



YARD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Private property owners are responsible for routine maintenance of plant material on their property and in abutting right-of-way areas. **Yard maintenance standards were adopted in the City Code:**

- for public safety purposes
- to maintain visibility along streets and intersections
- to improve the general appearance of the City's neighborhoods,
- to protect the environment
- to preserve sewer and other utility systems.

Requirements

Homeowners can use this checklist to perform yard maintenance that will comply with the City Code:

- Mow the lawn so that grass is ten (10) inches or less in overall height and maintain ground cover plants at an overall height of twenty-four (24) inches or less.
- Edge or remove growth from driveways, sidewalks, curb lines, and gutters.
- Trim hedge heights to 5 feet or less in front yards on residential property (hedges on private property are only regulated within 5 feet of the property line.)
Contact the department for more details on hedge regulations inside yards, rear yards, non-residential property or waterfront property.
- Shrubs and trees over the public sidewalks must be trimmed up to a height of eight feet to allow motorists to see past them and to allow pedestrians to walk under them.
- Remove vegetation which is a hazard to public safety, such as vegetation with thorns, from the right-of-way area.
- Trim trees over the street or alley to a height of fourteen feet above the street or alley surface.
- Provide vegetative ground cover, such as grass, for all exposed sand or soil areas. Grass helps hold soil in place that might otherwise wash away. This erosion harms the property and can block City storm water sewers.
- Take grass clippings, tree trimmings and other vegetative material to the City brush sites. Disposing of such material on streets, right-of-ways, waterways, other people's property, or in the City storm water system is prohibited. The use of mulching lawn equipment is encouraged

If a tree must be removed, please consult the City's Urban Forester at (727) 893-4249 to see if a permit is required.