

Pruning Hedges

To maintain low foliage, shear a hedge so that it is wider at the base than at the top. When a hedge has become too tall or too wide, prune approximately one-third of the old stems to stimulate new branching and dense growth.

Pruning Fruit Trees

Pruning fruit trees is one of the most important steps in producing high quality fruit. Objectives are to permit entry of sunlight and remove unproductive, weak or crowded branches. Generally four to nine main scaffold branches are selected when the tree is young and maintained. The central leader is removed after the scaffold branches are selected to encourage lateral growth instead of height growth. Continue to prune undesirable branches to maintain the basic scaffold-branch structure to allow maximum light penetration for fruit production.

ASSISTANCE IN TREE SELECTION AND CARE

This publication provides general guidelines, information and ideas for tree and shrub selection and care. Additional knowledge and assistance can be obtained from the Durango Parks and Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Colorado State Forest Service (247-5250) and commercial arborists and nurseries.

LOCAL NURSERIES

Below is a list of local nurseries the City of Durango recommends for your landscaping needs.

Bayfield Gardens Greenhouses

1715 C.R. 216
Bayfield, CO
(970) 884-0616

James Ranch Trees

33444 Hwy 550N
Durango, CO
(970) 749-7795

San Juan Mountain Nursery

By appointment only
(970) 749-6879

Durango Nursery & Supply

271 Kay Cee Lane
Durango, CO
(970) 259-8800

Native Roots Garden Center Inc.

114 C.R. 250
Durango, CO
(970) 258-5111

Four Seasons Greenhouse & Nursery

26650 Road P, Dolores, CO
(970) 565-8274

LANDSCAPING REGULATIONS

The following is a summation of the major provisions concerning landscaping with primary emphasis on the provisions relating to private citizens. A complete copy of the regulations may be obtained from the Parks and Recreation or Planning and Community Development Departments.

Purpose

The purpose and intent of the landscaping regulations is to provide for a well-designed landscaped treatment of development within the City of Durango. Emphasis is directed toward the treatment of exterior spaces which noticeably improves the overall quality of the development, strives toward preservation of mature and healthy trees and shrubs which are not in conflict with logical building needs and provides for consistency in design and standards for landscaping of public right-of way. The regulations further emphasize restoration of areas subject to cuts and scarring, particularly when such scarring is on a hill side and subject to public view.

Applicability

The landscaping provisions which pertain to public right-of-way apply to all development which is subject to a city development review. In addition, certain provisions of the ordinance pertain to landscaping on private property and apply to all zoning districts within the City with few exceptions.

Major Provisions

1. Landscaping plans pertaining to public right-of-way and proposed in conjunction with new development or redevelopment are to be submitted as part of the requisite development review documentation. Such plans are subject to review by the Director of Parks & Recreation and City Arborist to assure conformity in compliance with existing landscaping regulations.
2. Landscaping plans which pertain to private property are to be submitted together with site development plans to the Planning Department and will be processed with the site plan. These will also be subject to review by the Director of Parks & Recreation and City Arborist.

3. The Land Use and Development Code sets forth the detailed requirements in conjunction with landscaping plan specifications and reference should be made that document for such requirements. The landscaping plan specification must reflect for example, lot boundaries, location or existing and proposed improvements, location of existing and proposed structures, parking areas, pedestrian ways and landscaping areas, a statement pertaining to proposed landscaping and disposition of existing vegetation and an identification of proposed landscaping showing the location, size, species and spacing of trees and shrubs and the identification of the type of groundcover or ground treatment in all areas not covered by buildings or pavement.

4. Design Standards

All vegetation areas shall be provided with an automatic sprinkling or drip system. Isolated trees on private property or within the public right-of-way shall be provided with a drip or bubbler irrigator.

The following standards shall be met in the preparation of the plan and the installation of the landscaping materials.

4.1. The following plant sizes shall be installed

4.1.a. Standard deciduous trees (2 inch caliper)

4.1.a.1. Business, Commercial, Industrial Areas, Public Parks and Rights-of-Way, Residential (1 ¾ inch caliper)

4.1.b. Small ornamental and flower trees – non-fruit bearing (2 inch caliper)

4.1.c. Evergreen trees (not allowed in public rights-of-way) (6 feet)

4.1.d. Shrubs (adequate size to be consistent with design intent) which size must be measured in inches and not by container size.

4.2. All plant material shall meet specifications of the American Association of Nurserymen for Number 1 grade. All trees shall be balled and burlapped or equivalent. Caliper shall be measured six inches above the root ball.

4.3. Trees planted in the public rights-of-way shall be at intervals no greater than forty (40) feet on center for shade trees and thirty (30) feet for ornamental trees.

- 4.4. Ground cover planted on exposed cut areas shall include various species which shall be selected for their ability to stabilize the slope and prevent erosion.
5. Landscaping shall be installed in accordance with the landscaping plan and any financial security agreement prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit for the project, or part thereof if a phased project. If the landscaping for the project cannot be completed due to the season of the year, an amendment of the development schedule may be considered by the Department.
6. Enforcement of the landscaping regulations is vested in the City of Durango. Landscaping plans must be approved prior to the issuance of any building permit for new construction and once approved, all landscaping must be installed in accordance with the landscaping plan or satisfactory arrangements must be made for such installation prior to the issuance of any occupancy permit for improvements within the proposed development.
7. Appeals from the provisions of the landscaping regulations may be made in accordance with the requirements and procedures set forth in the Land Use and Development Code.

