

CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES
POLICY FOR LANDSCAPE SCREENING

The Policy for Landscape Screening is established to implement the City's desire to require landscape screening as a condition of certain discretionary approvals. It is the goal of this policy to provide for effective landscape screening from a palette of proven vegetation. The policy shall be comprised of these instructions and a listing of acceptable screening vegetation.

Landscape screening is typically required when a new structure causes concerns regarding aesthetics or privacy impacts. The screening is required by the City to mitigate these concerns, such as by softening the look of a wall or obscuring the view into a window or yard from a neighboring property.

When an approval is granted by the City that requires landscape screening, the requirement shall include the area where the landscape screening shall be installed and the height at which the screening shall be maintained. The party receiving the approval shall then be required to pick a plant material from the attached list. The required height for the selected material must be within the range of the maximum and minimum screening heights. The individual plants shall be spaced no further from one another than the minimum plant spacing shown on the chart.

The minimum plant container size to be installed is shown on the chart for each plant material. As staff has previously found that some nurseries will place a very small plant in a much larger container in an effort to maximize profits, the height of the plant within the container must be at least 25% of the required screening height, as well as conform to the minimum size container rule. As an example, if a screening height of 20 feet is required by the City, the plants that are installed must be at least 5 feet in height.