

Article 9 Landscaping

Table of Contents

I.	Plant Materials - General	9-1
II.	Street Trees	9-2
III.	Landscaping Vegetation in Public Rights-of-Way	9-3
IV.	Plant Placement Near Utilities	9-3
V.	Berms and Bioretention.....	9-3

I. Plant Materials - General

- A. Plant materials shall conform to the species and sizes shown on the approved Landscape Plan as required per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.29. F.4.i \(Landscape Plan\)](#), or on final Plans for City Projects, and shall be sound, healthy, vigorous, and free from plant diseases and insect pests or their eggs.
- B. Plants shall have normal, healthy root systems, and be of the specified measurements such as spread, ball size, caliper, height, quality designations, etc.
- C. All plant materials shall be in accordance with [ANSI Z60.1 \(American Standard for Nursery Stock\)](#).
- D. The Contractor shall furnish a written list of the proposed sources (i.e. grower, not broker) of nursery stock. City may reject a proposed source if their stock is not grown in USDA hardiness zone 5 or 6 as determined by the [Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#).
- E. Artificial mulch, plants or trees shall not be used.
- F. Any plant listed on the “City of Ann Arbor Invasive Plant List” as set forth on the City’s [Invasive Plants website](#) may not be used.
- G. When proposing or using a native or prairie planting, the selection of plant species must be diverse and similar to native plant communities present in the Ann Arbor area. The City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation Program maintains a [Native Plants website](#).
- H. Caliper of trees shall be measured 6 inches above the ground for nursery stock.
- I. To assure plant material quality, the following procedures shall be utilized:
 - 1. All plant material shall be subject to final approval by the PSAA.
 - 2. The Contractor shall provide a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development certificate of inspection (or other similar documentation for out-of-state grown plants) to assure that the materials supplied fully comply with these Specifications.

- J. Plant substitutions to those shown on an approved Landscape Plan required per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.29. F.4.i \(Landscape Plan\)](#) shall be permitted only pursuant to [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.9 \(Plant Substitutions\)](#).
- K. Plant substitutions on City Projects shall be permitted only with the authorization of the PSAA. The request for substitution shall be submitted in writing prior to installation. Proposed substitutions shall consist of the nearest equivalent size and variety of plants. All requests for pay adjustments due to substitutions shall also be submitted in the request.
- L. Due to the overpopulation of Maple species (*Acer* spp.) within the City, their use should be limited.

II. Street Trees

- A. Trees planted in the public right-of-way (commonly called “street trees”) shall conform to the latest version of the “Approved Street Tree List By Size” or “Approved Street Tree List with Characteristics” as set forth on the City’s [Tree Care and Planting website](#).
- B. Tree planting in the public right-of-way shall be under the sole authority of the City Administrator per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.10 \(Trees in the Public Right-of-Way\)](#).
- C. Evergreen trees shall not be permitted in the public right-of-way.
- D. At planting, trees planted in the public right-of-way must be single stem, minimum caliper of 1.75 inches, and have a clear stem of at least 5 feet except within sight triangles where clear vision shall be provided for a vertical height of 8 feet above the roadway per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.8 \(Sight Triangles and Intersections\)](#).

III. Landscaping Vegetation in Public Rights-of-Way

- A. All vegetation in public rights-of-way shall conform to height restrictions per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.12 \(Weeds and Grass on Public Land and Private Land\)](#), [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.8 \(Sight Triangles and Intersections\)](#), and Chapter 40 [\(Trees and Other Vegetation\)](#).
- B. Such landscaped areas may be covered with turf grass, biodegradable mulch (minimum 2 inches in depth), ornamental grasses, forbs, native prairie plants, native wetland plants, or other perennial herbaceous or shrub plantings. Stone or aggregate shall not be accepted to meet this requirement per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.7.H \(Material and Design Standards\)](#).
- C. Permanent irrigation is not permitted in public rights-of-way.

IV. Plant Placement Near Utilities

- A. Plant material shall be placed to allow full access to fire hydrants and public utility systems per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.7.R \(Material and Design Standards\)](#).
- B. A 5-foot space clear of vegetation greater than 6 inches tall shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants, as well as any access point to a public utility system such as a water main valve, water shutoff valve box, sanitary manhole, or storm sewer manhole per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.7.R \(Material and Design Standards\)](#).

V. Berms and Bioretention

- A. Landform berms shall have side slopes no greater than 1 vertical foot for each 3 horizontal feet, shall have at least 2 feet of flat area on top, and shall have adequate protection to prevent erosion per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.7.N \(Material and Design Standards\)](#).

- B. When areas are used for bioretention or rain gardens, the ponding area should be a minimum of 6 inches and maximum of 18 inches deep and planted per approved Landscape Plan or Final Plan per [City Code, Chapter 55 \(Unified Development Code\), Section 5.20.7.P \(Material and Design Standards\)](#).