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Landscaping Requirements

Topsoil Requirements

- Four (4) inches of topsoil meeting the City's topsoil specification must be applied to all disturbed areas not otherwise improved with buildings, walkways, driveways and other impervious surfaces.
- A topsoil inspection by the Engineering Department is required.

Lawn Requirements

- A yard must be established through sod, seed, hydroseed or other acceptable ground cover.
- The boulevard area must be sodded. In areas with a sidewalk, sod the area between the sidewalk and the road. In areas without a sidewalk, the first ten (10) feet from the back of the curb shall be sodded.
- The remainder of the yard can be established with sod, seed, hydroseed, or other forms of acceptable ground cover.
- Sod is considered established as soon as it is installed. Seed/hydroseed is not considered established until it has germinated and filled in such that it is ready to be mowed.

Planting Requirements

- Generally, two (2) front yard trees are required per single-family lot. However, each Subdivision has an approved landscaping plan that identifies how many trees and which species are to be planted. If a developer/builder wants to deviate from the approved landscape plan, they must first obtain approval from the Community Development Department before installation. The Ramsey Tree Book can help identify potentially acceptable alternatives.
- In certain instances, a lot may have additional planting requirements. It is strongly recommended that a developer/builder review the approved landscape plan to understand if additional plantings are required.
- Deciduous trees shall be a minimum of one (1) inch in diameter, measured six (6) inches above ground, and coniferous trees shall be a minimum height of five (5) feet. These standards may vary by subdivision.
- See the table on the next page for subdivisions that have additional planting requirements as well as for a list of prohibited species.

The topsoil, lawn and planting requirements shall all be inspected and approved by the City prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. If the Certificate of Occupancy is requested prior to the completion of any of the aforementioned requirements, a Landscape Escrow in the amount of $3,000.00 shall be deposited with the City prior to issuance. Upon completion of the landscaping requirements, the escrow will be released to the party that deposited it with the City.

Planting Standards

- Once the tree is placed in the planting hole, remove all burlap, rope/twine/wire from the top and sides of the root ball (if balled and burlap stock).
- The first set of primary roots shall be at finished grade.
- Woodchip mulch shall be placed around the base of the tree at a depth not to exceed four (4) inches and shall not be piled against the trunk of the tree.

Prohibited Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name
Japanese Green Barberry	Berberis thunbergii
Japanese Red Barberry	Berberis thunbergii (Autropurpurea)
Columnar Buckthorn	Rhamnus frangula (Columnaris)
Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica
Siberian Elm	Ulmus pumila
Arnolds Red Honeysuckle	Lonicera tartarica (Arnold Red)
Claveys Dwarf Honeysuckle	Lonicera x xylosteoides (Claveys Dwarf)
Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle	Lonicera x brownii (Dropmore Scarlet)
Freedom Honeysuckle	Lonicera x (Freedom)
Sakhalin Honeysuckle	Lonicera maximowiczii var. sachalinensis
Zabels Honeysuckle	Lonicera tartarica (Zabelii)
Black Locust	Robinia pseudoacacia
Amur Maple	Acer ginnala
Compact Amur Maple	Acer ginnala (Compactum)
Flame Amur Maple	Acer ginnala (Flame)
Tatarian Maple	Acer tataricum
Russian Olive	Elaeagnus angustifolia
Pygmy Peashrub	Caragana pygmaea
Russian Peashrub	Caragana frutex
Siberian Peashrub	Caragana arborescens