

Planting strips, located between the curb and sidewalk and parallel with the street, shall be 6 feet or more in width. Care should be used to ensure that larger planting strips do not push pedestrian crossing areas back from the intersections by requiring a larger curb radius. On streets with design speeds of 20 mph or less, or on streets with on-street parking, small street trees may be planted within 3 feet of the back of the curb and should generally be planted along the centerline of the planting strip. To maintain sight lines, trees and other objects should be restricted from corners for distances of 30 feet on all sides. Along all planting strips, the area between 2 and 7 feet above ground should be maintained as a clear zone to preserve sight lines and accommodate pedestrians.

Trees, landscaping, and other encroachments onto the right of way can obscure pedestrians or other vehicles preparing to enter the roadway from adjacent property or side streets. To protect the safety of pedestrians, bicyclist, and motorists alike, it is appropriate for vehicle operators to have an unobstructed view along the full length required by the sight distance triangle. On-street parking is considered a temporary condition and is an exempt factor.

When trees are planted along streets, especially in association with sidewalks, species selection is critical. When attracted to fruits, nuts and berries produced by some species, congregations of birds may cause potentially undesirable conditions for pedestrians. Also, species that leach sap tend to damage the finishes on parked cars and, when wet, the leaves of some species may damage automotive finishes.

E. LANDSCAPE CONSIDERATIONS

Listed below are trees that have been successfully used as street trees in Virginia. This list is only general guidance as to the type of tree to be considered for street plantings, and should not be considered an exclusive list of approved trees for landscaping. Other considerations should be made with any landscape plan.

Due to the constant improvement of varieties as well as the spread of disease and plant pathogens via interstate and intrastate trade, no tree should be utilized without the verification of local factors. Thus, developers or their representatives should have their plan prepared by a local certified landscape architect, and/or confirmed by a certified arborist, nurseryman, or agricultural extension office for advice on site suitability with regard to plant hardiness, soils, soil moisture, available root zone, exposure, known diseases in the area, etc.

A general list does not take into consideration the fact that Virginia spans six temperature zones. Trees listed are not all appropriate for all temperature zones. The temperature range of areas in which a plant performs the best is defined as its "hardiness zone." Thus, while the list below represents a broad array of possible species, it does not indicate any division of use based upon "hardiness zone."