

## Grand Tree Removal Process for Residents:

According to the Town of James Island's *Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance*, the current definition of a **grand tree** is:

***“Any species of tree measuring 24” or greater diameter breast height (DBH) except Pine and Sweet Gum. All grand trees are prohibited from removal unless a grand tree removal permit is issued.”***  
Also:

***“Any invasive tree species as referred by Clemson Extension and the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council shall be exempt from all provisions of this article.”***

Here is a link to the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council invasive species list:

<http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/scinvasives.pdf>

The DBH of a tree can be measured by taking the circumference of the tree at 4 ½ feet above existing grade and dividing that number by 3.14 ( $\pi$ ). If a tree trunk has multiple trunks (without earth separating the base), then each trunk shall be measured separately and added together to count as one tree.

A **grand tree** may be approved for removal if the tree is dead, diseased or dying or if the tree poses an imminent safety hazard (as determined by the Planning Director or qualified arborist). If the **grand tree** does not meet the above qualifications, a resident must ask for a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals to remove the tree.

A permit is also required for removing more than 25% of the tree's canopy or for the removal of three or more limbs with an individual diameter of six inches or greater.

Any resident wishing to remove or significantly prune a **grand tree** shall go through the proper steps for permitting in order to prevent fines and violations. This involves **contacting the Planning Department at (843) 795-4141** to start the process. Please call with any questions or concerns. Thank you!