

## Glossary

In addition to the terms contained in the definitions section of Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 13.01, the following terms shall be used according to the following definitions.

“Amenity Space.” Amenity space provides residents access to areas for relaxation, recreation, and socializing. These include both private and common spaces both indoor or outdoor. Examples of private amenity space include balconies, porches, decks, patios, and yards. Examples of common amenity spaces include courtyards, rooftop decks, gardens, play yards, and park greens.

Annual: An annual plant germinates, flowers, seeds and dies (completes its lifecycle) within one year.

“ANSI A300” shall mean and refer to the most current version of the tree, shrub and other woody plant maintenance and standard practices standard A300 as accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or its successor organization.

ANSI Z60.1 Standards: Industry developed standards for nursery stock sizing and describing plants to facilitate the trade in nursery stock; acronym for American National Standards Institute.

ANSI Z133.1: Industry developed safety standards for tree care operations.

Arborescent Shrub: A woody stemmed plant usually free branching from the base, which can reach heights of 15 to 20 feet. Whereas a tree usually has a single stem, an Arborescent Shrub has several stems arriving at or near the ground.

“Arborist” or “Certified Arborist” shall mean and refer to an individual engaged in the profession of arboriculture who, through experience, education and related training, possesses the competence to provide for or supervise the management of trees and other woody plants, and shall have the credential of Certified Arborist as granted by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Certified Arborists must maintain their certification and be in good standing with the International Society of Arboriculture.

Balled and Burlapped Stock: Plants dug with firm, natural balls of earth in which they were grown, with ball size not less than diameter and depth recommended by ANSI Z60.1 for type and size of plant required; wrapped with burlap, tied, rigidly supported, and drum laced with twine with the root flare visible at the surface of the ball as recommended by ANSI Z60.1.

Bare Root Stock: Plants grown in the ground in the nursery without artificial root restriction devices, such as containers or fabric bags. When dug the soil is removed from the root systems and the plants are transported and sold without soil.

“Best management practices” or “BMPs” shall mean and refer to the standard practices for tree pruning and removal approved or recommended under ANSI A300.

**Caliper:** Diameter of a tree's trunk or stem measured at a point 6 inches above finish grade if the resulting measurement is up to and including 4 inches. If the resulting measurement is more than 4 inches the point of measurement shall be relocated to 12 inches above finish grade.

**Canopy Factor:** A method of calculating tree size by taking into account the tree's mature height, mature crown spread and growth rate. The Canopy Factor is calculated using the following formula: (mature height in feet) x (mature crown spread in feet) x (growth rate number) x 0.01 = Canopy Factor. The growth rate number is 1 for slow growing trees, 2 for moderately growing trees, and 3 for fast growing trees.

- Large Trees = Canopy Factor greater than 70
- Medium Trees = Canopy Factor from 40 to 70
- Small Trees = Canopy Factor less than 40

**Central Branch; Central Leader:** A singular, dominant, upright branch or stem which does not have any stems arising from a common junction having nearly the same size and diameter.

**Certified Arborist:** An individual who has achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience and by passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's leading experts on tree care. Certified Arborists must maintain their certification and be in good standing with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), or equivalent agency.

**Climate adapted:** Both native and non-native plant species which are able to thrive in the local climate and soil conditions of a specific region. The two most authoritative references on climate adaptation for plants are the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones and the Sunset Climate Zones. Plants that are considered climate adapted shall be selected in accordance with one or both of these resources.

**Codominant Branches; Codominant Leaders:** Branches of stems arising from a common junction, having nearly the same size diameter.

**Container-Grown Stock:** Healthy, vigorous, well-rooted plants grown in a container, with a well-established root system reaching sides of container and maintaining a firm ball when removed from container. Container shall be rigid enough to hold ball shape and protect root mass during shipping and be sized according to ANSI Z60.1 for type and size of plant.

**Cultivar:** Contraction of "cultivated variety". A group of plants within a species having distinct differences that retain those characteristics when reproduced sexually or asexually.

**Critical Root Zone (CRZ):** The area under a tree whose diameter measures one foot per one inch of DBH from the trunk outwards and twenty-four inches in depth.

**Deciduous:** A plant that loses its leaves and remains leafless for some months of the year, usually in winter (temperate zones) or the dry season (tropical zones).

“DBH”, “DSH”, or “caliper inches” shall mean diameter at breast height, or diameter at standard height, which refers to the tree trunk diameter measured at four feet six inches (4’-6”) above the ground of a standing tree, measured in inches and tenths of an inch. If the tree is measured at less than four inches (4”) of DBH or DSH, as is typical for newly planted trees, caliper inches shall be used, and is measured at six inches (6”) above the soil level.

“Design manual” shall mean and refer to the manual applicable to construction of all street and right-of-way improvements as adopted by the City Director of Public Works, and effective on or about January 7, 2016, and any amendments, updates, or revisions made thereto, and on file with the Public Works Department.

Drip Line: The area on the ground below the tree in which the boundary is designated by the edge of the tree’s crown.

Duff Layer: The surface layer of native topsoil that is composed of mostly decayed leaves, twigs, and detritus.

Establishment Period: A minimum of a three year time period following the transplanting/installation of vegetation wherein maintenance is critical to the survival of the vegetation.

Evergreen: A plant that bears leaves throughout the year.

Fabric Bag-Grown Stock: Healthy, vigorous, well-rooted plants established and grown in-ground in a porous fabric bag with a well-established root system reaching sides of fabric bag. Fabric bag size is not less than diameter, depth, and volume required by ANSI Z60.1 for type and size of plant.

Feeder Root Zone: The area under a tree whose diameter measures two feet per one inch of DBH from the trunk outwards and twenty-four inches in depth. For example, for a ten-inch DBH tree, the Feeder Root Zone is at least twenty feet in diameter and 24” deep.

Finish Grade: Elevation of finished surface of planting soil.

“Fruit Tree” shall mean and refer to a tree that is grown for its edible fruit, consumed by humans. Ornamental varieties of fruiting trees, such as ornamental pear or cherry trees, are exempt from the definition of a fruit tree.

Genus (pl. genera): A group of plants within a family that is morphologically similar and contains one of more species.

Groundcover: Low and dense growing plants that cover the ground which can be planted for ornamental purposes, habitat or to prevent soil erosion. Turf lawn and mulch do not count as groundcover.

Hardiness Zones; USDA Plant Hardiness: Developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Hardiness Zones divide North America into geographic zones based on average winter lows.

“Hazardous tree” and “hazard tree” shall mean and refer to a tree(s) that is found to be likely to fail and has an extreme or high risk to cause property damage, personal injury or fatality in the event of a failure. Trees designated as hazards shall be designated as such by a Certified Arborist who has achieved a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

“Heritage tree(s)” shall mean and refer to a tree, or collection of trees, located in the City limits of Tacoma that, because of exemplary size, age, cultural/historical significance, ecological value, or rarity, is considered irreplaceable.

Invasive tree: A tree species that was introduced by humans to locations outside of the tree’s native range that spread and persist over large areas. Invasive species negatively impact natural ecosystems by displacing native species, reducing biological diversity, and interfering with natural succession.

Invasive Weeds; Noxious Weeds: Non-native plant species which have been proven to have a negative impact on the environment and are highly destructive, competitive, and difficult to control or eliminate. For a current listing of Pierce County Invasive/Noxious weeds consult the Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Manufactured Topsoil: Soil produced off-site by homogenously blending mineral soils or sand with stabilized organic soil amendments to produce topsoil or planting soil.

Perennial: A plant having a life cycle lasting three or more years.

Permanent Roadway: Roadway constructed with a designed full depth subgrade and road surface section with an established curb and gutter alignment.

Pesticide: A substance or mixture intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating a pest. This includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and molluscicides.

Pests: Living organisms that occur where they are not desired, or that cause damage to plants, animals, or people. These include insects, mites, grubs, mollusks (snails and slugs), rodents (gophers, moles, and mice), unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, bacteria, and viruses.

Planting Area: Locations on private property or the public right-of-way proposed or required to be planted.

Planting Soil: Standardized topsoil; existing, native surface topsoil; existing, in-place surface soil; imported topsoil; or manufactured topsoil that that may be modified with soil amendments to produce a soil mixture best suited for plant growth.

“Planting strip” shall mean and refer to that portion of an improved right-of-way between the street curb or edge of the traveled portion of roadway and the property line of the abutting property available and used for the purpose of planting and maintaining street trees and other vegetation.

Plants; Plant; Plant Material: These terms refer to vegetation in general, including trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, ornamental grasses, bulbs, corms, tubers, or herbaceous vegetation.

“Prune” or “pruning” shall mean and refer to the removal of plant parts, dead or alive. In no circumstance does tree topping qualify as appropriate tree pruning.

Right-of-Way or Rights-of-Way (ROW) Per TMC 13.01: The public streets, roadways, courts, alleys and any other public passages, whether developed or undeveloped, over which the City has a possessory interest or right of use either by easement, license, permit or other such authority, or by fee simple ownership. For purposes of this definition developed rights of way may contain items such as pavement, parking or loading areas, retaining walls or other structures, landscape or planting strips, sidewalks, curbs, vehicle, bicycle or pedestrian traffic lanes, traffic circles and other such development. This definition is intended to be construed so as to be consistent with other definitions of the term Right-of-Way or Rights-of-Way as may be found in Tacoma Municipal Code or Washington State statutory and case law.

Root Flare: Also called “trunk flare.” The area at the base of the plant’s stem or trunk where the stem or trunk broadens to form roots; the area of transition between the root system and the stem or trunk.

“Significantly damaged tree” shall have the meaning as that term is given at TMC 9.20.220.

Shrub: A woody perennial plant that is generally less than fifteen feet in height at maturity.

Stem Girdling Roots: Roots that encircle the stems (trunks) of trees below the soil surface.

Street tree: A planted tree, or tree that is intended to be planted, whose trunk is wholly or partially located within the public right-of-way. Street trees may be owned by the City or by an abutting property owner

Subgrade: Surface or elevation of subsoil remaining after excavation is complete, or the topsoil surface or a fill or backfill before planting soil is placed.

Subsoil: All soil beneath the topsoil layer of the soil profile, and typified by the lack of organic matter and soil organisms.

Sunset Climate Zones: Geographic regions which are divided according to their total climate. This total climate is governed by the length of growing season, timing and amount of rainfall, winter lows, summer highs, wind, and humidity.

Surface Planting Diameter: The minimum dimension of a tree planting area in any direction, provided suspended pavement systems are used to meet required soil volume underground.

Surface Soil: Soil that is present at the top layer of the existing soil profile at the project site. In undisturbed areas, the surface soil is typically the topsoil; but in disturbed areas such as urban environments, the surface soil can be subsoil.

**Suspended Pavement Systems:** Suspended pavement systems, or SPS, reference a technology that structurally supports paving over planting soil to allow growth of tree roots directly underneath paving. In addition to aiding urban tree growth, the soil can also be used for on-site stormwater management, maintaining pre-development hydrology, minimizing non-point source pollution and flooding, and recharging watersheds.

**“Topping” or “Tree Topping”:** An unacceptable tree pruning practice, which injures trees through the reduction of a tree’s size by pruning live branches and leaders to stubs, without regard to long-term tree health or structural integrity. Topping can lead to unacceptable risk, tree stress, and decay.

**Tree:** Any self-supporting woody perennial that generally matures over fifteen feet in height, generally has a minimum mature canopy width of ten feet and greater, and is capable of being shaped and pruned to develop a branch-free trunk to at least eight feet in height at maturity.

**Tree Canopy Credit:** Tree Canopy Credits quantify the value of a tree’s canopy for the purposes of defining how many trees are required on a site.

**Tree Protection Zone (TPZ):** The area surrounding the trunk of a tree intended to protect roots and soil within the Critical Root Zone and beyond, to ensure future tree health and stability. The location of the Tree Protection Zone is at the edge of the Critical Root Zone or Drip Line, whichever is greater.

**Tree sizes:** Categorized as Large, Medium or Small as determined by the Canopy Factor, which takes into account the trees mature height, mature crown spread and growth rate.

**Unpaved Surface Planting Diameter:** The minimum dimension of a tree planting area in any direction, provided suspended pavement systems are used to meet required soil volume underground.

**Urban Horticulture:** A use in which plants are grown or produced indoors for the sale of the plants or their products or for use in any business, including such things as fruits, vegetables, and other crops, flowers, ornamental plants or trees.

**Variety:** A group of plants within a species having distinct differences that occur naturally and usually within a specific geographic region.