



MEMORANDUM
Town of Nags Head
Planning & Development Department

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Kelly Wyatt, Deputy Planning Director
Kate Jones, Engineering Technician
Date: January 26, 2021
Subject: Update on Vegetative Planting Guidelines Document

The attached Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines document was created in late 2015 and early 2016 in conjunction with an update to the commercial landscaping and buffering requirements that originated with the Local Business Committee's discussion with business owners on potential obstacles to the success of businesses within the Town. At that time, Planning Staff met with the Planning Board, members of the Local Business Committee, and the then-Director of the Dare County Extension Office to create this guidance document, emphasizing the use of the native vegetation and outlining the appropriate planting zones. This document was last presented to the Board of Commissioners at their February 2016 meeting where it was noted that these guidelines, while referenced in the Town's Zoning Ordinance (now referenced in the UDO), are not technically part of the Ordinance, and that the Guidelines would continue to evolve, as necessary.

Over the course of five years this document has proven to be very beneficial with few edits being necessary. As an administrative guidance document, although this does not require review and a hearing similar to a text amendment to the UDO, we believe it is appropriate for amendments to be recognized and approved by the Board. At this time, we would like to remove Pampas Grass from the Guidelines as an appropriate species, as we have learned that it is considered to be an invasive species. This does not preclude someone from planting Pampas Grass, however, it would not satisfy certain buffering or landscaping requirements of the Unified Development Ordinance.

Staff will be available for any further discussion or questions that may arise.

Attachments: Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines, February 2016 Staff Report.



Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Item No:
Meeting Date: January 6, 2016

Item Title: Public Hearing to consider numerous zoning ordinance text amendments related to the Town's landscaping and buffering ordinances.

Item Summary:

This proposed zoning ordinance revision is being brought forth following discussion and guidance by the Local Business Committee and a joint workshop held with the Local Business Committee, the Planning Board and Director of the Dare County Cooperative Extension, Shannon Brooks. The proposed text amendments serve several purposes such as buffering incompatible uses, softening the appearance of commercial parking lots, providing incentives to use natural/native and locally adaptive landscaping, enhancing community aesthetics, encouraging landscaping that will grow well where it is proposed and to provide flexibility in designing natural landscapes, such as the clustering and grouping of varieties of plantings as opposed to linear plantings. The framework of the proposed revision is two-fold: the ordinance itself and a separate Vegetative Planting Guidelines document. The Planting Guidelines are an evolving document as information will be added beyond the adoption of the ordinance amendment and plant list.

Planning Board Recommendation: At its December 8, 2015 regular meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the proposed ordinance as presented. Planning Staff will continue to report to the Planning Board on additions to the Vegetative Planting Guidelines document.

Number of Attachments: 1

Specific Action Requested:

Conduct the public hearing for consideration of zoning text amendments.

Submitted By: Planning and Development Date: January 25, 2016

Finance Officer Comment:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Town Attorney Comment:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Town Manager Comment and/or Recommendation:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Andy Garman, Deputy Town Manager
Kelly Wyatt, Deputy Planning Director and Zoning Administrator

DATE: February 3, 2016

SUBJECT: Consideration of proposed text amendments related to the Towns landscaping and buffering ordinances.

The attached ordinance related to commercial landscaping and buffering requirements originated with the Local Business Committee when the Town's current landscaping requirements were identified as a potential obstacle to the success of businesses within the Town.

The Towns current parking ordinance requires that, where off-street parking is provided between the building and right-of-way, a buffer strip of at least five feet in width shall be provided with a Buffer Yard C, one row of plantings with 5 ft. tall trees spaced on 10 ft. centers. When applying this requirement, the result is a line of vegetation that, when mature, can fully obstruct visibility of the business. As staff, we often receive requests to eliminate or "top" these trees in order to provide better visibility for both patrons and customers as well as for public safety purposes.

The Local Business Committee spent several meetings discussing this issue and felt as though a revision to our Code allowing a more natural clumping of the required vegetation would be ideal. This change would allow for greater visibility, more creativity in plantings, and a more natural aesthetic.

When planning staff first presented this information to the Planning Board at its July 2015 meeting, it was Board consensus that, in addition to the proposed revisions, staff should consider examining the landscaping chapter more holistically and address other concerns such as the use of invasive species to satisfy buffering requirements.

The proposal before you today is the product of numerous meetings including a joint workshop held with between the Planning Board and the Local Business Committee on September 24, 2015 with Dare County Extension Director, Shannon Brooks in attendance, as well as follow-up review by the Local Business Committee from its October 15, 2015 meeting. The ordinance relies on a new vegetation planting guidelines document which includes a recommended plant list broken down by appropriate planting zones. The proposed ordinance is based on the following purposes and framework:

Draft Nags Head Landscaping and Buffering Ordinance

Purposes

- To buffer incompatible uses.
- To soften the appearance of commercial parking lots and sites.
- To provide natural/native and locally adaptive landscaping (non-invasive).
- To enhance community aesthetics.
- To encourage/require landscaping that will grow well where it is proposed.
- To provide flexibility for owners to design natural landscapes and less focus on specific spacing requirements. Planting plans will include a specific number of required plantings, a mixture of sizes, and must ensure that some of the vegetation is visible from the street and contributes to overall community appearance.

Framework

- Ordinance would require landscaping or preservation of vegetation for commercial sites.
- Emphasis on preserving existing vegetation (this is weighted in meeting the requirement). Only clear what is necessary during construction and this must be approved during site plan review.
- Menu of allowable plant types would be based on a set of guidelines that would exist outside the ordinance (which could be modified without the need for code amendments).
- Guidelines would include a plant list broken down by planting zones (beach, highway, soundside). Not all plans would be the same. A beach road plan would be different than a highway plan. Plant material required along the beach road may focus on shrubs and grasses and less on trees. The list would specify size categories for plant material and plans must include a mixture of sizes. This list would also note evergreen species and a percentage of plants would need to be evergreen. Guidelines would include plant cluster diagrams appropriate for each zone. Designers could incorporate these into landscape designs.
- Property owners would need a plan for maintenance. Incentives would be included for irrigated sites.

The proposed draft ordinance and plant list portion of the Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines has been attached for your review. Staff will still need to complete additional materials in the Guidelines including more detailed information on plant species as well as plant cluster diagrams that could be used by designers to develop landscape plans.

Since the guidelines are not proposed to be part of the adopted town code, these items could continue to evolve beyond the adoption of the zoning amendment and plant list.

As information, the following items were revised for the Planning Board's consideration at their December 8, 2015 meeting:

- Section 48-483(a)(4) was revised to remove the 25 percent shrub planting requirement in the Beach Planting Zone in lieu of planting ornamental grasses.
- Section 48-483(a)(9) was revised to allow a reduction in plantings for the use of native vegetation.
- Section 48-483(a)(9) was revised to clarify that the number of plantings shall be reduced by 10 percent when drip irrigation is utilized.
- Section 48-371(g) was revised to reduce the tree caliper from 8-inches to 6-inches to provide consistency with our tree removal ordinance.
- Section 48-485(b)(1) has been eliminated in its entirety and replaced with the new planting chart.

Planning Board Recommendation:

At its December 8, 2015 regular meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the proposed ordinance as presented. Planning Staff will continue to report to the Planning Board on additions to the Vegetative Planting Guidelines document.

Landscape Architect, Jim Connors was in attendance at the Planning Board's December 8, 2015 meeting and briefly addressed the Board to express his appreciation of the ordinance and to request that in the future staff and the appropriate Boards consider eliminating the need for a landscape plan at the site plan approval phase in order to allow applicants more time to seek a professional landscape designer. He felt this would go a long way towards getting better, more thoughtful and aesthetic landscape designs. Mr. Connors went on to suggest having approval of the landscape plan tied to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

Attachments:

- Draft commercial landscaping and buffering ordinance
- Draft Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF THE TOWN OF NAGS HEAD, NORTH CAROLINA**

ARTICLE I. Purpose(s) and Authority.

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-381, the Town of Nags Head (the "Town") may enact and amend ordinances regulating the zoning and development of land within its jurisdiction and specifically the location and use of buildings, structures and land. Pursuant to this authority and the additional authority granted by N.C.G.S. Chap. 160A, Art. 19 et. seq, the Town has adopted a comprehensive zoning ordinance (the "Town's Zoning Ordinance") and has codified the same as Chapter 48 of the Town's Code of Ordinances (the "Town Code"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-174 the Town may also enact and amend ordinances that define, prohibit, regulate, or abate acts, omissions, or conditions, detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of its citizens and the peace and dignity of the Town; and

WHEREAS, a zoning ordinance text amendment was drafted by Planning Staff and initiated by the Planning Board as relates to landscaping and buffering requirements for commercial uses within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds that these text amendments are consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of the Town's adopted Land Use Plan, and that this action is reasonable and in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the Town further finds that in accordance with the findings above it is in the interest of and not contrary to the public's health, safety, morals and general welfare for the Town to amend the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Town Code of Ordinances as stated below.

ARTICLE II. Construction.

For purposes of this ordinance amendment, underlined words (underline) shall be considered as additions to existing Town Code language and strikethrough words (~~strikethrough~~) shall be considered deletions to existing language. Any portions of the adopted Town Code which are not repeated herein, but are instead replaced by an ellipses ("...") shall remain as they currently exist within the Town Code.

ARTICLE III. Amendment of Zoning Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Nags Head, North Carolina, that the Town Code shall be amended as follows:

PART I. That Section **Sec. 48-483. - Buffer regulations (a)**, be replaced in its entirety with the following language:

~~(a) *General requirements.* Any new use of land shall provide a buffer yard if required by this chapter in accordance with the following provisions:~~

~~(1) When a buffer yard of a minimum width of five feet is required, one row of planting material shall be required.~~

~~(2) When a buffer yard of a minimum width of ten feet is required, two rows of planting material at least four feet apart shall be required.~~

- (3) Within each row all shrubs, forbs, and grasses shall be placed on five-foot centers and all trees shall be placed on ten-foot centers.
- (4) At a minimum, 80 percent of the number of plants shall be locally adapted, live evergreen tree species that are a minimum height of three feet and one inch in diameter measured at one-half foot above grade when planted and are expected to reach or exceed the specified height in the required time period. The remainder of the buffer may be live forbs and shrubs that are a minimum height of one and one-half feet when planted and expected to reach or exceed the specified height in the required time period. The number of forbs shall not exceed five percent of the total number of plants.

(a) General requirements. Any new use of land shall provide a buffer yard if required by this chapter in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) Buffer yards are defined as at least five feet wide. The total number of plants required by the table below shall be doubled for every additional five feet of required buffer width.
- (2) The table below defines the required number of plants for each 100 feet of buffer yard length according to planting zone.

Number and Type of Required Plants for each 100 feet of Buffer Yard Length			
<u>Planting Zone</u>	<u>Trees</u>	<u>Shrubs</u>	<u>Ornamental Grasses/ Herbaceous Plants</u>
<u>Beach</u>		<u>30</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Highway or Soundside</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>*The total number of plants required by this table shall be doubled for every additional five feet of required buffer width.</u>			

- (3) Required species of plant material and appropriate planting zones are defined by the Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines, which can be obtained from the Town of Nags Head Planning and Development Department.
- (4) Ornamental grasses that will grow to a mature height of at least three feet may be substituted for required shrubs in the Beach planting zone.
- (5) Except as otherwise specified herein, at a minimum, 50 percent of the number of plants shall be locally adapted, evergreen species. Trees shall be a minimum height of five feet and one inch in diameter measured at one-half foot above grade when planted and are expected to reach or exceed the specified height in the required time period. Shrubs shall be a minimum height of one and one-half feet when planted and expected to reach or exceed the specified height in the required time period.
- (6) Except where necessary to provide a commercial transitional protective yard or opaque screen to separate different land uses, clustering and/or random spacing of plants and trees is encouraged to produce a natural appearance in the landscape.

- (7) Landscaping plans are encouraged to include a variety of species to promote overall diversity of plant materials within the Town. Applicants may propose other plant material not included in the Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines if it can be demonstrated that it is equal to or exceeds the plant material in the Guidelines in terms of size, hardiness, and overall quality.
- (8) Landscaping plans must include installation specifications and a maintenance plan to address long-term viability of proposed landscaping.
- (9) Properties that provide for drip irrigation of landscape materials or a landscape plan that consists entirely of native planting materials as specified in the Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines may reduce the overall number of required plantings by 10 percent.

PART II. That Section **Sec. 48-371. - Commercial design standards (g)** be amended as follows:

- (g) Open space preservation/landscaping requirements. Except when necessary to provide access to a site or to ensure the safety and security of people and property, any existing healthy trees that are 6 inches or greater in caliper, located within a public right-of-way or undeveloped required yard shall be retained unless approved for removal during site plan review. In addition, every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and retain existing trees and shrubs not actually lying in planned roadways, drainageways, building foundation sites and construction activity areas.

~~In addition to the above requirement,~~ All permitted and conditional uses, except for those located in the C-3 commercial services district, for which site plan review is required by the Planning Board and site plan approval is required by the Board of Commissioners shall comply with one of the following requirements, or a combination of both using the ratios provided in the table below. The following requirements shall be applied separate of any required buffer yard, with the exception that preserved natural vegetation may be applied towards both.

PART III. That **Sec. 48-485. - Preservation of existing vegetation** be amended as follows:

- (a) The provisions of this subsection may be applicable only in instances where the site does not abut a residential use or district.
- (b) For uses which are required to install buffer yards in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the number of trees, forbs, and shrubs required within the buffer yard may be satisfied through the preservation of significant specimens of existing native vegetation in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (1) Areas designated for the preservation of existing vegetation shall contain examples of significant native or locally adaptive vegetation, which may include, but shall not be limited to, combinations of trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses that are listed in the ~~following table~~ Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines.

Trees	Shrubs & Forbs	Grasses and Dune Plants
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Naturally Occurring	Naturally Occurring	Naturally Occurring
Eastern Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>)	Northern Bayberry (<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>)	American Beachgrass (<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>)
Live Oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>)	Southern Wax Myrtle (<i>Myrica cerifera</i>)	Seashore Elder (<i>Iva imbricata</i>)
Loblolly Pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>)	Yucca (<i>Yucca</i> sp.)	Sea Oats (<i>Uniola paniculata</i>)
Southern Red Oak (<i>Quercus falcata</i>)	Red Bay (<i>Persea</i> sp.)	Seaside Goldenrod (<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>)
Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)	Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	Bitter Panicum (<i>Panicum amarum</i>)
American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>)	Locally Adaptive	Locally Adaptive
Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	Pittosporum, Green or Variegated (<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>)	Seaholly (<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>)
Yaupon Holly (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>)	Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>)	
Locally Adaptive	Pampassgrass (<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>)	
Japanese Black Pine (<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>)	Indian Hawthorne (<i>Rhaphiolepis</i> sp.)	
Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>)	Pyracantha (<i>Pyracantha</i> sp.)	
	Dwarf Yaupon Holly (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Nana')	
	Shore Juniper (<i>Juniperus conferta</i>)	
	Thorny Elaeagnus (Russian Olive <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>)*	
	Evergreen Euonymus (<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>)	
	Wax Leaf Privet (<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>)	
	Chinese Privet (<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>)	

PART IV. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the ___ day of ____ 2016.

Robert C. Edwards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Town Attorney

Date adopted: _____

Motion to adopt by Commissioner _____

Motion seconded by Commissioner _____

Vote: _____ AYES _____ NAYS



TOWN OF NAGS HEAD VEGETATIVE PLANTING GUIDELINES

This vegetative planting guidelines document is designed to complement the requirements in Town Code Sections 48-370 and 48-371 related to residential and commercial design standards as well as Article XIII related to buffering requirements. Below is a description of the purpose and framework of the ordinance.

Purpose

- To buffer incompatible uses
- To soften the appearance of commercial parking lots, sites, and large structures
- To provide natural/native and locally adaptive landscaping (non-invasive)
- To enhance community aesthetics
- To encourage/require landscaping that will grow well where it is proposed
- To reduce air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen
- To reduce erosion by dispersing and absorbing rainfall
- To reduce stream pollution by stabilizing soil and slowing, dispersing and absorbing storm water runoff.
- To reduce storm water runoff and the potential for flooding.
- Buffer and landscape trees and other plants also help reduce noise from auto traffic, glare from auto and other lights and help collect & reduce litter from reaching adjacent properties and roadways.
- To provide flexibility for owners to design natural landscapes and less focus on specific spacing requirements. Planting plans may include a specific number of required plantings, a mixture of sizes, and must ensure that some of the vegetation is visible from the street and contributes to overall community appearance.

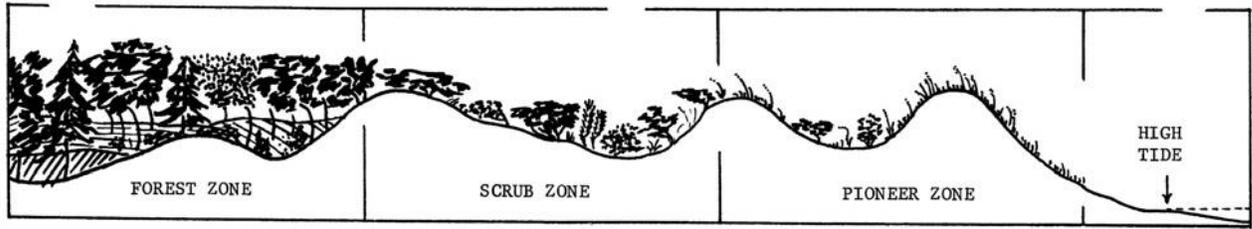
Framework

- The Town's ordinance requires landscaping or preservation of vegetation for commercial sites and for large residential dwellings.
- The emphasis is on preserving existing vegetation (this is weighted in meeting the requirement). For commercial sites, property owners should plan to clear only what is necessary for the construction of improvements and this must be approved by the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners during site plan review.
- The Town of Nags Head Vegetative Guidelines document includes a list of suggested plant types. Landscaping plans are required to include a mixture of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and groundcovers, and/or grasses based on a formula prescribed in the ordinance.
- The plant list is broken down by planting zones (beach and highway). Landscaping plans should include planting materials that are appropriate for the zone in which they are proposed (see cross section diagram below). For example, plant material required in the beach zone may focus on shrubs and grasses and less on trees.
- Additionally, the list identifies which plants are evergreen species. The ordinance requires a certain number of plants from each category and also requires a minimum percentage of evergreen species.
- This information is provided for reference purposes only. The Town of Nags Head makes no guarantee as to the heartiness or performance of listed plants in these areas; there are many other factors that will affect their survival.
- This guidelines document also includes cluster diagrams appropriate for each zone that designers may use to incorporate these into landscape designs. The cluster diagrams are designed to meet the town's requirements and include native plant materials.
- Property owners need to address maintenance as part of their landscaping plan. Since irrigation can be integral to the success and survival of plant material, the number of required plants may be reduced by 10 percent for sites with drip irrigation.

Sources of Information for the Attached Plant List.

The plant list provide herein has been compiled from the NC State Agricultural Extension Service, Dare County's Cooperative Extension for plant types specifically suited for Nags Head and Southeastern North Carolina. A substantial amount of information on plant type and suitability is available from the Extension Service Website.

Barrier Island Cross Section with Generalized Vegetative Zones



Excerpt from Seacoast Plants of the Carolinas – For Conservation and Beautification, UNC Sea Grant Program, February 1973

<p><u>Pine and hardwood or “forest” zone located on the leeward side of the island usually behind a dune ridge which provides protection from salt and wind;</u></p>	<p><u>Middle “scrub” zone usually starts behind the protection of the frontal dunes</u></p>	<p><u>“grass” or “pioneer” zone closest to the ocean with the most direct exposure to salt and wind</u></p>
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Barrier Island Cross Section with Generalized Vegetative Zones Excerpt from Seacoast Plants of the Carolinas – For Conservation and Beautification, UNC Sea Grant Program, February 1973.

The pine and hardwood or “forest” zone is typically located on the leeward side of the island usually behind a dune ridge which provides protection from salt and wind. This is most closely associated with the Nags Head Woods area of the Town. The middle “scrub” zone usually starts behind the protection of the frontal dunes between the “grass” or “pioneer” zone and the “forest” zone. The “grass” or “pioneer” zone is located closest to the ocean with the most direct exposure to salt and wind. Not listed in the above diagram is the salt marsh zone which is typically located along the sound shoreline between the high and low tide line.

The Town of Nags Head Vegetative Guidelines and associated ordinances describe two primary zones; the beach zone and the highway zone. This is based on the two primary areas where landscaping plans will be required within the Town. The beach zone is most closely associated with the grass or pioneer zone as depicted in the above barrier island transect. This will include areas along the oceanfront extending generally to the parcels fronting the western edge of NC 12 (South Virginia Dare Trail) and SR 1243 (South Oregon Inlet Road). Except for some exposed areas of the US 64/264 causeway, most other areas of the town will be included in the highway zone.

Purpose of this Plant List

The list attached is to be used as a guide for the reader only. The list of plants and shrubs included are not the only types of trees and shrubs that may be used to meet the requirements in the Town of Nags Head Zoning Ordinance for landscaping and buffering. The list only provides examples of plants that may be suitable for the locations on sites, where landscaping and plantings are required by the zoning ordinance. Many other types, species and varieties of plants can be used and are available. Plants for non-residential sites should be chosen that are low maintenance and adaptable to the conditions peculiar to the site. Landscape architects, local nurseries, plant suppliers, the NC Agricultural Extension Service or other available sources should be consulted when making a substantial investment in plant materials and installation. The wrong choice in plant type can result in considerable expense in replacement. Buffers and Landscaping required by the Zoning Ordinance must be maintained for the duration of the permit issued for the site and the use. Preservation of existing trees and vegetation around the perimeter of the site and other key locations on the site can save substantial financial resources. Advance planning prior to clearing of the site for development is suggested to save time and money. Early preparation of a site for any proposed development can preclude unnecessary expenditures for buffer and some landscape plantings by preserving existing vegetation on the site.

TOWN OF NAGS HEAD VEGETATIVE PLANTING GUIDELINES								
Plant Name	Height	Sun/Shade Tolerance	Moisture Requirements	Growth Rate	Scientific Name	Preferred Planting Zone	Ref. Page	
Trees, Evergreen								
Live Oak	6-40'	Sun	Medium	slow	Quercus virginiana	Highway & Soundside		
Eastern Red Cedar	10-25'	Sun	Medium	slow/mod	Juniperus virginiana	Highway & Soundside		
American Holly	10-20'	Sun	Medium	slow	Ilex opaca	Highway & Soundside		
Japanese Black Pine		Sun	Low	slow/mod	Pinus thunbergii	Highway & Soundside		
Redbay	10-40'	Sun/Shade	Low	slow/mod	Persea borbonia	Highway & Soundside		
Swamp Bay	10-30'	Sun	Medium	slow/mod	Persea palustris	Highway & Soundside		
Carolina Laurelcherry	10-20'	Sun/Shade	Medium	slow/mod	Prunus caroliniana	Highway & Soundside		
Cabbage Palmetto	15-30'	Sun/Shade	Medium	mod/rapid	Sabal palmetto	Highway & Soundside		
Southern Magnolia	50-70'	Sun		mod	Magnolia grandiflora	Soundside		
Hollywood Juniper	15-20'	Sun		Mod/rapid	Juniperus chinensis "Torulosa"	Beach		
Yaupon Holly	10-25'	Sun/Shade		Mod	Ilex vomitoria	Highway & Soundside		

Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines

TOWN OF NAGS HEAD VEGETATIVE PLANTING GUIDELINES								
Plant Name	Height	Sun/Shade Tolerance	Moisture Requirements	Growth Rate	Scientific Name	Preferred Planting Zone	Ref. Page	
Trees, Deciduous								
Bald Cypress	60'	Sun		Rapid	Taxodium distichum	Highway & Soundside		
Red Maple	45'	Sun		Mod	Acer rubrum	Highway & Soundside		
Flowering Dogwood	20-30'	Sun/Shade	Medium	slow	Cornus florida	Highway & Soundside		
Redbud	20-25'	Shade	Mod		Cercis canadensis	Soundside		
Devilwood/Wild Olive	15-25'	Sun	Low	mod	Osmanthus americanus	Highway & Soundside		
Serviceberry	15-20'	Sun/Shade		Mod	Amelanchier Canadensis	Soundside		
Black Cherry	10-60'	Sun/Shade	Low	mod	Prunus serotina	Highway & Soundside		
Crape Myrtle	10-40'	Sun/Shade	Medium	mod	Lagerstroemia indica	Highway & Soundside		
Shrubs, Evergreen								
Yaupon (regular and dwarf)	10-20'	Sun/Shade	Medium	slow	Ilex vomitoria	Highway & Soundside		
Japanese Pittosporum	6-10'	Sun	Medium	mod	Pittosporum tobira	Beach, Highway & Soundside		
Northern Bayberry	4-10'	Sun	Medium	mod	Myrica pensylvanica	Beach, Highway & Soundside		
Japanese Privet	4-16'	Sun	Medium	rapid	Ligustrum japonicum	Highway & Soundside		

Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines

TOWN OF NAGS HEAD VEGETATIVE PLANTING GUIDELINES								
Plant Name	Height	Sun/Shade Tolerance	Moisture Requirements	Growth Rate	Scientific Name	Preferred Planting Zone	Ref. Page	
European Privet	8-15'	Sun	Medium	rapid	Ligustrum vulgare	Highway & Soundside		
Inkberry	4-8'	Sun	Medium	slow	Ilex glabra	Highway & Soundside		
Southern Wax Myrtle	8-10'	Sun/Shade	Low	mod	Myrica cerifera	Highway & Soundside		
Yucca (Adamsneedle, Beargrass)	3-5'	Sun/Shade	Low	slow	Yucca filamentosa	Beach, Highway and Soundside		
Yucca (Moundlily)	6-15'	Sun/Shade	Low	slow	Yucca gloriosa	Beach, Highway and Soundside		
Evergreen Euonymus	10-15'	Sun/Shade	Low	mod	Euonymus japonicus	Beach, Highway & Sound		
Oleander	6-15'	Sun	Low	mod	Nerium oleander	Highway & Soundside		
Butcher's broom	2-4'	Shade	Low	slow/mod	Ruscus aculeatus	Beach, Highway and Sound		
Shrubby Yew Podocarpus	6-20'	Sun/Shade	Medium	slow	Podocarpus macrophyllus maki	Highway & Soundside		
Yeddo Hawthorn	4-8'	Sun/Shade	Low	slow	Rhaphiolepis umbellata	Beach, Highway and Soundside		
Shore Juniper	1-2'	Sun	Medium	rapid	Juniperus conferta	Highway & Soundside		
Banks Rose	1-4'	Sun	High	rapid, vining	Rosa banksiae	Highway & Soundside		
Rugosa Rose	4-6'	Sun	Medium	moderate	Rosa rugosa	Highway & Soundside		
Memorial Rose	1-2'	Sun	Medium	moderate	Rosa wichuraiana	Highway & Soundside		

Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines

TOWN OF NAGS HEAD VEGETATIVE PLANTING GUIDELINES								
Plant Name	Height	Sun/Shade Tolerance	Moisture Requirements	Growth Rate	Scientific Name	Preferred Planting Zone	Ref. Page	
Shrubs, Deciduous								
Chickasaw Plum	4-8'	Sun	Medium	slow/mod	Prunus angustifolia	Highway & Soundside		
Dwarf Witch Alder	2-4'	Sun/Shade	Low	slow	Fothergilla gardenii	Highway & Soundside		
American Beautyberry	4-6'	Sun/Shade	Medium	slow	Callicarpa americana	Highway & Soundside		
Spicebush	5-20'	Sun	Low	slow	Lindera benzoin	Highway & Soundside		
Pampassgrass	5-10'	Sun	Low	slow	Cortaderia selloana	Beach, Highway & Soundside		
Herbaceous Plants & Groundcovers								
Butterfly Weed	1-3'	Sun	Low	slow/mod	Asclepias tuberosa	Highway & Soundside		
Redring Milkweed	1-3'	Sun	Low	slow/mod	Asclepias variegata	Highway & Soundside		
Lanceleaf Coreopsis	1-2'	Sun	Low	mod	Coreopsis lanceolata	Highway & Soundside		
Purple Coneflower	2-4'	Sun	Low	mod	Echinacea purpurea	Highway, Soundside		
Joe Pye Weed	2-7'	Sun	Low	slow	Eupatorium fistulosum	Beach & Highway		

TOWN OF NAGS HEAD VEGETATIVE PLANTING GUIDELINES								
Plant Name	Height	Sun/Shade Tolerance	Moisture Requirements	Growth Rate	Scientific Name	Preferred Planting Zone	Ref. Page	
Woodland Sunflower	2-6'	Sun	Low	slow	Helianthus divaricatus	Highway & Soundside		
Sweet black eyed Susan	2-5'	Sun	Low	slow	Rudbeckia subtomentosa	Highway & Soundside		
Seaholly Eryngo	1-4'	Sun	Low	mod	Eryngium maritimum	Beach, Highway & Soundside		
Seaside Goldenrod	1-3'	Sun	Low	mod	Solidago sempervirens	Beach & Highway		
Blanket Flower	1-3'	Sun	Low	mod	Gaillardia pulchella	Beach & Highway		
Carolina Jessamine	vine	Sun	Medium	mod, vining	Gelsemium sempervirens	Highway & Soundside		
Trumpet Honeysuckle	vine	Sun	Medium	mod, vining	Lonicera sempervirens	Highway & Soundside		
Dustymiller	1'	Sun	Medium	mod	Artemisia stelleriana	Beach, Highway & Soundside		
Cypress Lavendercotton	1-3'	Sun	Low	slow	Santolina chamaecyparissus	Beach, Highway & Soundside		
Ornamental Grasses								
American Beachgrass	2-3'	Sun	Low	rapid	Ammophila breviligulata	Beach		
Sea Oats	2-6'	Sun	Low	mod	Uniola paniculata	Beach		
Switchgrass	3-5'	Sun	Medium	rapid	Panicum virgatum	Beach		
Bitter Panicum	3-5'	Sun	Low	mod	Panicum amaratum	Beach		
River Oats	2-3'	Shade	Medium	mod	Chasmanthium latifolium	Beach		
Purple Muhly Grass	2-4'	Sun	Medium	mod	Muhlenbergia capillaris	Beach		

Town of Nags Head Vegetative Planting Guidelines

TOWN OF NAGS HEAD VEGETATIVE PLANTING GUIDELINES								
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Little Blue Stem	1-3'	Sun	Low	mod	Schizyachyruim scoparium	Beach		

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE

For detailed information about each plant and to see imaged visit the Plant Fact Sheets on the NC Cooperative Extension Consumer Horticulture website: www.ncstate-plants.net

More fact sheets of recommended plants and other local garden and landscape information are available from the Dare County Cooperative Extension website at: <https://dare.ces.ncsu.edu/>

CONTACT COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

If you have questions about plant selection and maintenance, lawn care, vegetable gardening or plant pest problems call or visit your local North Carolina Cooperative Extension Office.

The Dare County Cooperative Extension Center is open 8:30am to 5pm, Monday – Friday and is located at: Dare County Center
517 Budleigh Street
Manteo, NC 27954
(252) 473-4290

For residents of other counties in North Carolina, find out how to contact your local Cooperative Extension Office at North Carolina Cooperative Extension.