

Nursery Tree Quality

I. HEALTH AND STRUCTURE SPECIFICATIONS

These specifications apply to deciduous, broadleaf evergreen, and coniferous species. They do not apply to palms. Note that leaf characteristics will not be evident on deciduous trees during the dormant season.

Crown: The form and density of the crown shall be typical for a young specimen of the species or cultivar. The leader shall be intact to the very top of the tree.

Leaves: The size, color, and appearance of leaves shall be typical for the time of year and stage of growth of the species or cultivar. Trees shall not show signs of moisture stress as indicated by wilted, shriveled, or dead leaves.

Branches: Shoot growth (length and diameter) throughout the crown shall be appropriate for the age and size of the species or cultivar. Trees shall not have dead, diseased, broken, distorted, or otherwise injured branches.

Trunk: The tree trunk shall be relatively straight, vertical, and free of wounds (except properly made pruning cuts), sunburned areas, conks (fungal fruiting bodies), wood cracks, bleeding areas, signs of boring insects, cankers, girdling ties, or lesions (mechanical injury). The terminal bud on the leader shall be intact to the very top of the tree, and it shall be the highest point on the tree.

Roots: The root system shall be substantially free of injury from biotic (e.g., insects and pathogens) and abiotic (e.g., herbicide toxicity and salt injury) agents. Root distribution shall be uniform throughout the container substrate, and shall be appropriate for the species or cultivar. At time of inspection and delivery, the root ball shall be moist throughout. Roots shall not show signs of excess soil moisture conditions as indicated by stunted, discolored, distorted, or dead roots.

Prior to purchase of trees please refer to the Pesticide Use Enforcement Division with the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office for any necessary inspections or quarantines.

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