

Appendix C Public Tree Planting Guidelines

A. Street Trees List

The Street Trees List will be periodically reviewed and revised as necessary to remove problem trees and to add trees more suitable for Goleta's predominantly narrow street parkways and center dividers, in order to reduce maintenance (leaf litter cleanup, pruning & trimming) and to minimize damage to infrastructure from invasive tree roots, with a resultant cost savings for the City.

B. Nursery Plant Standards¹

1. All container grown nursery stock shall be healthy, vigorous, well rooted, have an established root system reaching the size of the container to maintain a firm ball when the container is removed, but shall not have excessive root growth encircling the inside of the container.
2. All trees shall have a single straight trunk, a well-developed leader free of co-dominant stems or competing vigorous upright branches, with tops and roots characteristic of the species cultivar or variety.
3. All trees must be free of insects, disease, mechanical injury, and other objectionable features when planted.
4. On grafted or budded trees, there shall be no suckers from the root stock.
5. At time of inspection and/or delivery, the tree shall show no signs of moisture stress from under or over watering, as indicated by wilted, shriveled, or dead leaves or branch die back.
6. For a tree in a 15 gallon container, the trunk diameter (caliper) shall be 0.75 inches to 1.5 inches with the approximate tree height of 8 to 10 feet.
7. For a tree in a 24 inch box container, the trunk diameter (caliper) shall be 1.5 inches to 2.5 inches with the approximate tree height of 11 to 12 feet.

¹ Compiled from the following industry standards:

- a) Guideline Specifications for Nursery Tree Quality, Urban Tree Foundation, <http://66.165.117.218/pdf/specs10-13.pdf>
- b) Standards for Purchasing Container Grown Landscape Trees, Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute (UEFI), <http://www.uefi.org/Standards&Specs.html>;
- c) American Standard for Nursery Stock, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z60.1-2004, American Nursery & Landscape Association, <http://www.jerseygrown.nj.gov/jgstandards.pdf>

8. The caliper range shall be measured 4 inches above the soil surface.
9. The trunk diameter and taper shall be sufficient so that the tree will remain vertical without the support of a nursery stake.

C. Proper Identification (for Nursery Plants)

1. All trees shall be true to name and legibly tagged as to name and size and shall be labeled individually or in groups by species and cultivar (where appropriate).
2. Proof of purchase, bill of sale, inventory list, nursery location, etc. shall be provided to Public Works.
3. Public Works shall reject any container grown tree that is not properly identified or that does not meet the specifications set forth in the standards listed in part B above.

D. Tree Planting Guidelines

1. Root barriers shall be installed when planting a street tree 7.5 ft. or less from hardscape in any parkway or center divider. (Measured from root flare to inside edge of hardscape.)
 - a. Sidewalk side – 16"-18" high x 8 ft. long barrier centered on tree trunk.
 - b. Curb side – 18"-24" high x 8 ft. long barrier centered on tree trunk.
 - c. Tree Well – 12" to 18" high barrier, sized to fit perimeter of well, as specified by Public Works. (Well to be designed to accept standard sizes and lengths of root barriers so no special joints are required.)
2. Container sizes
 - a. New developments – 24" box minimum.
 - b. Replacement trees – 15 gal. container or 24" box, as directed by Public Works.
3. Planting details
 - a. Proper Planting Holes - Hole dimensions to be specified and confirmed by Public Works. A firm, flat-bottomed hole will prevent trees from sinking and loosened soil that is three times the area of the size of the root ball.
 - b. Backfill material to be specified by Public Works and to include organic source soil fertilizer containing worm castings.
 - c. Aeration tubes, if specified by Public Works, shall be 3 ft. deep, 3" diameter PVC Schedule 40 Pipe backfilled with ¾" gravel.
 - d. Double 8'-12' stakes and rubber ties to be installed for support.
 - e. Dirt berm to be constructed around perimeter of planting hole to form a watering basin.
 - f. After backfilling, staking and initial watering, mulch layer to be placed around planting for water retention.
 - g. Irrigation – Consistent irrigation is critical for proper establishment. It is

recommended to irrigate 20 gallons per tree, weekly.

4. Tree Planting Location Requirements
 - a. Planting holes should be centered within the parkway or center divider.
 - b. Planting holes should be a distance of 10 ft. minimum away from water meter boxes, underground utility lines, etc.
 - c. Trees should be set a minimum of 75 ft. away from the center point of intersections.
 - d. Trees should be selected and located such that upon reaching maturity, foliage will not block street lighting or grow into overhead power lines. They should not exceed 25' in height at maturity so that the edge of the tree canopy will not come within 4' of household electrical transmission wires. This recommendation does not apply to telephone, cable or street light power lines.
 - e. Where possible, replanted replacement trees should be offset, not planted in spaces previously occupied by removed trees.

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