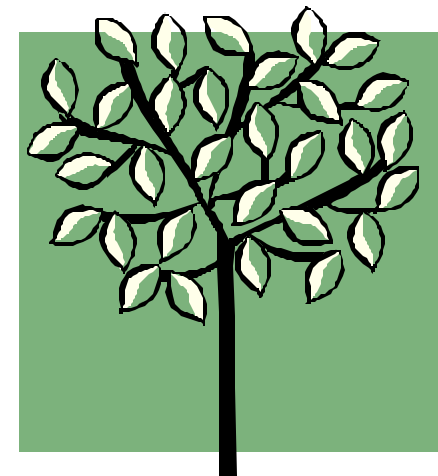




TREE REQUIREMENTS



Answers to these questions inside:

- When is a tree removal permit necessary?
- Can I remove a tree in the watershed buffer?
- What is the acceptable tree list?
- Can I remove a tree in my yard?
- How to plant a tree.
- How to care for your tree.

How to plant a tree

- Call to locate utilities before you dig 1-800-632-4949.
- Dig or till an area one foot deep and approximately 5 times the diameter of the root ball.
- Handle the tree by the ball and keep the soil around the roots.
- Don't let the root ball dry out.
- Prevent roots from girdling, cut roots that wrap around the root ball.
- After placing tree, pack soil firmly, not tightly, around root ball, water soil and place a 3 foot radius of mulch around the tree.

How to care for your tree

- Don't top trees or cut the main branches back to stubs. This starves the tree, makes it more susceptible to disease and insects, and weak limbs may grow back higher than the original branch.
- Don't remove more than 1/4 of a trees crown in one season.
- For most trees, don't prune up from the bottom more than 1/3 of the trees total height.
- When you remove a branch, cut it back to where it meets another large branch or trunk. Do not truncate or leave a stub.
- Mulch is a tree's best friend!
- Avoid girdling, or destroying bark around much of the trunk's circumference.

Town of Cornelius
Planning Department
PO Box 399
Cornelius, NC 28031

TREE REQUIREMENTS

When is a tree removal permit necessary?

A tree permit is required for tree removal in the following conditions:

1. Removal of trees in the public right-of-way.
2. Removal of trees on public property.
3. Removal of trees on properties with landscape requirements per the Town of Cornelius *Land Development Code*.



Can I remove a tree in the watershed buffer?

There are very strict regulations on the removal of vegetation in the watershed buffer since it helps to filter impurities before they enter the water supply. No trees larger than two (2) inches in caliper can be removed with the exception of certified diseased or dead trees. Trees less than two (2) inches can be removed and replaced with effective stabilization and filtering cover using Mecklenburg County LUESA guidelines with approval by the Mecklenburg County LUESA and the Town of Cornelius Planning Department.

What is the acceptable tree list?

The following trees are acceptable to plant according to Mecklenburg County guidelines (*denotes trees acceptable for the watershed buffer):

*Red Maple	Sawtooth Oak
Sugar Maple	*White Oak
*Ash-leaved Maple	*Swamp Chestnut Oak
Serviceberry	*Scarlet Oak
*River Birch	*Southern Red Oak
Pecan	Laurel Oak
Shagbark Hickory	*Water Oak
Pignut Hickory	*Willow Oak
*Bitternut Hickory	Northern Red Oak
Mockernut Hickory	Shumard Oak
Deodar Cedar	Black Oak
Hackberry	Live Oak
Leyland Cypress	Post Oak
*Persimmon	Chestnut
*American Beech	Japanese Pagoda Tree
White Ash	Bald Cypress
*Green Ash	Eastern Hemlock
Ginkgo	Canadian Hemlock
*Eastern Red Cedar	Lacebark Elm
Sweetgum	Winged Elm
*Tulip Poplar	Slippery Elm
Southern Magnolia	Japanese Zelkova
*Black Gum	*Paw Paw
*Short Leaf Pine	*Redbud
Austrian Pine	*Red Mulberry
Japanese Black Pine	*Sycamore
Loblolly Pine	Black Walnut
*Virginia Pine	*Black Willow
London Planetree	*Basswood
Norway Spruce	*Eastern Cottonwood

Small Maturing Trees

Hedge Maple	Golden Rain-tree
Japanese Maple	Saucer Magnolia
European Hornbeam	Star Magnolia
*American Hornbeam	Flowering Crabapple
*Hop Hornbeam	Ironwood
*Flowering Dogwood	*Sourwood
Kousa Dogwood	Purpleleaf Plum
*Silky Dogwood	Kwanzan Cherry
Eastern Redbud	Weeping Cherry
Russian Olive	Yoshino Cherry
Loquat	Carolina Cherry Laurel
*Carolina Silverbell	Bradford Pear
Chinese Witch-hazel	Redspire Pear
Foster Holly	Capital Pear
*American Holly	Aristocrat Pear
Hume Holly	*Bigleaf Snowbell
Savannah Holly	Sugarberry
Crepe Myrtle	*Blackhaw
*Wax Myrtle	*Possumhaw
Hawthorne	*Painted Buckeye
Washington Hawthorne	*Fringe Tree
*Black Cherry	

Can I remove a tree in my yard?

You may remove trees on your single-family residential property or duplex lot without a permit outside of the right-of-way. Tree topping, however, is not allowed anywhere in the Cornelius sphere of influence. Trees that are listed as a state or national champions, provide habitat for endangered wildlife, protected by law or are cited by the Town as historically significant require a permit for removal. (see also “When is a tree removal permit necessary?” and “Can I remove a tree in the watershed buffer?”)