

### **Tree selection specifications:**

1. Plants shall be so trained in development and appearance as to be unquestionably superior in form, compactness and symmetry. They shall be sound, healthy, vigorous, well branched and densely foliated when in leaf, and free of disease and insect adult eggs, pupae or larvae. They shall have healthy, well-developed root systems and shall be free from physical damage or other conditions that would prevent thriving growth.
2. There shall be no circling or girdling roots. Circling roots should be cut in at least one place.
3. Trees should be rooted into the root ball so that soil or media remains intact and trunk and root ball move as one when lifted, but not root bound. The trunk should bend when gently pushed and should not be loose so it pivots at or below soil line.
4. The point where the top-most root in the root ball emerges from the trunk shall be within two inches of the soil surface. It can be exposed and visible at the soil surface. If it is not within the top two inches of soil, gently remove the top layer of soil from the rootball until the first major root flare is visible.
5. The relationship between caliper, height and root ball size shall meet the ANSI Z60.1 standard, latest edition.
6. There should be one dominant leader to the top of the tree with the largest branches spaced at least 6 inches apart. There can be two leaders in the top 10% of the tree if it is otherwise of good quality.
7. The tree canopy should be symmetrical and free of large voids. Clear trunk should be no more than 40% of tree height unless otherwise specified in the planting specifications.
8. Open trunk and branch wounds shall be less than 10% of the circumference at the wound and no more than 2 inches tall. Properly made pruning cuts are not considered open trunk wounds. There should be no conks or bleeding, and there should be no signs of insects or disease on more than 5% of the tree.
9. If any of the above conditions are not met, trees may be rejected.

### **Tree planting specifications:**

1. The depth of the hole dug should be about 10% less than the distance from the top-most root (measured where it joins the trunk) to the bottom of the rootball. The width of the hole shall be at least 2 times the width of the rootball.
2. Cut away burlap and wiring so that at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the rootball is exposed. Synthetic burlap shall be removed entirely. All twine and rope shall be removed from the base of the tree and from any branches.
3. After planting, the topmost root shall be no more than 2 inches below the soil surface. Additional soil should be removed. The surrounding grade should be even with or slightly lower than the top root. Please note: some trees will arrive from the nursery with too much soil covering the first major root flare. This soil should be removed. The resulting soil line should be even with or above the surrounding grade.
4. 3 inches of mulch shall be applied to cover the sides of the rootball to a point even with the dripline. **Do not add any soil to the top of the rootball. Do not add more than 1 inch of mulch to the top of the root ball.**
5. In poorly drained soil, position the top of the rootball 10% or more above the surrounding grade. No more than 20% of the rootball should be above the surrounding grade.
6. Staking of trees is not allowed unless permission is specifically obtained from the City Planning Department.