

**Article IX.**  
**Landscaping, Fences, and Walls**

**9.1 Applicability.**

- (A) The provisions of sections 9.2 through 9.8 shall apply to all new development.
- (B) The provisions of sections 9.2 through 9.8 shall not apply to the CBD district.

**9.2 General Provisions; Landscaping.**

- (A) Landscaping, trees, and plant material shall be planted in a growing condition according to accepted horticultural practices and they shall be maintained in a healthy growing condition. Any landscaping, trees, and plant material in a condition that does not fulfill the intent of these regulations shall be replaced by the property owner during the next planting season.
- (B) A screening fence or wall area shall be maintained by the property owner, in good condition, throughout the period of the use of the lot.
- (C) To the extent possible, existing trees, vegetation, and unique features, shall be retained and protected. Existing healthy, mature trees, if properly located, shall be fully credited against the requirements of these regulations.
- (D) Trees shall be a minimum of 3 feet in height, with a minimum diameter of 1.5 inches, immediately after planting. Trees shall reach an expected height of 25 to 35 feet at maturity. Trees shall be planted 25 to 35 feet on center depending on species.
- (E) Evergreen trees shall be a minimum of 3 feet immediately after planting.
- (F) Shrubs and hedges shall be a minimum of 1 foot in height immediately after planting.
- (G) Ground cover may include any plant material that reaches an average height of not more than 12 inches. Alternative materials may be used in lieu of grass provided they present a finished appearance and provide reasonably complete coverage at the time of planting.
- (H) Plants that restrict sight visibility at intersections of streets or driveways, such as tall shrubs or low branching trees, shall be avoided.
- (I) Where lot size, shape, topography or existing structures make it not feasible to comply with the provisions of this ordinance, the Planning Director may modify these provisions provided the alternate proposal will afford a degree of landscaping screening and buffering equivalent to or exceeding the requirements of these regulations.

**9.3 Front Landscaped Area.**

A front landscaped area shall be required for all duplex, multi-family, and non-residential uses. The required landscaped area shall be contiguous to the front lot line of the property and have an average width of 10 feet. The area shall be covered with grass or other ground cover and shall

include appropriate trees and shrubs. At a minimum, 1 tree and 10 shrubs shall be planted within the front landscaped area for each 50 feet or fraction thereof of lot frontage.

The purpose of the landscaping is to enhance the appearance of the use of the lot but not to negate access or screen the use from view.

**9.4 Buffer Area.**

A buffer area shall be required to separate and screen incompatible land uses from each other. A buffer area shall be required along all boundaries of a two-family, multi-family, or a nonresidential lot abutting a less intensive use. Such buffer shall comply with the following minimum standards.

(A) A buffer area shall be located within the boundaries of the subject property. The buffer may be located on abutting property, provided the owners of all abutting properties agree in writing to the proposal. Said agreement must be recorded and run with the land and provide stipulations for maintenance and upkeep, as deemed necessary.

(B) The minimum width of the buffer area shall be following the buffer matrix below:

**Proposed Use**

Single-Family (SF)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Two-Family (TF)	10	-	-	-	-	-	
Office (OF)	10	5	-	-	-	-	
Commercial (CM)	15	10	5	-	-	-	
Multi-Family (MF)	15	10	5	-	-	-	
Industrial (IND)	25	20	15	10	10	-	
	SF	TF	OF	CM	MF	IND	<b>Adjacent Use</b>

(C) The buffer area shall consist of trees and shrubs of such a type, height, spacing and arrangement to effectively buffer the activity on the lot from the neighboring area. At a minimum, the planting shall consist of 5 trees and 10 shrubs per 100 linear feet for 5-10 foot buffers, 10 trees and 15 shrubs per 100 linear feet for 15-20 foot buffers, and 20 trees and 20 shrubs per 100 linear feet for 25 foot buffers.

(D) An earthen berm, fence, or wall of a location, height, design, and material approved by the Department of Planning and Inspections may be substituted for any portion of the required planting and/or buffer area. Fences and walls, if substituted, shall be constructed of materials similar to the materials of the main building. Trees and shrubs shall supplement earthen berms, fences, or wall areas.

**9.5 Landscaped Parking Area.**

Parking areas shall comply with the following minimum standards.

(A) All uses required to have 20 or more off-street parking spaces shall have at least 10 square feet of interior landscaping, within the paved portion of the parking area, for each parking space and at least one tree for every 10 parking spaces or fraction thereof.

(B) Each interior landscaped area shall contain a minimum of 200 square feet and shall be planted with shrubs and trees.

(C) A curbed landscaped area shall be provided along the perimeter of any parking area. The required landscaped area shall have a minimum width of 3 feet and shall be planted with 2 trees and 10 shrubs per 100 linear feet of perimeter area.

(D) Interior landscaped areas shall be spaced throughout the lot to reduce the visual impact of long rows of parked cars. At a minimum, landscaped areas shall be distributed approximately once every 10 spaces for residential and once every 15 spaces for other developments.

(E) Curbed landscaped areas shall be provided at the ends of parking aisles and shall be planted with shrubs and/or trees.

(F) The required number of parking spaces may be reduced by one parking space for each 150 square feet of interior planting area, not exceeding 10%.

**9.6 Unoccupied Lot Areas.**

All areas of a developed lot not occupied by buildings, structures, pedestrian and vehicle circulation ways, off-street parking and outside storage shall be appropriately improved with ground cover, trees, shrubbery or mulch. No exposed soils shall be permitted after issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, except for agricultural activities or extraction of earth products.

**9.7 Planting List.**

The following trees and shrubs by way of example but not by way of limitation are suitable for use in the North Wilkesboro area:

**Large Trees (mature height 35 feet or greater and 35 feet spacing).**

Sugar Maple	Littleleaf Linden	Ginkgo
Red Maple	White Oak	Southern Magnolia
Scarlet Oak	Japanese Scholartree	English Oak
Pin Oak	London Plane-tree	Japanese Katsuratree
River Birch	Schumard Oak	Japanese Zelkova
Chinese Elm	Tulip Poplar	Willow Oak
Black Gum		

**Medium Trees (mature height 25 to 35 feet and 30 feet spacing).**

Mountain Silverbell	Weeping Cherry	Sourwood
Kwansan Cherry	Thornless Honeylocust	Yellowwood
Eastern Redbud	Ironwood	Mountain Ash
Pistachio	Yoshino Cherry	Redwood Linden
Golden-Rain-Tree	American Holly	Saucer Magnolia

**Small Trees (mature height less than 25 feet and 25 feet spacing).**

Japanese Maple	Crabapple	Japanese Dogwood
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Amur Maple      Flowering Dogwood      Russian Olive  
 Smoketree      Wax Myrtle      Crepe Myrtle  
 Star Magnolia

**Shrubs (mature height approximately 36 inches).**

***Evergreen***

Warty Barberry      Mugo Pine      Dwarf Burford  
 Holly Juniper      Japanese Holly      Euonymous  
 Azalea      Leatherleaf Viburnum

***Deciduous***

Forsythia      Potentilla      Oakleaf  
 Dwarf Burning Bush      Ornamental Grass Varieties      Hydrangea Nandina  
 Thunberg Spirea      Oregonholly Grape      Japanese Flowering Quince  
 Viburnum      Red Chokeberry      Dwarf Nandina

**Screening Plants (installation height 3-4 feet).**

American Holly      Hetz Juniper      Arborvites  
 Burford Holly      Eastern Red Cedar      Wax Myrtle  
 Nellie Stevens Holly      Japanese Black Pine

**9.8 Design Standards for Fences and Walls.**

(A) General.

"X" means that the standard is required. "-" means that the standard is not required. "U" means that standards in the underlying district prevail.	DISTRICTS														
	RES.				MIXED	COMM. & IND.							ENV.		
	R20	R10	R6	MF-CD	CBD	OI	NB	GB	HB	LI	GI	AO	WSO	FPO	
Fences and walls shall be maintained in good order.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	U	U	U
Fences shall not contain permanent advertising, signs, logos, or other lettering on the fence exterior unless expressly permitted by the Zoning Administrator.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	U	U	U
Fences and walls shall be installed and maintained so as to not interfere with the sight distance requirements of this ordinance or the sight distance needs of drivers in parking areas and at entrance and exit locations.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	U	U	U

(B) Material and Design.

<p>"X" means that the standard is required.                      "-" means that the standard is not required.                      "U" means that standards in the underlying district prevail.</p>	DISTRICTS													
	RES.				MIXED	COMM. & IND.							ENV.	
	R20	R10	R6	MF-CD	CBD	OI	NB	GB	HB	LI	GI	AO	WSO	FPO
Razor wire, concertina wire, and similar high security fencing material shall not be used in any area unless substantially screened from public view.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	U	U	U
Barbed wire shall be permitted in the R20 district where it is accessory to a permitted agricultural use and in the LI and GI districts.	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	U	U	U
Electric fencing shall only be permitted in the R20 district where it is accessory to a permitted agricultural use.	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U	U	U

(C) Height.

<p>"X" means that the standard is required.                      "-" means that the standard is not required.                      "U" means that standards in the underlying district prevail.</p>	DISTRICTS													
	RES.				MIXED	COMM. & IND.							ENV.	
	R20	R10	R6	MF-CD	CBD	OI	NB	GB	HB	LI	GI	AO	WSO	FPO
<p>In Residential districts:</p> <p>1. In required rear or side yards, the maximum height of a fence or wall shall be 6 feet.</p> <p>2. In required front yard, the maximum height of a fence or wall shall be 5 feet.</p>	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U	U	U
<p>In Commercial and Industrial districts:</p> <p>1. In required rear or side yards, the maximum height of a fence or wall shall be 8 feet.</p> <p>2. In required front yard, the maximum height of a fence or wall shall be 6 feet.</p>	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	U	U	U