

Suggested Plants For Screening



Japanese or Waxleaf Ligustrum

(Ligustrum Japonicum)

Grows 6 to 12 feet tall foot spread. Rapid grower. Does well in sun or shade. Very tough shrub. Tolerates drought and poor soils.



Elaeagnus or Silver Berry

(Elaeagnus Pungens)

Grows 8 to 12 feet high. Has an 8 to 10 foot spread. Moderate to rapid grower. Does well in wet locations and a wide range of soil conditions.



Evergreen Euonymus

(Euonymus Japonicus)

Reaches 10 to 12 feet tall and has a spread of up to 5 feet. Moderate to rapid grower. Plant in sun or shade. A very hardy shrub. Grows well in moist soil but will tolerate considerable drought. Grows lush when fertilized.



Southern Wax Myrtle

(Myrica Cerifera)

Upwards of 15 to 20 feet in height with a 15 to 20 foot spread. A moderate grower in sun or shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils but thrives on acidic, wet and poorly drained soils.



Burford Holly

(Ilex cornuta 'BurfordII')

Grows to height of 8 to 15 feet and acquires a 6 to 8 foot spread. Will do well in sun or shade. Tolerant of poor soils and semi-dry conditions. Attractive hedge for spacious areas.



Pfitzer Juniper

(Juniperus chinensis)

Grows 4 to 6 feet high with a spread of 4 to 6 feet. Moderate growth rate. Enjoys full sun and tolerates drought and poor soils. Very hardy evergreen.

General Info

Existing Vegetation

The retention of existing vegetation shall be maximized to the extent practical, wherever such vegetation contributes to required buffering and screening

Standards for Trees and Shrubs

Required trees and shrubs shall meet the following standards: *(except as may be specifically provided elsewhere in the ordinance)

- A. All required large maturing trees shall have a minimum caliper of two (2) inches measured six (6) inches above the proper planting level.
- B. Shrubs shall be a minimum of three (3) gallon at time of planting.
- C. All specifications for the measurement, quality, and installation of trees and shrubs shall be in accordance with the American Standards for Nursery Stock published by the American Association of Nurserymen, free of disease, and in otherwise sound and healthy condition.

Disclaimer

While this handout does contain actual language from the zoning & subdivision ordinances, it should not be considered a substitute for any of Harnett County's regulatory documents, but was created to serve as a guide to the screening and buffering techniques and requirements within Harnett County. We ask that you please seek the relevant ordinance for a complete list of requirements.



Harnett County Department of Planning

108 East Front Street
PO Box 65
Lillington, NC 27546

Phone: 910-893-7525
Fax: 910-814-6459
Email: subdivision@harnett.org



Planning Department



Buffers and Screening for Commercial Projects in Harnett County

Buffers & Screenings

Harnett County requires that buffers & screening techniques be used when certain land use relationships are adjacent to each other. In an effort to help minimize the impacts of more intense developments some uses are required to be screened from adjacent properties using the techniques below.

Use Requirements

Uses

In situations where a development is adjacent to multiple uses then the buffer requirement for each use shall be required along each property line otherwise the development shall follow the requirements listed below.

Type A

a. Buffer: Fifteen (15) feet (applies to side and rear property lines)

b. Screening shall be one (1) of the following:

1. A row of evergreen conifers or broadleaf evergreens placed not more than five (5) feet apart which would grow to form a continuous hedge of at least six (6) feet in height within two (2) years of planting; or

2. A masonry wall located within the required buffer; such wall shall be a minimum height of six (6) feet (above finished grade) and, if a block wall, it shall be painted on all sides; or an opaque fence six (6) feet in height finished side of fence must face out; or

3. A berm (maximum of 3:1 slope) and planting combination, with the berm an average height of three (3) feet and dense plantings which will, when combined with the berm, achieve a minimum height of six (6) feet and seventy-five (75) percent opacity within two (2) years.

c. Lawn, low-growing evergreen shrubs, evergreen ground cover, or mulch covering the balance of the buffer

Type B

a. Buffer: Thirty (30) feet (applies to the front, side, and rear property lines)

b. Screening shall consist of :

1. A row of trees, fifty (50) percent of which are large maturing trees and which are not less than eight (8) feet high at the time of planting and are spaced not more than fifty (50) feet apart.

2. An opaque fence or berm (maximum of 3:1 slope) located within the required buffer; such fence or berm shall be a minimum height of six (6) feet; and

3. Lawn, low-growing evergreen shrubs or broadleaf evergreens, evergreen ground cover, or rock mulch covering the balance of the buffer.

Type C

a. Buffer: Ten (10) feet Landscaping Buffer (applies to area between right of way and building front)

b. Lawn, low-growing evergreen shrubs or broadleaf evergreens, evergreen ground cover, or rock mulch covering the balance of the buffer.



Parking Requirements

Perimeter Screening

In addition to the Highway Corridor Overlay, Article VI, Section 8.0 and Buffer requirements, Article IV, Section 8.0 the entire length of parking and vehicle circulation areas located along the public right of way and/or private street shall be screened using one of the following options

Berm

- 3.1 maximum slope with a minimum crown width of two (2) feet
- Maintained at a minimum height of three (3) feet
- Maintained with a groundcover vegetation or grass for stabilization
- Supplemented with cluster of shrubs every twenty (20) feet

Evergreen vegetation

- Maintained at a minimum height of three (3) feet
- Minimum planting size is eighteen (18) inches in height
- Spaced so that a continuous vegetative screen is established within three (3) years
- A minimum of three (3) feet shall be maintained between the vegetation and curb or wheel stop

Vehicle Use Planting

- All parking spaces shall be within sixty (60) feet of a tree trunk
- Medians and/or islands planted with trees shall be at least ten (10) feet wide with a minimum of 300 square feet of permeable soil
- Tree shall be minimum of three (3) inches in caliper at planting
- Trees planted in compliance with these requirements shall have demonstrated particular resistance to harsh growing conditions, diseases, and insects in this particular region

Utility, Mechanical, & Trash Requirements

Utility & Mechanical Screening

All mechanical, utility equipment which is located on, beside, or adjacent to any building or development shall be fully screened from the view of equipment, shall not interfere with the operation of the equipment, and shall use one or a combination of the following screening techniques:

- A. Building materials and design which are compatible with those used for the exterior of the principal building or
- B. Evergreen plantings or other acceptable alternative approved by the Zoning Administrator.

In situations where mechanical and utility equipment is (are) located on the roof of a structure, all devices will be fully screened from the view of streets or adjacent property using technique I (one).

Trash Containment Areas Screening

All trash containment devices, including compactors and dumpsters, shall be located and designed so as not to be visible from the view of adjacent streets and properties. If the device is not visible from off the site, then it need not be screened. The type of screening used shall be a continuous row of evergreen plantings or other acceptable alternative approved by the Zoning Administrator.