



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

4141 Douglas Drive North

Crystal, MN 55422

Telephone: 763-531-1000 / Fax: 763-531-1188

www.crystalmn.gov

Deaf and Hard of Hearing callers should contact the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 V/TTY or call 711

LAWN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

If you have questions, please contact a Customer Service Representative at 763-531-1000

The information in this pamphlet is not meant to cover all guidelines and requirements of city code. You should contact the city about required permits and specifications before beginning any project.

BOULEVARD PLANTINGS (800.2)

Only low growing grass or groundcover may be planted on the first 5 feet inward from the curb. Plants 5 to 10 feet inward from the curb may reach up to, but not exceed 18 inches in height. Plants more than 10 feet inward from a curb have no height restrictions. Planting permits are available from City Hall for any group or individual that wishes to plant a tree within a boulevard.

COMPOSTING (605.15)

Composting is encouraged in Crystal as an ecological way to recycle organic material. Composting not only reduces waste, but it provides a humus-rich soil to use in gardens, potted plants and landscaping.

Compost may only consist of the following materials:

- Grass clippings
- Weeds
- Wood chips
- Small twigs
- Garden debris
- Fruit/vegetable scraps
- Sawdust
- Leaves

All compost piles must be located in the rear yard, at least 5 feet away from all property lines and contained in an appropriate manner. Compost bins may be commercially fabricated or constructed of wood and/or wire materials. Bins must be maintained to prevent insect and rodent infestation and undesirable odors. Mixing compost often helps ensure that it receives the air necessary for rapid decomposition.

GRASS, LEAVES AND BRUSH (640)

Grass and weeds must be kept shorter than 8 inches. Noxious weeds, as defined by the Minnesota State Statutes (1505) are "an annual, biennial, or perennial plant that the commissioner designates to be injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, or other property." Noxious weeds include purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, perennial sowthistle and Canada thistle and must be removed from all properties per Minnesota State Statute.

It is important to remember that leaves, brush and other yard waste are considered refuse and are treated as such according to disposal and storage regulations. All yard waste must be stored out of public view in an

appropriate garbage container, storage building or garage prior to disposal. All streets, sidewalks and boulevards must be kept clear of all yard waste. Contact your garbage hauler for information on the special pick-up of these materials or Hennepin Recycling Group at 763-493-8006 for drop-off sites near you.

PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZERS (665)

Any person, including homeowners, renters or commercial applicators, may not apply fertilizers that contain any amount of phosphorus to a lawn or garden without approval from the city. When notified a minimum of 24 hours in advance, the City of Crystal does allow phosphorous fertilizers to be applied to turf grass in its first growing season or to soil which tests confirm is below established phosphorus levels. Anyone in the business of applying fertilizer for hire must obtain a license from the city. A list of licensed applicators is available at City Hall.

Natural fertilizers such as yard waste often contain some phosphorus. The use of composted yard waste to top dress or mulch planting areas is encouraged; however, because decomposing yard waste is a source of phosphorus, care must be taken to keep these materials out of streets, storm sewers and other areas that may drain directly into water resources.

SHADE TREE DISEASE (2020)

To control and prevent the spread of shade tree diseases, such as Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt, the City Forester may inspect any premise for diseased elm trees and bark-intact elm wood. When the City Forester finds diseased or dead trees and there is an imminent danger of further infestation, the property owner will be notified to remove the disease source within an allotted period of time.

STREET VISABILITY (515.13)

No structures or planting of trees or shrubs shall be permitted within 25 feet of any property corner formed by the intersection of street property lines or the right-of-way of an intersecting street (see attached diagram). If there is an existing tree in this area, branches must be trimmed to a height of 6 feet from the ground and shrubs must be less than 30 inches in height.

TREE TRIMMING (830 & 1165)

Property owners may trim trees on their own property. A person operating a tree trimming or tree removal business in Crystal must be licensed by the city. Tree planting or removal from public land, including boulevards (public right-of-way), is not permitted without prior written approval from the city. As a guideline, trees growing in boulevards within 15 feet of the curb are owned and maintained by the city.

WOODPILES (605.17)

The storage of cut firewood is permitted in residential areas, provided the firewood is used on the premises where it is being stored. No more than 4 separate woodpiles are allowed per residential lot.

All woodpiles must abide by the following regulations:

- ✓ Located in rear yards on either a decay resistant surface or stacked 4 inches off the ground
- ✓ Cannot exceed 5 feet in height, 4 feet in width and 10 feet in length
- ✓ Screened with a wall or fence if within 5 feet of a property line
- ✓ Cannot consist of elm wood if bark is attached
- ✓ Cannot consist of oak wood if pile is uncovered or bark is attached