

GG133-14

SECTION 202 (New), 405.3

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Revise as follows:

405.3 Native plant landscaping—Appropriate Plant Species Landscaping. ~~Where new landscaping is installed as part of a site plan or within the building site, not less than 75 percent of the newly landscaped area shall be planted with native plant species. Plants for new landscaping shall be non-invasive and shall be appropriate plant species. Not less than 25 percent of the site vegetated area shall be comprised of plant species that are native to the site or cultivars of such species. The site vegetated area shall be the estimated area that will be covered by the plantings, ten years after installation. Non-invasive plant species chosen for the landscaping shall not be indicated, at the time of the landscape design, as an invasive plant species for the site location according to regional lists, local noxious weeds laws and federal noxious weeds laws. Regional invasive plant species lists, for the purposes of this section, shall be those lists that are developed through a vetted and transparent process resulting in a list that is accepted by regional stakeholders.~~

Plants shall be nursery grown, legally harvested, or salvaged for reuse from either on or off the site. Nursery-grown plants shall comply with the requirements of the jurisdiction or, where jurisdiction requirements do not exist, ANSI Z60.1

Exception: Vegetative roofs and sites utilized for food production shall not be required to meet the requirement for use of plant species that are native to the site or cultivars of such species.

Add new definition as follows:

SECTION 202 **DEFINITIONS**

APPROPRIATE PLANT SPECIES. Native plants and non-native plants that are selected for use in a landscape design based on an evaluation by the landscape designer of the plant's cold hardiness, heat tolerance, salt tolerance, soil moisture range, plant water use requirements, soil volume requirements, soil pH requirements, sun and shade requirements, pest susceptibility, maintenance requirements, and ability to support the sustainability goals of the site including, but not limited to, energy conservation, water conservation, carbon sequestration, air and water filtration, erosion and sediment control, food production and biodiversity.

Add new standard(s) as follows:

ANSI
Z60.1-2004 American Standard for Nursery Stock

Reason: The original language of Sec. 405.3 specified installing 75% native plants. APLD strongly supports inclusion of native plants in a design scheme; native plants can provide habitat for native wildlife including important pollinator species such as birds and insects that are necessary for plant reproduction including cultivation of crops. However, mandating such a high percentage of native plants can exclude the choice of other vegetation that also provides substantial ecosystem services. Such services include carbon storage (in the biomass of plants), energy conservation (such as the cooling properties of strategically placed plants), air and water filtration (removing pollutants from air and water), and erosion and sediment control. Plant choices should be based on the design intent, with the aim of improving landscape performance and reducing resource use. In some cases that may dictate primarily native plants; in others, it may lead to different choices. For instance, if an urban commercial site wishes to employ food production as its landscape performance goal, this may mean using fewer native plants.

APLD supports the goals of the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), a coalition of The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin, the U.S. Botanic Garden, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. SITES convened informed professionals and employed authoritative resources to create guidelines for sustainable

sites. APLD has relied on SITES' *Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009* to inform our code change proposal, believing those Guidelines to be the best expression of sustainable landscape planning. Our proposal is adapted from SITES' Guidelines Prerequisite 4.2, "Use Appropriate, Non-invasive Plants." Note that 4.2 is a prerequisite; it is similar to a code in that, like a code, it is a minimum standard that must be met. In the prerequisite, no percentage of native plants is specified. Instead, "appropriate" plants are defined and specified. Appropriate plants are those that are best qualified to thrive in the site conditions and to meet the design intent; it is the equivalent of "right plant, right place," a time-honored mantra of landscape professionals and seasoned gardeners alike. Appropriate plants, native or non-invasive non-native, should be available as choices for the design professional. We endorse the concept of using appropriate plants, but added the 25% native plant requirement so that jurisdictions have a quantifiable metric for evaluating compliance and in recognition of the importance of the role of native plants in the landscape. We believe the 25% requirement is feasible and will not hinder the inclusion of other, non-native appropriate plants.

ANSI Z60.1-2004 American Standard for Nursery Stock is available for viewing/download free of charge at the following weblink: http://americanhort.org/documents/nursery_stock_standards_AmericanHort_2004.pdf

Bibliography:

Sustainable Sites Initiative. 2009, *The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009*. Available at <http://www.sustainablesites.org/report>.

Cost Impact: Will not increase the cost of construction. Jurisdictions monitoring conformance to 405.3 may need to hire or contract with trained, knowledgeable personnel to assist in the review. Finding and obtaining specified native plants may raise costs if resources in the project's location are scarce, but in the majority of cases the native plants are not likely to cost more than non-native plants.

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