

# Supplement of Canton City Tree Ordinance—Standards & Specification Guidelines

## I. Tree Planting

### A. Planting Specifications

1. Tree shall be:
  - a) Disease and Pest-Free
  - b) Single stem, straight and with no trunk/limb damage
2. Quoted price, when contracted, includes planting and two-year warranty from planting date, unless otherwise specified.
3. Hole depth shall be dug slightly below root flare. Hole diameter shall be at least 2 to 2 ½ times root ball diameter. The tree shall be placed on solid ground with root collar slightly above surrounding soil/amended soil.
4. All containers and burlap shall be removed at tree planting. Burlap and wire baskets should be cut and lowered as far as possible to base of the hole.
5. Backfill soil shall be amended topsoil per city specification provided by tree contractor in city scape planting vaults.
6. Mulch shall be 3” to 4” deep, at least 2 to 3 feet diameter, and shall not be in contact with trunk. A levee around trunk directs water to roots.
7. Staking, wrapping, and tree gators are to be used as judged by City Certified Arborist.
8. Shall follow ANSI standards

### B. Underground Utilities

The contractor shall receive OUPS (Ohio Utility Protection Service) clearance before planting tree (call 811 or 800-362-2764)

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## C. Placement

Tree height and width affect area and maintenance for years. Use Tree Commission and City Certified Arborist knowledge and advice about tree selection and placement.

1. Right tree species should fit site & location, such as, “prefers flood plain”, “tolerates pollution”, and zones should be considered.
2. Lawn strips must be a minimum width of 4’ for tree planting:
  - a) Small trees shall be used for areas 4’ to 6’ in width.
  - b) Medium trees shall be used for lawn strips 6’-8’.
  - c) Large trees can be used for areas exceeding 8’ and up in width.
  - d) Height and canopy width of the mature tree must be considered.
3. Species size should be considered when overhead wires exist. Only small utility (that do not grow into wires) trees shall be planted only as suitable for site.
4. Tree shall not be planted within 10’ of a fire hydrant or 35’ from street corner or curb line.

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5. Sidewalk cutouts are extremely stressful on tree health. Cutouts shall be a minimum of 4' X 6', if possible, and a recommendation of amended topsoil.
6. Property owners, commercial or residential, can receive advice of the City Certified Arborist before tree planting.

### **II. Pruning and Maintenance: ANSI A300 Standard**

#### **A. Reasons for Pruning**

Health of Tree

Safety of Tree

Vista Pruning (pruning for a view)

(Example)

To improve the overall health of the trees such as:

1. To prevent limbs from rubbing other limbs or structures
2. To remove dead limbs that can cause damage to residences and property
3. To remove limbs blocking pedestrian or vehicular traffic, signs, or street lights
4. Removing diseased limbs/defects to improve tree health
5. To reduce wind resistance in the right conditions

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## B. Pruning Standards

All pruning shall be done according to ANSI A300 standards and City Ordinance

## C. Pruning License

A pruning license shall be required and signed by the City Certified Arborist, or authorized representative, after they are satisfied with the contractor's knowledge, and qualification/license.

## D. Tree Topping (hat racking, stubbing, etc.)

Tree Topping is prohibited by the city tree ordinance for public trees and is strongly discouraged for private trees. Trees severely damaged or under wires where other pruning methods cannot be applied may be exempted.

## E. Street and Sidewalk Clearances

When pruning to raise limbs for pedestrian traffic or vehicle traffic, the height over sidewalks is up to 20', over city streets and state routes is 20'.

## F. Fertilization, and Spraying Chemicals

Fertilization shall be done according to ANSI Z133 Standards. Applying chemicals to public trees is prohibited unless special permission is granted by City Certified Arborist. It is strongly recommended that property owners follow manufacturer's label instructions if/when applying chemicals to privately-owned trees.

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## III. Tree Protection in Work Zones

1. Construction before it begins should be started with the City Certified Arborist on site to determine which trees are to be removed, which trees are to be saved, and how to protect existing trees from construction damage.

### Definitions

1. Balled and Burlapped (B&B)—Tree roots and soil are wrapped in burlap and sometimes a wire basket. Both burlap and wire shall be cut and lowered to bottom of hole if possible when tree is in planting hole.
2. City (Public) Tree—Any tree, shrub, bush, and any vegetation on land within a public street, park, or rights-of-way within the municipal corporate limits.
3. Girdling Root—a root encircling the trunk, or roots restricting growth and nutrients.
4. Protected Root Zone (PRZ)—area bordered by work-limits fencing where no construction activity is allowed, usually around the perimeter of tree drip-line.
5. Right-of-Way—an extension of the city’s control beyond the street edge, often 10 or more feet beyond pavement
6. Root Collar—the base of a tree where trunk and roots meet.
7. Shall—Used to describe mandatory practices
8. Topping (also known as “heading”, “tipping”, “hat-racking”, and “rounding over”)—the severe or indiscriminate cutting of tree limbs to stubs within the tree’s crown to such a degree as to remove the normal canopy.