

NCLCLB Enewsletter

Your source for North Carolina Landscape Contractor information.



Focus On: Planting

It's a new license year. That means fall is here, and fall is for planting. Are you violating the Board's minimum standards?

Make sure you are following the law and planting grasses, plants, shrubs, and trees according to the licensing law's [Minimum Standards](#) (listed below). **As a licensed landscape contractor, you are bound by all the Board's minimum standards, the law, and other requirements pertaining to your license regardless of the cost of the work being performed.**

Minimum Standards is defined as a "level of quality or achievement, that is thought to be acceptable as a minimum, and below which is unacceptable." As a NC Licensed Landscape Contractor, we encourage you to go above and beyond the Minimum Standards to fulfill customer expectations and set the best example for the industry.

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.
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.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD ALL MINIMUM STANDARDS](#)

Congratulations to the 27 new professionals who have become licensed landscape contractors.

Did You Know... you can still reinstate your license?

License Reinstatement is available and much easier than re-testing.

If you missed the license renewal deadline, **please reinstate your license as soon as possible** because the law prohibits you from engaging in landscape construction or contracting if you are not licensed.

You can check your NC Landscape Contractor license status and reinstate your license online at nclclb.com. You will need your unique login id and password to reinstate your license on the web portal. Your login id and password may be found in your renewal reminder email notifications. If you do not have your login id and password, contact the Board office for assistance - landscape.licensing@nclclb.com or (919) 266-8070.

Be aware that if you do not reinstate your license by the deadline as stipulated in N.C.G.S. § 89D-20*, you will be required to submit a new application, pay all applicable fees and take the 3-part exam to become licensed again.

Reinstate today!

[CLICK HERE TO REINSTATE](#)

Maintaining Your License



Continuing Education Available for 2022-2023 Licensing Year

Landscape Contractor Licensees must complete seven (7) continuing education (CE) hours from August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023.:

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

You must personally attend the approved webinar/course/activity to obtain credit. **Filing false information is a violation of North Carolina law N.C.G.S.89D and can jeopardize your license.**

You can search the easy-to-use list of approved courses by course#, sponsor, date, hours of credit, or location.

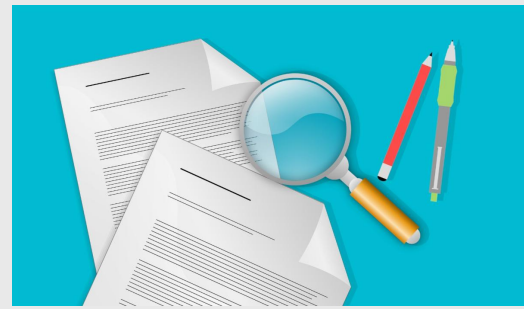
[CLICK HERE to Search for Approved Education Classes](#)



NCLCLB Portal

Our portal allows NC Licensed Landscape Contractors to easily keep track of their continuing education credits, renewal status, license history, and personal information 24/7/365.

Contact the NCLCLB office at info@nclclb.com or 919-266-8090 if you need assistance with your login ID and password.



CE Audits

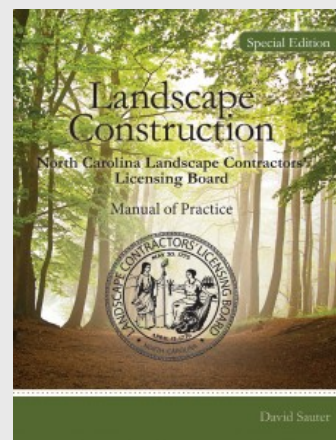
The Board is auditing licensees for continuing education (CE) compliance. License audits are conducted randomly.

To ensure your license is in compliance, make sure you maintain CE attendance records for two years following the processing date of the renewal application to which the CEs were applied.

Licensees selected for an audit shall submit all requested information to the Board within 21 calendar days after the date the licensee is notified.

Failure to maintain compliance with the Board's CE requirements shall result in the licensee's status being changed to inactive per 21 NCAC 28B .0403.

[CLICK HERE for Audit Requirements and Processes](#)



Reference Manual

This is a great reference manual to have on your shelf to refer to on landscape procedures you may need to brush up on. It is used as a study manual for the NC Landscape Contractor Licensing Exam and is a great resource

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[CLICK HERE for Reference & Study Manuals](#)



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