

**Gerald Behan**

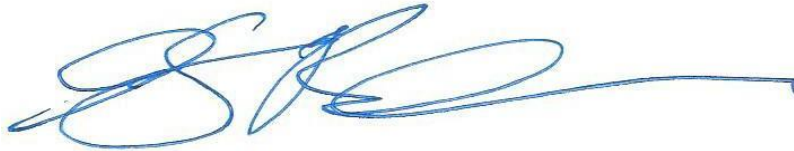
Cell: 954-234-1002

7360 NW 51 Terrace  
Coconut Creek, FL. 33073

Date: 04/15/2024  
Customer: Nikki and JR Jones  
3221 Canal Road, Pompano Beach, FL  
Location: Same  
Scope of Work: Tree Appraisal and report for improperly pruned Areca Palms

**Appraisal performed by Gerald Behan**

International Society of Arboriculture  
ISA FL-6234 A  
Tree Risk Assessment Qualified  
Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida  
Certified Inspector  
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association  
Certified Landscape Technician



Signed:

Date: 10/21/2022

**Scope of Work:** Tree Appraisal and report for improperly pruned Areca Palms.

**Initial Summary:** This is a residential property with numerous mature areca palms planted as a hedge on three sides of the backyard. The Arecas range from 20 to 25 feet in height and are visually impenetrable, except in the case of the damaged palms.

**Terms:**

- C: Approximate Canopy spread
- D: Diameter of trunk, usually measured at 4.5' above ground
- H: Approximate Height of tree
- Codom: Co-dominant trunks or branches, usually of the same or similar size, forming a weak union

Chlorotic: Yellow, usually describing leaves, indicating some type of distress

CT: Clear Trunk, the measurement, usually on palms, from the ground up to the point where fronds emerge.

Hat-Racking: Pruning a tree to large stubs, resembling a hat rack

Included Bark: Usually at Codoms, bark that is inside the union of two trunks or branches

Leader: Central or dominant trunk of a tree

Lion-tailed: Branches that have all small branches removed except for the very end, resembling a lion's tail, leveraging all the weight at the end of the branch instead of equally along its length

### **Trees:**

Tree #1. *Dypsis lutescens*, (*Chrysolidocarpus lutescens*), Areca Palm

Individual Trunk Diameter = 3" to 4", Multiple stems, Tree Height = 20' – 25' (Approximately),

Canopy Spread 6' to 8' estimated.

The Arecas in the rear of the property have been pruned improperly by cutting the stems at numerous locations. This particular species is susceptible to infection by the decay organism *Ganoderma zonatum*. Arecas can sometimes avoid *Ganoderma* infection when one or two stems are cut, but it has been my experience that every Areca with such a high number of stems cut, eventually succumbs to *Ganoderma zonatum*. It is my opinion that the hard pruning of the Arecas in the Jones' yard set these palms up for the opportunistic *Ganoderma* to infect the palms. *Ganoderma* is always fatal to the palm and in addition, leaves such a high population of spores in the soil that no palm can be planted in the same location without it too becoming infected. Something other than a palm must be used in order to regain the privacy provided by the Areca Palms.

PlantAnt.com values the tree at between \$128 and \$250 for a full 45 gallon tree. The average being \$189. The industry standard multiplier for installed plant material is 2.5. Using the average of \$189 per palm clump, and multiplying by 2.5 would value the lost trees at **\$472.50** each. Replacing the Arecas with a large shrub/small tree, *Podocarpus macrophyllus*, in a 45 gallon pot averages \$200 per tree and the installed price would be **\$500**. These would eventually get to the size the existing trees are now but would take a few years. In addition, the cost to remove and dump the infected palms would be an estimated \$50 each. Care must be taken to fully wrap the infected rootball and not allow any infected soil to fall out as it is being removed from the property.

### **Tree #2 *Bursera simaruba*, Gumbo Limbo**

The Gumbo Limbo is a native tree with a vigorous root system. It would be possible to install a root barrier at 8 feet from the trunk so that a pool or building foundation could be built at 9 feet or 10 feet from the trunk.

### **Tree #3. *Ficus aurea*, Strangler Fig**

The Strangler Fig is a large Florida native tree. It also has a vigorous root system but because of its size the root barrier would need to be approximately 15 feet to 20 feet away from the trunk. The particular tree at the corner of the Jones yard has been severely topped and is not a healthy specimen. It would be wise to remove it before it re-grows its top and becomes hazardous.