32 93 00 - Plants

Plant Selection
Cal Poly holds a “learn by doing” philosophy, the campus represents a living laboratory; therefore increasing the diversity of tree species is extremely important. The landscape planting should be native, non-invasive, drought tolerant species that increase or enhance ecological biodiversity. The plant palette shall be low water use and low maintenance, specific to the regional climate zone and distinct site ecotones. Species are encouraged to be drought tolerant utilizing California native and adaptive native plant material throughout the site. Low hypoallergenic material is encouraged. Invasive plant material causing economic, environmental, and human health harm is not permitted on site. All plant material is susceptible to the surrounding wildlife and cannot be harmful nor an extensive food source. Species selection, however, is subject to dictation by site conditions and pre-approval by the Landscape Advisory Committee.

- All plant suppliers are required to specialize in growing and cultivating plants specified for no less than 5 years and to certify the quality of the plants.
- Standard trees must meet requirements of a single, straight trunk with well-balanced crown and intact leader in containers or boxes.
- A multi-stem tree must have a minimum of 3 stems rising from the crown of the root ball, branched or pruned naturally according to species and with relationship of caliper, height, and branching.
- Trees size shall be minimum 36” box with shrub and groundcover ranging between 1 to 15- gallon container sizes.

Delivery, Storage, and Handling
Plants shall be protected from the sun, wind, and physical injury and damage during transit and during storage while awaiting planting work. Trees are not to be pruned prior to delivery except by approval from the University.

- Removal of rejected plants from site shall take place immediately and replaced with plants of acceptable quality.
- Plant deliveries are scheduled to avoid lengthy periods of storage and pre-planting maintenance. Sod delivery will be scheduled for tree installation within 24 hours.
- Plants will be handled by root ball or container, not lifted by the trunk, and container grow stock will not be removed from containers before time of planting.
- Water root systems of plants will be stored on-site as often as necessary to prevent container soil from drying out.
- Leaders shall not be pruned prior to or after delivery, either by nursery or by landscape contractor.

Site Preparation
Proper plants for each location shall be chosen to reduce or eliminate the necessity for pruning. A planting hole should be dug no deeper than the root ball when measured from the bottom of the root ball to the trunk flare and twice the size of the root ball diameter. Planting shall proceed only after irrigation systems have been tested and approved.