

Subsec. 10-1-3.6.B Planting Requirements

A. Plant Materials Standards.

1. **Plant Types.** The selection of [trees](#) and [shrubs](#) shall be selected from the approved species listed in [APPENDIX A, Preferred Plantings](#). Substitutions may be proposed as outlined in paragraph D, below.
2. **Plant Variety.** All plants shall be of a type and species that are selected for the climate, location, and soils on the site, as promulgated by the Colorado State University Extension . All plant material shall be commercially produced and meet the minimum standards recognized by landscape professionals. In order to reduce the threat and impact of plant disease, a variety of plant types and species shall be utilized on each site. In general, a minimum of one-third of the plant material on any [lot](#) should be evergreen. you no more than 5% of the same species, no more than 10% of the same genus, and no more than 20% of the same family
3. **Living Materials.** All landscaped areas shall be planted with any combination of low-water-using grass, vegetative [ground cover](#), [trees](#), [shrubs](#), perennials, annuals, and/or vegetables.
4. **Nonliving Materials.** Artificial trees, shrubs, and plants are prohibited. Nonliving [landscaping](#) such as decorative or patterned concrete, brick pavers, wood chips, decorative rock, or similar materials may be used to meet the requirements of this Code, but shall not exceed 25 percent of the total required landscaped area. Paved areas used for motor vehicle access and parking shall not be included in the land area required to fulfill the unobstructed [open space](#) requirements of this Code.
5. **Artificial Turf.** Proposals to use artificial turf as part of any [residential](#) landscaping plan shall provide product samples and manufacturer's specifications to the Director. Director approval is required for use of any such turf. [Installation of artificial turf is expressly prohibited on nonresidential properties.](#)
6. **Prohibited.** Use of any plant species listed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture as a "Noxious Weed Species," according to the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, C.R.S. §§ 35-5.5-101 through 35-5.5-119, is prohibited. Specifically prohibited species include:
 - a. Chinese and Siberian elms;
 - b. Cotton-bearing cottonwoods (female Populus species);
 - c. Russian olive; and
 - d. Box elder.
7. **Sizes.** All required plants shall meet the size and type requirements in Table [10-1-3.6.B, Minimum Plant Sizes and Types](#).

Table 10-1-3.6.B
Minimum Plant Sizes and Types

Plant Type	Minimum Size
Large Deciduous Trees	2.0-inch caliper ¹
Ornamental Deciduous Trees	1.5-inch caliper ¹
Coniferous (Evergreen) Tree	6-feet in height (dwarf pines such as Mugo - 24' branch spread)
Shrubs (Evergreen and Deciduous)	5-gallon container
Ornamental Grasses	1-gallon container
Organic Materials	
Rock or Stone	3/4-inch, minimum 3.0-inch depth ²
Mulch or Compost ³	organic and shredded
Table Notes:	
1. Measured six inches above the soil line.	
2. Requires water-permeable landscape fabric except where horizontally spreading shrubs or ground covers are planted. A nonpermeable landscape fabric shall be permitted if the building foundation design requires soil moisture protection at the perimeter.	
3. Mulch or compost shall be fibrous so that they bind together to prevent erosion.	

C. Plant Locations and Timing.

1. *Public Right-of-Way.* A permit or approval shall be obtained prior to planting any [street tree](#) or landscape material in the public right-of-way, including required [streetscape](#) plantings. All planting shall comply with [Title 8, Public Ways and Property](#), and this Code.
2. *Sight Triangle.* No landscaping may be planted in [violation](#) of the city's sight triangle requirements, as set out in Subsection [10-1-3.9.C, Vision Obstruction](#).
3. *Easements.* Trees shall not be placed within any public utility easement.
4. *Spacing.* In general, all plants shall be located and spaced in a manner to allow for growth to mature size.
5. *Timing of Landscape Installation.* Landscaping that is required by this Code shall be installed between March 15 and October 15. If compliance with this timeframe is impractical due to the time of year that work is completed, an applicant may provide a performance guarantee in the form of a cash bond, irrevocable letter of credit, certified check, or similar instrument acceptable to the Public Works Director or the Public Works Director's designee, in an amount equal to 125 percent of the estimated cost of purchase and installation of required landscaping.

D. Plant Substitutions.

1. *Approval.* Requested substitutions of plant material shall be submitted on a [landscape plan](#) and shall be in accordance with the recommended plant lists promulgated by the Colorado State University Extension and approved by the [Director](#).
2. *Substitution Ratios.* The following substitution of tree planting requirements may be made:
 - a. *Large Deciduous Tree.* One tree shall be substituted in place of 10 required shrubs or two ornamental deciduous trees.
 - b. *Ornamental Deciduous Tree.* One tree shall be substituted in place of five required shrubs.
 - c. *Coniferous (Evergreen) Tree.* One tree shall be substituted in place of one required large deciduous tree.
 - d. *Ornamental Grasses.* Three ornamental grasses shall be substituted for one required shrub.

(Ord. [20, Series of 2023](#))