

GG134-14

405.3

Proponent: Brenda Thompson, Clark County Development Services, Las Vegas, NV, Chair, Sustainability, Energy and High Performance Code Action Committee (SEHPCAC)

Delete without substitution:

~~**405.3 Native plant 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.~~

Reason: This proposal was submitted by the ICC Sustainability Energy and High Performance Code Action Committee (SEHPCAC). The SEHPCAC was established by the ICC Board of Directors to pursue opportunities to improve and enhance International Codes with regard to sustainability, energy and high performance as it relates to the built environment included, but not limited to, how these criteria relate to the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This includes both the technical aspects of the codes as well as the code content in terms of scope and application of referenced standards. In 2012 and 2013, the SEHPCAC has held six two-day open meetings and 50 workgroup calls, which included members of the SEHPCAC as well as any interested parties, to discuss and debate proposed changes and public comments. Related documentation and reports are posted on the SEHPCAC website at: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/SEHPCAC/Pages/default.aspx>.

There is an overwhelming consensus in the scientific and professional communities that biodiversity is the best defense against uncertain futures. The IgCC needs to be about protecting the future of as many species as it can. A limitation on the use of adapted species is a direct limitation on biodiversity.

The rigid advancement of native species plantings focuses on origin rather than function. This approach does not fully accommodate our present or our future.

It is important to remember that a typical definition of native plantings relies upon what vegetation was present at the site, or in the area, when European colonists arrived in America. This definition is thus both geographically and temporally dependent.

America today is not the continent the European colonists found when disembarking from their wooden ships. Today's managed landscapes are not the natural landscapes of 1600 a. d. Hardscapes have changed our hydrology. Public works and power generation projects have changed our watersheds; agricultural and industrial and development activities have altered the structural and chemical composition of our soils. Our atmosphere is different. Our climate and our patterns of precipitation are changing. Our world is warmer now, and will be warmer still. Our coastal shorelines will move inland.

The plants we use today need to perform in ways that are true in this time and place, not some other.

Given the dynamism of our environment, and the particular challenges of the urban environment, it would be a mistake for the IGCC to erect barriers to appropriate plantings of vegetative materials simply because they are not deemed native, and to put forward non- appropriate plants for the installation simply because they are native.

Bibliography:

Don't Judge Species on Their Origins; Nature 474,153–154 (09 June 2011) Mark A. Davis, Matthew K. Chew, Richard J. Hobbs, Ariel E. Lugo, John J. Ewel, Geerat J. Vermeij, James H. Brown, Michael L. Rosenzweig, Mark R. Gardener, Scott P. Carroll, Ken Thompson, Steward T. A. Pickett, Juliet C. Stromberg, Peter Del Tredici, Katharine N. Suding, Joan G. Ehrenfeld, J. Philip Grime, Joseph Mascaro, John C. Briggs. [Don't Judge Species on Their Origins](#); [Author affiliations](#).

[Moving Beyond the Natives/Exotics Debate](#); Urban Habitats, Vol. 7, (March 2012) Nina Bassuk and Michelle Sutton

[The Restoration Gene Pool Concept: Beyond the Native Versus Non-Native Debate](#); Restoration Ecology Vol. 11 No. 3, pp. 281–290, T. A. Jones

[Mother Nature's Melting Pot](#); New York Times, April 2, 2011, Hugh Raffles

[Interwoven and Integrated: Non-native and Native Species in Life's Web](#); <http://sutroforest.com/> June 23, 2011

[Another Kind of Genocide](#) Review of Invasion Biology: Critique of a Pseudoscience, a book by David Theodoropoulos; <http://www.patternliteracy.com/> 2005 Toby Hemenway

Cost Impact: Will not increase the cost of construction

GG134-14 : 405.3-THOMPSON360