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Thursday, Oct 21, 2021

← *RAKO STUDIOS* →

Planting some side-yard bushes

I clear out a scrub patch on the side of the house and put in 8 Viburnum and 8 Ligustrum bushes.



There was an ugly patch of scrub next to my house. I had transplanted a couple bushes there from when I moved in in 2019, but it was still unsightly and worse yet, allowed me to see the neighbor's house from my back porch.

So I cleared the weeds out, and dug a border trench around the area. There was a large crepe myrtle in the front, and oaks, hazelnut,

and orange trees back towards the woods. I used a loop of rope to dig a circle around the crepe myrtle and the hazelnut tree. Then used the the rope freehand to make the curving sides of the landscape. This took four days.

I drove up to [Tampa Nursery & Landscape Company](#) and ordered eight 5-gallon buckets of Viburnum, and eight Ligustrum plants.



This is the scrub patch after I cleared out half.



Here is the side of the weed patch I have yet to clean out.



This area was over-run with vines when I moved in. I ripped those out in 2019.



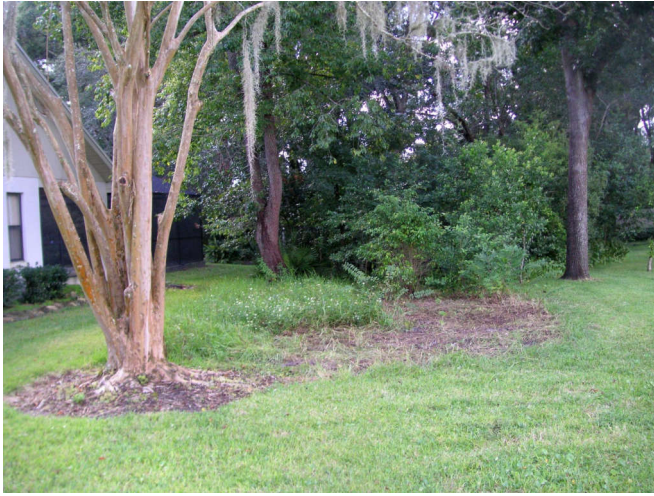
The weeds were pernicious and invasive.



There was a tiny tree I wanted to save, but did not manage to. I should have transplanted it.



Just clearing one side of the patch yielded four buckets for the lawn waste pickup.



At the back of the cleared patch are a medium-sized bush I transplanted in 2019, and a Ligustrum I planted from Home Depot.



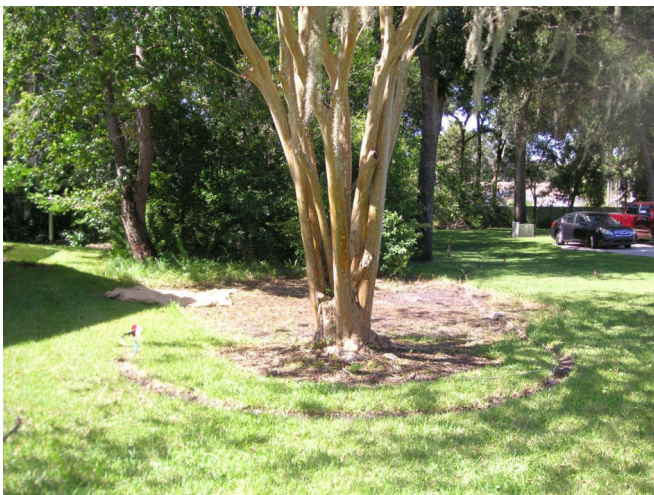
The area gets a reasonable amount of morning sun, so I hope the bushes will grow fast.



There are roots, but I left that for Roundup.



To clear the other side of the patch, I piled the weeds on a tarp and dragged to the back yard.



Here I used a rope to dig a trench around the tree. I made a loop and used a trench shovel.



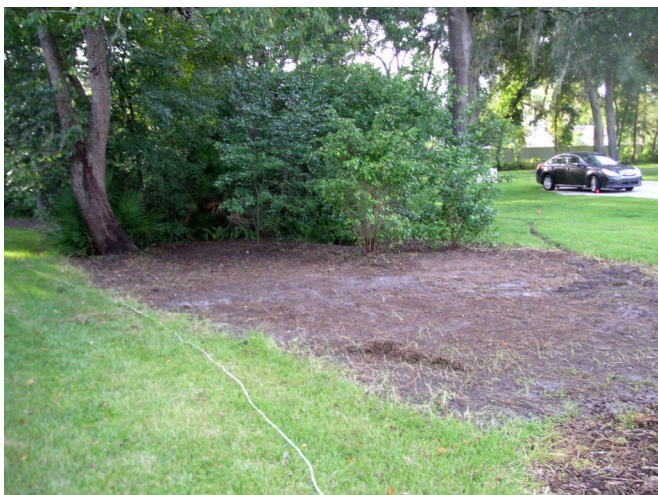
Now the weeds are gone, but I still need to remove the grass from around the trees.



I used the rope to define the curved edge of the landscape area.



Tampa Nursery & Landscape Company installed the bushes, it was \$844 total.



It cut into the yard a bit. I have learned from Gary Alan that's less grass to cut every week.



I paid more for 5-gallon bushes so they would grow high faster. Note the trenching shovel.



I had not cleared grass when the bushes came.



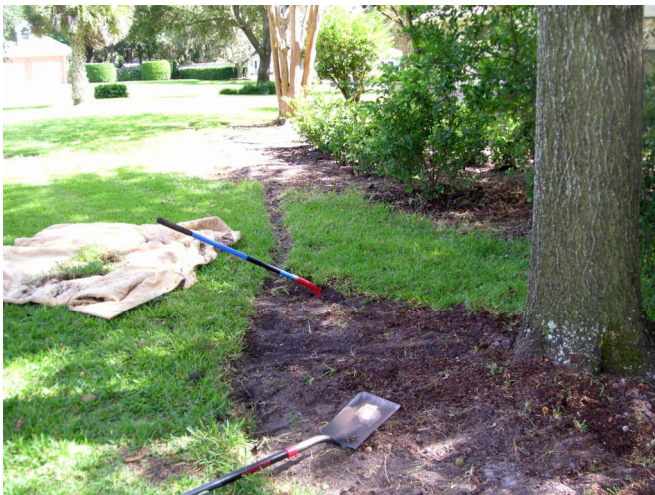
There is a lawn sprinkler here that should make the bushes grow fast.



Now to attend to the grass around the trees. That flag is for the neighbor's sprinkler.



Hard to see, but building up the French drain area will let me mow the lawn easier.



I piled the grass onto the tarp, it went fast.



Despite all the organic material mixed with the dirt, the area compacted and is working great.



Then I used the dirt and grass to build up the area around my screen room door, as well as a French drain box for the screen room gutter.



Part of the weed patch encroached on the lawn with my new border. It will grow in fast.



The black patch at right is my lawn sprinkler, which will shower the bushes twice a week.



It looks great, and I will put mulch on it later in the year so the weeds stay down.



The circle around the hazelnut tree came out great. Digging the trench defines the edge.



That divot in the lawn at right is my lawn sprinkler. The bushes will block the view.



Now it's time to get the grass up around the crepe myrtle. More landscape, less grass to cut.



I took up so much dirt with the trenches I could even pile some at the back screen room door.



This is the pile of weeds from the half of the patch too big to fit in the lawn waste buckets. I think it took two more weeks to meter this stuff into the yard waste pickup schedule



A day or two later, some animal took interest in the dirt and dug a small hole. I hope it approves of the work.

I started clearing about the 14th of October. I did the trenching on the 18th of October. The bushes came on the 20th of October, and I finished on the 21st.

The design intent is for the bushes to grow 10 feet tall like they do on the other side of the house. Some people say Ligustrum is invasive, but this genus does not seem to be a problem in Florida, it is used all over. Thanks to [Tampa Nursery & Landscape Company](#) & [Gary Alan](#).