

City of Portsmouth Tree Planting Requirements

The base of the City of Portsmouth Tree Planting Requirements is the *ANSI A300 Part 6 Standard Practices for Planting and Transplanting*. ANSI A300 Part 6 lays out terms and basic standards as set forth by industry but it is NOT the “end all” for the City of Portsmouth. The following are the City of Portsmouth, NH Tree Planting Requirements that are in addition to or that go beyond the ANSI A300 Part 6.

1. All planting holes shall be dug by hand- **NO MACHINES**. The only exceptions are **new** construction where new planting pits, planting beds with granite curbing, and planting sites with Silva Cells are being created. If a machine is used to dig in any of these situations and planting depth needs to be raised the material in the bottom of the planting hole **MUST** be firmed with machine to prevent sinking of the root ball.
2. **ALL** Wire and Burlap shall be removed from the root ball **AND** planting hole.
3. The root ball of the tree shall be worked so that the root collar of the tree is visible and no girdling roots are present.
4. The root collar of the tree shall be 2”-3” above grade of planting hole for finished depth.
5. All plantings shall be backfilled with soil from the site and amended no more than 20% with Organic Compost. The only exceptions are new construction where engineered soil is being used in conjunction with Silva Cells and where new planting beds are being created.
6. All plantings shall be backfilled in three lifts and **ALL** lifts shall be watered so the planting will be set and free of air pockets- **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
7. An earth berm shall be placed around the perimeter of the planting hole except where curbed planting beds or pits are being used.
8. 2”-3” of mulch shall be placed over the planting area.
9. At the time the planting is complete the planting shall receive additional water to ensure complete hydration of the roots, backfill material and mulch layer.
10. Stakes and guys shall be used where appropriate and/or necessary. Guy material shall be non-damaging to the tree.
11. All planting stock shall be specimen quality, free of defects, and disease or injury. The City of Portsmouth, NH reserves the right to refuse/reject any plant material or planting action that fails to meet the standards set forth in the *ANSI A300 Part 6 Standard Practices for Planting and Transplanting* and/or The City of Portsmouth, NH Planting Requirements.