

Monroe County Schools Updated Sept '12

Rules for Landscaping and Planting

- 1) General
 - a) All planting on school property must be approved by the school principal and then the Construction Team. The permit application available from the school office shall be used as the tool to insure proper approval. No work is to begin without the approved permit application.
 - b) The permit application must contain a detailed plan of the landscaping. It must include adjacent buildings, sidewalks, drives, overhead electrical, light poles, etc. The desired plants must be drawn in to scale at mature size. The mature size to use is listed in this document in the plant list section. Name individual plants or use a legend so that plan plants can be identified.
 - c) Landscaping shall be used to create an aesthetically pleasing appearance without creating hazards or limiting campus visibility.
- 2) Landscape Plan Prohibited Features
 - a) Planting around vehicular traffic areas is limited to ground cover less than 30" tall. A driver must be able to see children attempting to cross driveways. Large islands may use small palms as accent plants provided they do not interfere with visibility.
 - b) Landscaping must not be planted in such a way to create blind spots or hiding places for the children. Supervision visibility is a priority. 3' to 8' area above ground should be clear for visibility. Use ground covers and shade type trees primarily.
 - c) Trees cannot be planted within their mature height of any building structure, sidewalk, or driveway. This is to prevent the trees from damaging the buildings with roots or branches.
 - d) Trees must not provide access to the building roofs.
 - e) The mature height of the tree must provide more than 10' of clearance to any overhead lines. Do not plant tall trees within their mature height of any overhead lines.
 - f) Hazardous, invasive non-native, and poisonous plants can not be used. These include plants that are toxic, thorny, contain spiked leaves, or have fall hazards like coconuts.
 - g) Planting areas must be excavated down to enhance campus drainage. Landscape materials must not mound up above the grade of the adjacent sidewalks, patios, driveways, and building foundations. Positive draining must be made to prevent flooding of adjacent areas.
 - h) Sand, gravel, and wood chips can not be used for landscape materials. Mulch is acceptable and should be used during initial planting phase until plants are established.
 - i) Windows can not be blocked by landscaping. Planting around window areas should use ground cover only.

- j) Planting that requires routine trimming is not permitted. The mature untrimmed height of the plant should be utilized in the landscape plan.
 - k) Landscape plan must incorporate the principles of Xeriscaping. Once the plants are initially established they must be capable of surviving on rainwater only.
 - l) Planting that reduces campus supervision opportunities will not be permitted. The area between 3' and 8' off the ground should be clear for visibility.
 - m) Provide a 30" buffer adjacent to buildings of ½" rock or smaller instead of mulch for insect control. Plants shall not be planted where they will grow and touch the building giving an entry path for insects.
- 3) Landscape Plan Desired Features
- a) The landscape plan should incorporate features to eliminate routine maintenance. Some of these are:
 - i) Planting area must be fully planted with low ground cover capable of choking out weeds and grass. Dune sunflower is an excellent choice.
 - ii) Planting areas should be designed to reduce edging. An island in a grass area creates edging. Planting areas in corners of sidewalks or that create the fourth side between buildings and sidewalks, reduce edging. Planting of small completely bound areas is the most desirable.
 - iii) Emphasize more ground cover and small shrubs in planting areas. Reserve large trees to create shaded hammock areas for seating areas.
 - b) Planting of natural borders between adjacent properties, or unsightly views like dumpsters and treatment plants is desirable.
 - c) Creating shaded seating areas around playgrounds and ball fields is desirable.
- 4) Plant Lists
- a) Ground Cover (less than 3')
 - i) Beach Sunflower
 - ii) Beach dumb
 - iii) Telanthra
 - iv) Marigold
 - v) Daises
 - vi) Large leaf begonia
 - vii) Blue daze
 - viii) Railroad vine
 - ix) Kimberly Fern
 - x) Macho Fern
 - xi) Pentas
 - xii) Blue Porter Weed
 - xiii) Purple heather
 - xiv) Ruella
 - xv) Muhle or Muhly Grass
 - xvi) Queen Emma Lily

b) Shrubs

- i) Wild cotton 13'
- ii) Maidenbush 10'
- iii) Indian hawthorn 4'
- iv) Hibiscus 10'
- v) Ixora 8'
- vi) Seven-year Apple 10'
- vii) Thryallis 7'
- viii) Dwarf Cocoplum 6'
- ix) Firecracker weed 4'
- x) Cassia or bahama senna 12'
- xi) Firebush 10'
- xii) Arboricola Trinette 4'
- xiii) Dwarf powderpuff – *Calliandra haematocephala*
- xiv) Jamaican caper 6'
- xv) Jasmine Downey 6'
- xvi) Bahama coffee or wild coffee 4'
- xvii) Wild passion Vine 6' but climbs higher

c) Small Palms

- i) Alexander 30'
- ii) Christmas or vietchia 15'
- iii) Travelers palm 20'
- iv) Buccaneer 20'
- v) Silver 20'
- vi) Keys thatch 20'
- vii) Cat palm

d) Trees

- i) Geiger 30'
- ii) Torchwood 20'
- iii) Black torch 15'
- iv) Strongback or strongbark 20' shrubby
- v) Blolly 30'
- vi) Paradise 25'
- vii) Tabebuia 25'
- viii) Lignum Vitae 25'
- ix) Satinleaf 25'
- x) Stopper (red, spanish, white) 25'
- xi) Pitch apple 40'
- xii) Frangipani 40'
- xiii) Gumbo limbo 60'
- xiv) Mahogany 75'
- xv) Tamarind 75'
- xvi) Jamaica Dogwood 40'
- xvii) Seagrape 30'
- xviii) Buttonwood 60'
- xix) Pidgeon plum 40'

- xx) Ironwood 25'
- xxi) Italian cypress
- xxii) Locustberry
- xxiii) Weeping bottle brush bush

e) **Prohibited Plants** – *Thorns, points, Coconuts, Toxic, or Invasive. Plants that can present a hazard to children or the public, and invasive or problem plants are not to be planted on school properties.*

- i) Oleander
- ii) Poison Wood
- iii) Lily of the Valley
- iv) Foxglove
- v) Arrow head
- vi) Dieffenbachia, mother in law tongue, Dumb cane
- vii) Caladium
- viii) Phiodendron
- ix) Peace Lily
- x) Pothos
- xi) Castor bean
- xii) Rosary pea
- xiii) Glory lily
- xiv) Autumn crocus
- xv) Lantana
- xvi) China berry
- xvii) Croton
- xviii) Poinsettia
- xix) American Holly
- xx) Milkweed
- xxi) Necklace Pod
- xxii) Coontie
- xxiii) Plumbago
- xxiv) Washintonian palm (thorns on frond)
- xxv) Coconut palm (due to falling coconuts)
- xxvi) Fishtail palm
- xxvii) Bougainvillea including dwarf due to thorns
- xxviii) Spanish Bayonet (points)
- xxix) Wandering Jew (invasive)
- xxx) Asparagus fern (invasive)
- xxxi) Sword fern (invasive)
- xxxii) Scavolea (invasive)
- xxxiii) Shefflera (invasive)
- xxxiv) Wild lime or similar citrus trees with thorns
- xxxv) Orchid tree (invasive)