

[Date]

[Name of Recipient]

[Recipient's Title]

[Address] [City, State] [Zip]

Dear [use HOA President, if known]:

Hurricane Ian devastated our sanctuary island. While the vegetation damage is significant, it is imperative that we protect and/or restore what native vegetation remains as the first steps to recovery of the island's resiliency. As the Sanibel Community recovers and rebuilds following Hurricane Ian, many citizens are anxious to return to the Island and restore their home to its former beauty. But, to ensure the preservation of native vegetation, which is integral to the island's resiliency, it is important to remember the City's landscaping requirements the Sanibel Land Development Code. Generally, vegetation standards require landscapes to maintain 75% native vegetation in three categories – groundcovers, shrubs and trees.

Native landscaping contributes to the health of our wildlife, our Island, and our planet. Sanibel's native plants are the framework of our sanctuary island character and are beneficial habitat for our various resident species of our local wildlife and migratory birds. There is nothing quite like an authentic native landscape to provide residents and visitors a "sense of Sanibel".

Native plants are important to Sanibel because most:

- are adapted to local weather conditions, including drought, occasional saltwater flooding, and stormwater flooding;
- typically, do not require the use fertilizers or pesticides;
- once established, require little or no supplemental irrigation if placed in the proper location;
- provide a food source and habitat for wildlife;
- have distinctive leaves, flowers, and fruit that will lend character and texture to the landscape.

Members of the Vegetation Committee for the City of Sanibel are available to support your re-vegetation efforts by providing education on current landscape conditions, recommendations on appropriate plants for specific habitats, and native plant identification. If you have additional questions outside of these areas, please contact the Natural Resources Department at sandnr@mysanibel.com.

A list of horticulturally available native plants can be found on the City's website by following the link: <https://www.mysanibel.com/government/natural-resources/useful-links/vegetation-information/native-vegetation>. We look forward to the opportunity to work together as a community to restore our Sanctuary Island.

Regards,

The Sanibel Vegetation Committee

Ed Holden, Barbara Boyce, Pam Miller, Barbara Horvath, Claudia Hoffman, Mariana Pardo, Walter Cheatham, Phyllis Gresham, Ruth Brooks, Jennie Maughan