

March/April 2019

NCLCLB News

Your source for NC Licensed Landscape Contractor information.



FOCUS ON: Planting

Spring is Almost Here!

As we did in our **January/February** issue, we're going to continue focusing on licensing basics outlined in the licensing law. These **Minimum Standards** are the law! They establish required guidelines licensees must follow on all landscape work from contracts to installation. They help ensure licensees provide quality landscape work and meet customer expectations.

With the busy season approaching, we've listed the Minimum Standards for planting below. Follow and teach your crews these **Minimum Standards** as you source, prepare, plant, and maintain landscape plants and trees.

21 NCAC 28B .0502 PLANTING

When planting, the licensed contractor shall:

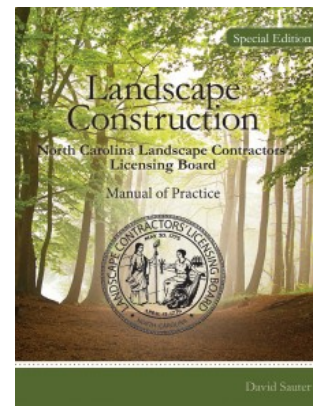
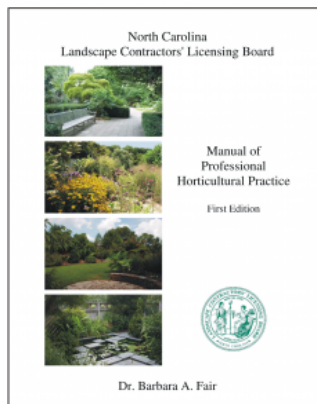
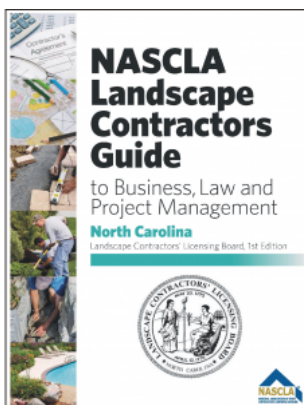
1. Avoid potential planting conflicts with utilities and sight lines.
2. Protect plant material from physical damage and desiccation during transport.
3. Maintain plants during landscape construction.
4. Consider the cultural requirements of individual plants.
5. Excavate the plant hole sufficiently to ensure plant establishment and to promote long-term health, typically two times the width of the plant ball or container size.
6. Scarify the sidewalls of the planting pit.
7. Set plants in an upright, plumb position, unless design intent dictates otherwise.
8. Set plants on a firm, solid base.
9. Remove all strings, twine, and strapping from around the trunk of trees.
10. Remove the top third to top half of burlap or other wrapping material from the rootball of balled and burlapped trees.
11. Remove top third to top half of wire baskets on balled and burlapped trees or bend basket wire back to be flush with the side of the ball.
12. Set the plant so that the top of rootball is at or slightly above surrounding soil and does not exceed four inches above the surrounding soil.

13. Prior to planting, insure that the trunk flare of a tree is not covered with soil, is at or above the surrounding finished grade, and that no soil has been placed on top of the rootball.
14. Prior to planting containerized plants, manage the rootball to mitigate problems such as circling roots. Acceptable mitigation methods shall include slicing the rootball, shaving the rootball, or redirecting roots.
15. Utilize backfill soil that is similar to the soil at the planting site or is amended to meet a specific landscaping objective.
16. Not firm backfill to a density that inhibits root growth.
17. Install backfill soil in such a manner that it is settled in layered sections to limit future settling.
18. Not utilize screened soil as the sole material for backfill.
19. When mulching plants, maintain a mulch depth that is beneficial to the health of the plants.
20. When mulch is applied, apply mulch so that it does not touch a tree trunk or root flare.
21. Water plants thoroughly and immediately after planting in accordance with the needs of the plant.
22. Notify client of his or her responsibility to water plants following installation.
23. Stake trees only when required due to high winds, extreme slopes, or soft soils;
 1. If trees are staked, the guys shall not be installed so as to provide pressure on the trunk.
 2. Guys in contact with the tree shall be of a material that will not damage the tree.
24. Provide plants that are true to name and species.
25. Provide plants that are healthy and in good condition.
26. Prune any broken limbs.
27. Prune co-dominant leaders in shade trees that typically have dominant leaders.
28. If a condition is observed while the work is being performed that is detrimental to the long-term health of the plant, the condition shall be reported to the customer or client, a supervisor, the owner, or person responsible for authorizing the work.

Additional Resources

NCLCLB has created three manuals which serve as study guides for license applicants, and comprehensive references for professionals working in the field every day.

1. NASCLA Landscape Contractors Guide to Business, Law and Project Management: [CLICK HERE](#) to order directly from the publisher.
2. NCLCLB Manual of Professional Horticultural Practice: Contact the NCLCLB office or [CLICK HERE](#) to order online.
3. NCLCLB Landscape Construction Manual: [CLICK HERE](#) to order directly from the publisher.



Did You Know?...

Did You Know?

- ***As a licensed landscape contractor you must personally attend the approved continuing education course/activity to obtain credit. Filing false information is a violation of North Carolina law (N.C.G.S. 89D).***
- NCLCLB staff will attend the League of Municipalities "CityVision 2019" trade show, May 14-15 in Hickory, NC to educate municipal officials on the landscape licensing law.
- License renewal is fast approaching. Look for renewal information toward the end of May.

Maintaining Your License

Reinstatement



If you, or a colleague, were a Licensed Landscape Contractor in 2017-2018, but missed the August 1 renewal deadline and/or did not receive enough continuing education credits, you can still be reinstated.

To reinstate your license, you will need to:

- Submit documentation of continuing education credits;
- Pay the \$100 reinstatement fee;
- Pay the \$60 license fee; and
- Pay the \$25 late renewal fee.

How much will it cost your business if you don't have a landscape contractor license?

Consider this...

Your landscape contractor license is a tool to keep you above or on an even playing field with your competition, assures you can bid on government bids, protects your customers, and is a great marketing tool to get future clients. Additionally, the required continuing education helps you stay up to date on current techniques, technologies, and research.

Failure to reinstate your license by August 1, 2019 shall result in the forfeiture of your license. Upon forfeiture, you shall be required to submit a new application and retake the examination. Which will cost considerably more in time and money than to reinstate now.

If you let your license lapse... get reinstated today!

[CLICK HERE for more information and reinstatement forms.](#)

Maintaining Your License

Continuing Education - Classes

You only have about 4 more months to get your 7 continuing education (CE) credits! That may seem like a lot of time, but spring is just around the corner. Once your busy season starts, it will be hard for you to find time to attend classes.



Complete your continuing education now, during this slower season!

Landscape Contractor licensees need to complete seven (7) continuing education hours in a renewal year (August 1 - July 31):

- (3) CEs must be technical (landscape)
- (2) CEs must be business
- The (2) remaining credits can be technical or business.

Benefits to completing credits early:

- Choose topics you're interested in, not just what is available to meet a deadline.
- Save money on travel and time away from the office.
- Find available courses in your area before they sell out.
- Have ample time to submit license renewals without stress.

[CLICK HERE for landscape contractor continuing education](#)

Use the easy-to-use list of approved courses by course#, provider, date, hours of credit, or location.

REMINDER: Take your individual NC Landscape Contractors' License Number to all CE classes for accurate reporting of your hours.

Continuing Education - Auditing

The Board will soon begin auditing licensees for continuing education (CE) compliance.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a full description of the audit requirements and process per the law:
21 NCAC 28B .0403



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