



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Landscape Plan Review

City of Pompano Beach Urban Forestry Division

Q. What is a sight visibility triangle?

A. This area is to provide unobstructed visibility above the height of 3' for vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and water view. This area is located at a corner formed by the intersection of two or more rights-of-way with two sides of the triangular area being a certain length along the abutting right-of-way measured from their point of intersection, and the third side being a line connecting the ends of the other two sides.

Sight visibility triangles are located at street intersections and in the rear yards of water front property.

Hedges, fences, walls, structures, etc must not exceed 3' in height in these areas.

Q. Can I have a copy of the city's details for tree planting, tree protection, dumpster enclosure, landscape plan sample, irrigation plan sample, etc)?

A. Yes. The details are available on the Urban Forestry page – click the details button.

Q. What are FPL approved trees?

A. Florida Power and Light is required to bring electricity to your home or place of business. So, it's important to plant the right tree in the right place to ensure trouble-free electrical service.

Florida Power and Light requires certain trees and palms to be set back from overhead utilities so as not to cause interference with service. The selection of trees and palms to plant requires careful consideration and planting the right tree in the right place can reduce maintenance and improve the appearance of the landscape. The ultimate, mature height and width of a tree and palm to be planted should not exceed the available overhead growing space.

Please visit Florida Power and Light website for these set back requirements and for recommended tree and palm species to plant in relation to location of utility lines.

Q. What does Florida Grades and Standards mean for trees?

A. The Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Stock was developed for precise communication between the buyer and seller of such material. This is necessary as the buyer and seller specifically negotiate plant quality.

The Florida Legislature passed this standard in 1955 and codified it with Florida Statute Section 581.031 (2)(3) as a vehicle for buyer and seller communication.

Consumer knowledge, preferences and awareness are demonstrated in their purchases of plants. Therefore, the nursery industry must specifically communicate the characteristics of its product. It is important to plant good quality trees, and good quality is based on trunk, branch, crown, leaf and root characteristics.

The top grade is Florida Fancy. Such a tree has one trunk up through the center to the top of the tree. There are no defects, the crown should be full of foliage and the root ball should be appropriately sized.

Trees that are graded Florida #1 may require some corrective pruning, and may have minor defects that can be corrected.

A lesser grade is Florida #2. These trees require major correcting pruning for structure, and defects may take several years to correct.

The lowest grade is a Cull. These trees lack vigor, have poor branch and root formation, and have defects that are not correctable.

The City of Pompano Beach requires a minimum Grade of Florida #1.

Q. What are street trees?

A. Street trees are any canopy tree placed in the right-of-way swale area. Street trees provide shade over paved surfaces and aid in absorption of water run-off. Studies have proven that tree lined streets decrease speeding through the neighborhood and increase property values.

Street trees shall be planted in the landscaped area of street at time of construction. One street tree shall be required for every 40 linear feet of street frontage. All street trees are to be placed in a location in accordance with the requirement of the City Engineer in order to accommodate location of utilities.

Q. Why do I have to maintain the ROW swale?

A. All owners of land shall be responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping located in areas where landscaping is required, including abutting portions of rights-of-way, swales, lakes and canal banks.

Q. What is a retro-active landscape plan?

A. In 1998, the Commission passed an ordinance requiring all multi family homes, business, commercial and industrial properties developed before October 30, 1973 to comply with minimum landscape requirements.

The date of October in 1973 is important because the City's first landscape code was developed and implemented. The properties developed before that date were 'grandfathered' in and did not have to provide required landscaping. In 1998, the ordinance lifted that 'grandfathering' and now requires all properties to comply with minimum landscape requirements.

All properties must have a landscape plan approved and on file in the City.

Single family homes are exempt from this requirement.

Q. What types of screening are acceptable for mechanical equipment?

A. All ground mounted mechanical equipment must be screened from view using an approved hedge, fence or wall maintained at a height of 6" above the equipment. Ground mounted mechanical equipment includes: a/c, pool pumps, generators, bottled gas tanks, backflow valves, irrigation equipment, utilities, ground mounted garbage containers, etc.

The screening must be opaque (so you can't see through it) and can be hedging, fencing or walls.

The hedging must be installed and maintained at a height 6" above the actual equipment. Some examples of hedging are: Cocoplum, Silver Buttonwood, Green Buttonwood, Wax Myrtle, etc.

The fencing must be installed at a height 6" above the actual equipment. Some examples of fencing are: solid and opaque metal, wood or pvc board on board, etc. Fencing can not be chain link, chain link with fabric, chain link with slats, lattice, picket, etc.

Q. Do I need a Landscape Architect for my single family home?

A. No. Other than single family homes, evidence of design responsibility is required. This shall be by landscape plans prepared by a Florida registered landscape architect.

A checklist, sample landscape plan and sample irrigation plan have been provided for your reference. Please click this link on the Urban Forestry homepage.

Q. If I have more than the minimum amount of trees on my single family property and I want to remove one, do I still have to replace the tree?

A. A tree permit for removal may be issued when the required application data is supplied and the tree is in excess of the tree requirements for the single family property.

Q. Why must I upgrade my landscaping on the entire site?

A. When existing buildings and/or parking lots are added that increase the building and/or parking lot area by more than 20%, the entire site must be brought up to current landscaping codes. This includes irrigation.

Q. Why am I required to have irrigation?

A. An automatic properly functioning underground irrigation system with a rain sensing cutoff device shall be designed and installed in compliance with the South Florida Building Code. The irrigation system shall be properly maintained in good working order and provide a minimum coverage of 100% with 50% overlap. This irrigation is required for proper establishment and maintenance of required landscape material.

Q. If I use Xeriscape or Florida Friendly Landscape, why do I need an irrigation system?

A. Automatic irrigation is crucial to the proper establishment and maintenance of landscape material, therefore irrigation is a requirement.

It is recommended to include placement of native vegetation in substantial conformance with the Xeriscape Landscaping Principles referenced in the South Florida Water Management Districts Xeriscape Plant Guide.

Once the plant material is established, automatic irrigation may be adjusted accordingly.

Q. Do I have to plant grass?

A. No. All landscaped areas are to be planted. Shrubs, grass or groundcover are acceptable in areas required to be planted. Seed is not permitted.

Q. What are the height restrictions for hedges located along the property lines?

A. Hedges are required to be installed and maintained at a minimum height of 2'. There is no restriction on the height of hedges except within the sight visibility triangle.

Hedges are to be trimmed in a manner and at a frequency appropriate to the use of the material and species so as not to detract from the appearance of the general area.

Hedges are to be maintained to minimize property damage and public safety hazards.

Q. Why do I need trees and shrubs on my property?

A. The City of Pompano Beach requires landscape according to zoning districts.

For RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4, RD-1 Districts (Single-Family and Two-Family Residential Districts): a minimum of 30% of the total gross area of a plot shall be devoted to landscaped pervious area; all plots of 7,000 square feet or less shall contain three trees, except all corner plots shall contain five trees, and 20 shrubs; all plots over 7,000 square feet shall contain a minimum of four trees, except all corner plots shall contain six trees, and 30 shrubs.

For RM-12, RM-20, RM-30, RM-45, RPUD Districts (Multi-Family Districts): a minimum of 25% of the total gross area of a multi-family residential plot shall be devoted to landscaped pervious area; the pervious area shall contain one tree and five shrubs for every 3,000 square feet of lot area or major portion thereof.

For B-1, B-2, BSC, B-3, B-4, M-1, M-2, BP, I-1, PCI Districts (Business Commercial and Industrial Districts): A minimum of 20% of the total gross area of a plot shall be devoted to landscaped pervious area; the pervious area shall contain one tree and five shrubs for every 3,000 square feet of lot area or major portion thereof.

For PR, CR, CF, T and PU Districts (All other Districts): a minimum of 40% of the total gross area of a plot shall be devoted to landscaped pervious area; the pervious area shall contain two trees and five shrubs for every 2,000 square feet of lot area or major portion thereof.