

Forsyth County Buffer Standards

The intent of the Forsyth County Buffer Standards is to provide visual screening between adjoining uses. Required buffers must be planted where vegetation is non-existent or where disturbed for approved access in accordance with the following standards. Supplemental planting, incorporating existing trees, will be required in cases where the buffer is sparsely vegetated in order to satisfy these standards.

1. Trees and shrubs to be planted shall be selected from the Table of Pre-Approved Buffer Species. The County Arborist may approve the use of species not listed.
2. The number of rows required within planted buffers is based on the buffer width:

Buffer Width	Minimum Planting Rows
< 30'	2
30' to 39'	3
40' to 50'	4
> 50'	4 plus 1 row for each additional 15 feet

3. No one species may comprise more than one-third (1/3) of the total buffer.
4. Two-thirds (2/3) of the species must be overstory species and shall be evenly distributed throughout the buffer.
5. The buffer must be in place prior to approval of a Final Plat for residential projects or Certificate of Occupancy for non-residential projects.
6. Trees or shrubs that die in the first year must be replaced by the Developer.

Table of Pre-Approved Buffer Species

PLANT TYPE	MINIMUM HEIGHT (At planting)	MAXIMUM SPACING WITHIN ROWS (On-center)	NOTES	FORM
Leyland Cypress (<i>Cupressocyparis leylandi</i>)	6 feet	12 feet	Sun	Overstory
Green Giant Arborvitae (<i>Thuja standishii x plicata 'Green Giant'</i>)	6 feet	12 feet	Sun to partial shade	Overstory
Eastern Hemlock (<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>)	6 feet	10 feet	Sun	Overstory
Eastern White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	6 feet	10 feet	Sun	Overstory
Deodar Cedar (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>)	6 feet	12 feet	Sun, drought tolerant	Overstory
Eastern Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>)	6 feet	10 feet	Sun	Overstory
Virginia Pine (<i>Pinus virginiana</i>)	5 feet	6 feet	Sun	Overstory
Japanese Cryptomeria (<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>)	6 feet	15 feet	Sun	Overstory
Southern Magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>)	6 feet	15 feet	Sun to shade, drought tolerant	Overstory
American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>)	6 feet	8 feet	Sun to shade, drought tolerant	Understory
Savannah Holly (<i>Ilex X attenuata 'Savannah'</i>)	6 feet	8 feet	Sun to shade, drought tolerant	Understory
Foster Holly (<i>Ilex x attenuata 'Fosteri'</i>)	6 feet	8 feet	Sun to shade, drought tolerant	Understory
Nellie R. Stevens Holly (<i>Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'</i>)	6 feet	8 feet	Sun to shade, drought tolerant	Understory
Yaupon Holly (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>)	6 feet	6 feet	Sun to shade, drought tolerant	Understory
Southern Waxmyrtle (<i>Myrica cerifera</i>)	6 feet	10 feet	Sun, drought tolerant	Understory
Devilwood (<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>)	6 feet	8 feet	Semi-shade	Understory
Carolina Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>)	6 feet	8 feet	Sun to semi-shade, drought tolerant	Understory
Loropetalum (<i>Loropetalum chinense</i>)	3 feet	5 feet	Semi-shade	Shrub
Florida Leucothoe (<i>Agarista populifolia</i>)	3 feet	5 feet	Shade	Shrub
Florida Anise (<i>Illicium floridanum</i>)	3 feet	8 feet	Shade	Shrub
Small Anise-Tree (<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>)	3 feet	8 feet	Semi-shade to full shade	Shrub
Formosa Firethorn (<i>Pyracantha koidzumii</i>)	3 feet	8 feet	Sun, drought tolerant	Shrub

Example buffer design:

