

**Plant Material**

1. Minimum tree size at planting is 2" caliper and 8' tall for single-stem trees. All multi-stem plants must be tree form, maximum 3 to 5 trunks, and minimum 10' tall. Size of required plants, spread of roots and size of balls shall be in accordance with ANSI Z60.1 (latest edition) as published by the American Nursery & Landscape Association, except where specified/authorized by Urban Forestry.
2. All new trees must have **straight trunks with strong central leaders intact to the top of the crown** unless multi-stem trees are specified. All required trees shall be typical of their species and variety, have normal growth habits, have well-developed branches, be vigorous and have fibrous root systems. Trees with co-dominant branching will NOT be accepted. Trees that have been sheared, topped or cut back to multiply the branching structure will NOT be accepted. Trees shall be free of abrasions, damage, disease, pests and cracks. All pruning cuts greater than ½ inch diameter shall have callus tissue formed prior to planting. No pruning cut on the trunk shall be more than one-half the diameter of the central leader at the height where the cut was made. Root flares shall be located at grade. Trees with more than 2" of soil covering the root ball/flare from will NOT be accepted (CLDS.40.09).
3. A minimum of 75% of new trees must be native species, and 75% of required trees must be large mature species except in situations with overhead power line conflicts.

**Planting Requirements**

4. Follow CLDS 40.01 & 40.09 (on plan) for detailed tree planting requirements.
5. Plastic hose parts will NOT be accepted for tree staking. See CLDS 40.01 for approved staking method/materials.
6. All strapping, and top 1/3 of wire basket and burlap must be cut away and removed from root ball when planting.
7. For new planting areas, remove all pavement, gravel sub-base and construction debris; remove compacted soil and add 18" new topsoil, or till and amend the top 18" of existing soil to meet topsoil/planting mix standards for trees within the entire 274 square feet of planting area.
8. Review soil requirements in the Charlotte Tree Manual.
9. Required trees shall be located at least ten feet from buildings unless otherwise approved by the Chief Urban Forester.
10. The minimum spacing between large maturing trees may be reduced from 40 feet to 30 feet. The minimum spacing between small maturing trees may be reduced from 30 feet to 20 feet.

**Utility Issues**

11. If any utility is being installed in or near any required tree(s) or Protected Area(s), call Urban Forester to resolve prior to utility installation.
12. Large maturing trees may not be planted within 25' of overhead power distribution or transmission lines.
13. If trees conflict with power lines or utilities, call Urban Forester to resolve **BEFORE** planting.
14. Adjust tree planting locations to avoid underground utilities. Plant 10' from all underground utilities.

**Heritage Tree and Preservation**

15. Tree protection fencing and signage must be installed and verified by Urban Forestry **PRIOR** to starting **ANY** construction activity. (SEE CMLD Std. 40.02)
16. Any alterations to Protected areas or Code Required trees must be reviewed by Urban Forestry prior to any changes.
17. No structure will be allowed within 10' of tree save areas unless approved by Urban Forestry.
18. All heritage trees and trees on public property are protected and removal must be permitted by the City. Contact your Urban Forester.

**General**

19. Call for an inspection of tree protection/planting areas, a minimum of 5 days before a CO is needed.
20. Visit City of Charlotte's Land Development website for additional information.  
<https://www.charlottenc.gov/Growth-and-Development/Getting-Started-on-Your-Project>