



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

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**Florida Needs Your Help to Save  
Avocado, Bay and other Trees in the Laurel Family**

Dear Florida Resident:

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has asked Florida Power & Light Company to assist in slowing the spread of a harmful disease found recently in Miami-Dade County. Laurel wilt disease kills trees in the Laurel Family including avocado, redbay, swampbay, pondspice and silkbay. The disease is spread by a wood-boring beetle, the redbay ambrosia beetle. It is also spread in infested wood products.

**This is where the public can help.**

Florida Power & Light Company trims and removes trees to maintain its utility corridors. The trees they are trimming could be infested with laurel wilt and/or the redbay ambrosia beetle if they are in the Laurel Family.

**To prevent the movement of the disease and/or beetle, after FP&L trims your avocado or bay tree, we recommend with your permission that they grind the trimmings into chips and leave them on your property to be used as mulch.**

If this is not possible, then the tree trimmings will be removed by FP&L. The chipping process can kill many, but not all of the beetles, therefore, whenever possible, it is best to not move the chips off the property.

Information including a videotape on laurel wilt can be found at [www.freshfromflorida.com/pi](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pi) or <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> You can also contact your county extension office (<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>) or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry Helpline at 888-397-1517. And if you love guacamole, visit [www.savetheguac.com](http://www.savetheguac.com)

Thank you for your cooperation. **Together, we are protecting Florida agriculture and our natural environment.**