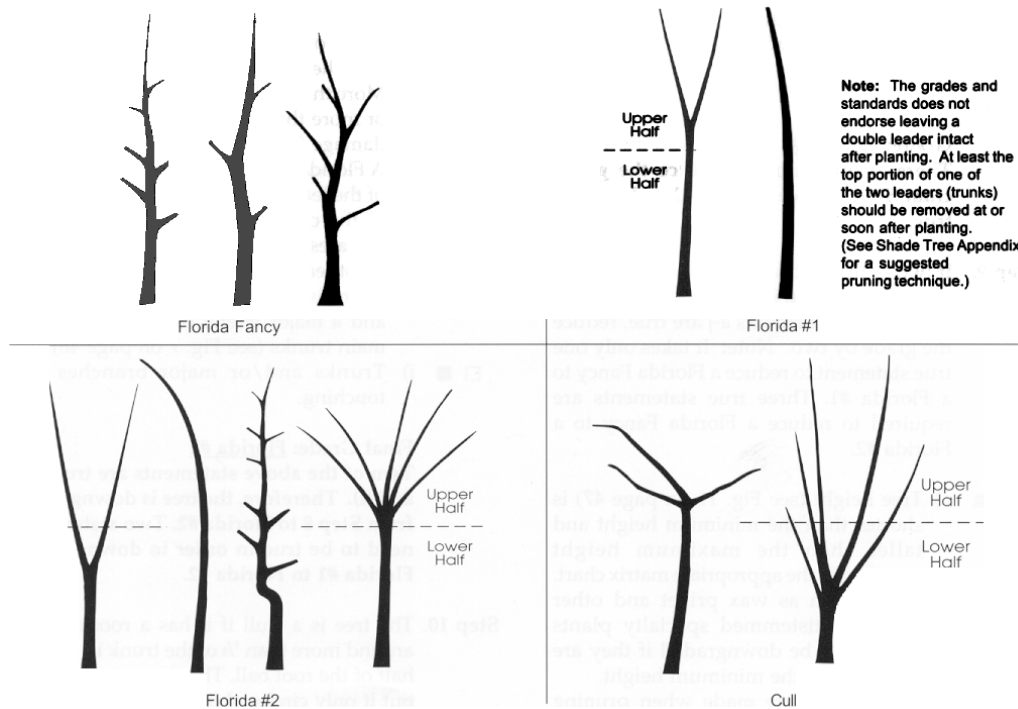


STEP 1-Determining the Quality of Trunk Structure

Instructions: Locate the drawing, caption and associated text below that most closely represents the trunk structure of the tree you are grading. Circle the appropriate tree grade at the end of Step 1 on page 2.

(For photographic examples see Shade Tree Appendix pages 49-56.)



Florida Fancy-There is one trunk, more or less in the center of the tree as shown above. It may be straight or have a very slight bow less than 5°. Some trees such as Chinese elm, live oak, royal poinciana, Jerusalem thorn, mahogany and some others can be grown with a modified (not straight) trunk as shown on the right and center. The tip of the leader on the main trunk must be intact and its terminal bud must be the highest part of the tree. No trunk or branch can have a diameter greater than 2/3 the trunk diameter measured directly above the branch crotch.

Florida #1-The trunk branches (forks) into two nearly equal-diameter trunks in the upper 1/2 of the tree. (If one trunk is 2/3 or less than the diameter of the other trunk, they do not have equal diameters, making the trunk Florida Fancy.) A noticeable but small void will be left in the crown after removing the top portion of one of the trunks. If there is one trunk, but it has a 5° to 15° bow, grade it

Florida #1. The tip of the leader on the main trunk must be intact and its terminal bud must be the highest part of the tree.

Florida #2- The trunk branches into two nearly equal trunks along the lower 1/2 of the tree as shown on the left; or, the trunk branches into three or more nearly equal-diameter trunks in the upper 1/2 of the tree as shown on the right. (Do not downgrade the tree if competing trunks are 2/3 or less the diameter of one main trunk measured above the crotch.) Pruning to create only one trunk will leave a large void in the crown. If there is one trunk, but it has a bow greater than 15° or a dogleg (see Glossary), grade it Florida #2.

Cull- The trunk branches into three or more nearly equal-diameter trunks along the lower 1/2 of the trunk.