

21 NCAC 28B .0502 PLANTING

When planting, the licensed contractor shall:

- (1) Avoid potential planting conflicts with utilities and sight lines.
- (2) Protect plant material from physical damage and desiccation during transport.
- (3) Maintain plants during landscape construction.
- (4) Consider the cultural requirements of individual plants.
- (5) Excavate the plant hole sufficiently to ensure plant establishment and to promote long-term health, typically two times the width of the plant ball or container size.
- (6) Scarify the sidewalls of the planting pit.
- (7) Set plants in an upright, plumb position, unless design intent dictates otherwise.
- (8) Set plants on a firm, solid base.
- (9) Remove all strings, twine, and strapping from around the trunk of trees.
- (10) Remove the top third to top half of burlap or other wrapping material from the rootball of balled and burlapped trees.
- (11) Remove top third to top half of wire baskets on balled and burlapped trees or bend basket wire back to be flush with the side of the ball.
- (12) Set the plant so that the top of rootball is at or slightly above surrounding soil and does not exceed four inches above the surrounding soil.
- (13) Prior to planting, insure that the trunk flare of a tree is not covered with soil, is at or above the surrounding finished grade, and that no soil has been placed on top of the rootball.
- (14) Prior to planting containerized plants, manage the rootball to mitigate problems such as circling roots. Acceptable mitigation methods shall include slicing the rootball, shaving the rootball, or redirecting roots.
- (15) Utilize backfill soil that is similar to the soil at the planting site or is amended to meet a specific landscaping objective.
- (16) Not firm backfill to a density that inhibits root growth.
- (17) Install backfill soil in such a manner that it is settled in layered sections to limit future settling.
- (18) Not utilize screened soil as the sole material for backfill.
- (19) When mulching plants, maintain a mulch depth that is beneficial to the health of the plants.
- (20) When mulch is applied, apply mulch so that it does not touch a tree trunk or root flare.
- (21) Water plants thoroughly and immediately after planting in accordance with the needs of the plant.
- (22) Notify client of his or her responsibility to water plants following installation.
- (23) Stake trees only when required due to high winds, extreme slopes, or soft soils;
 - (a) If trees are staked, the guys shall not be installed so as to provide pressure on the trunk.
 - (b) Guys in contact with the tree shall be of a material that will not damage the tree.
- (24) Provide plants that are true to name and species.
- (25) Provide plants that are healthy and in good condition.
- (26) Prune any broken limbs.
- (27) Prune co-dominant leaders in shade trees that typically have dominant leaders.
- (28) If a condition is observed while the work is being performed that is detrimental to the long-term health of the plant, the condition shall be reported to the customer or client, a supervisor, the owner, or person responsible for authorizing the work.

History Note: Authority G.S. 89D-15(2); 89D-15(16);
Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2016;
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