Trees in Abita

BASICS FOR UNDERBRUSHING, TREE REMOVAL & CONSTRUCTION WORK

PROTECTED TREES IN ABITA: LIVE OAKS, LONGLEAF PINES, MAGNOLIAS & CYPRESS.

The Town of Abita Springs has tree ordinances in place to provide a better standard of community. Trees provide shade and cool, clean the air, improve soil and drainage, improve health and well being, increase property value and support wildlife. Please carefully review the following guidelines to better understand our laws.

Underbrushing Permit

An underbrushing permit is needed to use machinery to clean up property.

- Protective fencing must surround Live Oaks, Longleaf Pines, Magnolias & Cypress.
- Protective fencing must remain in place and functional until building is complete.
- Your Underbrushing permit will be approved after protective fencing is in place.
- Trees 5" and smaller in diameter at DBH (4.5') from the ground can be removed during underbrushing.

Land Clearing, Dirt Work & Construction

To build on a lot that requires tree removal, a land clearing application is required with building permit.

- A licensed arborist must be responsible for creating a tree plan for the property.
- The tree plan requirements are listed on the application.
- The Town Arborist will approve the submitted plan and may add notes or caveats.
- Your land clearing and dirt work can only begin after your tree plan is approved AND your building permit is issued.

Planting of Trees

If your lot/parcel will not have the required number of trees upon completion of your build, you must plant new Class A trees to satisfy the requirements as determined in your approved tree plan.

Aftercare

Homeowners are responsible for keeping all newly planted Class A trees healthy for 1 year, post-planting.

Tree Removal After You Build

Any tree removal in the Town of Abita Springs requires a permit.
A permit application must be submitted by a licensed arborist with Contractor Registration.
To remove a protected tree, an inspection by the Town Arborist along with a $40 fee is required.

Protective Fence Location

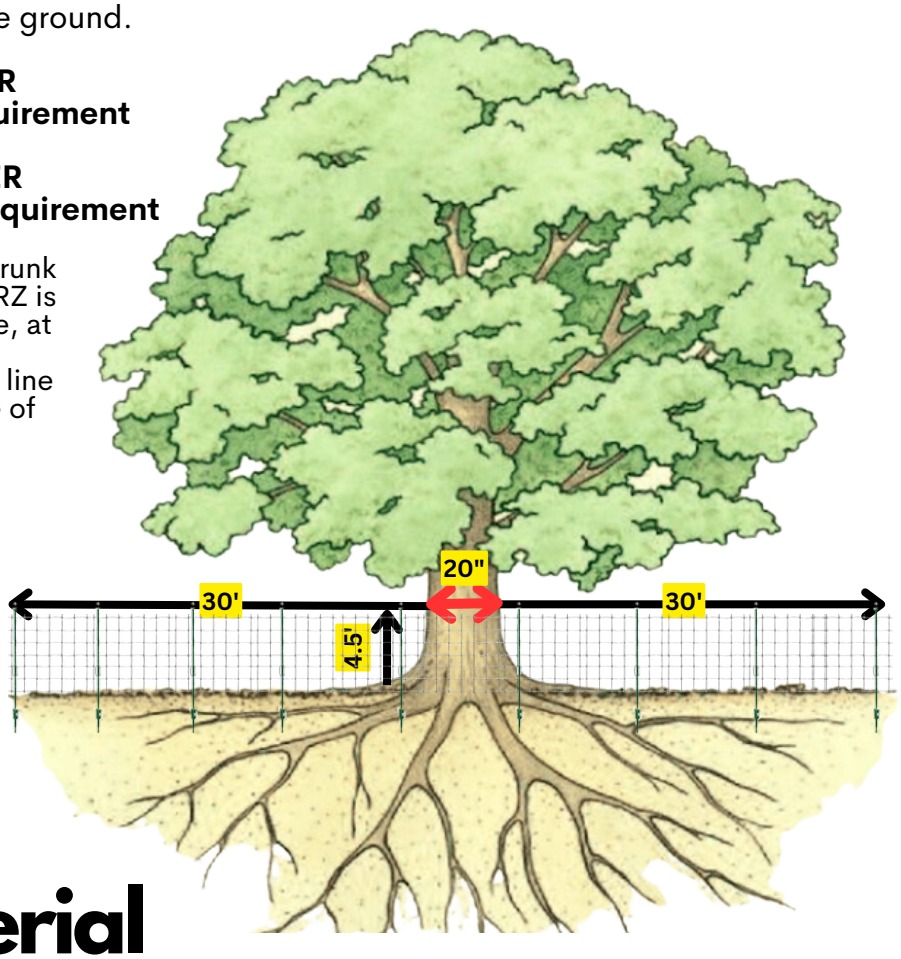
The Critical Root Zone (CRZ) is the distance from the trunk that equals 1.5 feet for every inch of the tree's diameter. Diameter is measured at 4.5 feet from the ground.

FOR TREES 10" AND UNDER
Diameter x 2' = Fence Requirement

FOR TREES 10.1" AND OVER
Diameter x 1.5' = Fence Requirement

For example: If the tree has a trunk 20" (inches) in diameter, the CRZ is a 30-foot radius around the tree, at a bare minimum. However, it is optimal to stay outside the drip line or the outermost circumference of the tree canopy.

DBH: 20"
20 x 1.5' = 30'
CRZ: 30'

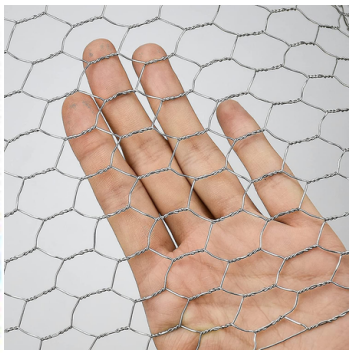


Fence Material

Fencing must be maintained until all work on property is complete.
(maintained through underbrushing, dirtwork, and building)

Wire Fencing

Fencing should be approx. 4' high. Chicken wire fencing is acceptable.



6 ft. Steel Fence T-Post

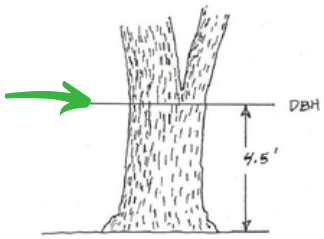
Metal stakes should be placed 5-6' apart

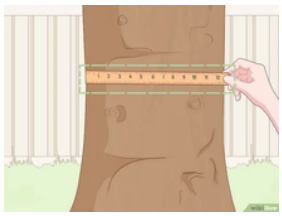
Guide

DEFINITIONS

DBH- Diameter at Breast Height is the measurement of the trunk width, measused 4.5' from the ground.

Diameter is measured straight across





DIAMETER

CRZ- Critical Root Zone. The CRZ is the area directly under the canopy dripline. Digging or cutting roots within the CRZ can cause toppling of the tree or a gradual death over a period of up to 10 years. Trees often die so slowly that people do not make the connection between construction damage and decline of the tree.

Class A Tree- Any self-supporting woody plant of a species which normally grows to an overall height of at least fifty (50) feet, usually with one main stem or trunk and many branches.

Protective Fencing- Must be erected around the Critical Root Zone and be **maintained throughout the entire build.**

Number of Trees Required on Site- based on square footage formula.
Parcel square footage x .0006 = # of required trees

Lot: **90' x 150'**= 13,500 Sqft.
13,500 x .0006= **8 Trees**

New Class "A" Trees- must be 2" in diameter at 3' from the ground

Aftercare- responsibility of the homeowner. Trees must survive for 1 year post planting. Dead trees must be replaced with a new tree of at least 2" in diameter at 3' from the ground.

Tree Health

The Town Arborists will determine the livability of all trees that the property owner deems savable (wants to keep).

Initial inspection of the property trees will determine the state of health and structural integrity.

Builders, contractors, and self-contracting property owners, will be held responsible in acting in accordance with the determination established by the Town Arborist.

Initial inspection of the property trees will be determined as to state of health and structural strength.

Trees to be saved shall be protected with protective fencing around the Critical Root Zone.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ) is the distance from the trunk that equals 1.5 feet for every inch of the tree's diameter. For example: if the tree has a trunk 12 inches in diameter, the CRZ is a 18' radius around the tree, at bare minimum. However, it's optimal to stay outside the drip line (tree canopy).

Planting Requirements

NUMBER OF TREES REQUIRED ON SITE- BASED ON SQUARE FOOTAGE FORMULA.
PARCEL SQUARE FOOTAGE X .0006 = # OF REQUIRED TREES

Lot: 75 x 150 = 11,250 Sqft
11,250 x .0006 = 7 Trees

Lot: 90 x 120= 10,800 Sqft
10,800 x .0006 = 6 Trees

Lot: 90 x 150= 13,500 Sqft
13,500 x .0006= 8 Trees

90 x 150 = 13,500 Square Feet

13,500 x .0006 = 8.1

Property must have 8 healthy trees by the end of the build.

90'

150'

CLASS "A" TREES

Class A Trees: Any self-supporting woody plant of a species which normally grows to an overall height of at least fifty (50) feet, usually with one main stem or trunk and many branches. It may appear to have several stems or trunks, as in several varieties of oak.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF EXAMPLES OF CLASS A TREES:

NEW CLASS "A" TREES- MUST BE 2" IN DIAMETER AT 3' FROM THE GROUND

- Acer Rubrum "Drummondii"
- American Holly
- American Sweet Gum
- American Sycamore
- Bitternut Hickory
- Black Gum
- Blackjack Oak
- Carya cordiformis
- Carya illinoinsis
- Carya tomentosa
- Celtis laevigata
- Cherry Bark Oak
- Common Bald Cypress
- Fraxinus pennsylvanica
- Green Ash
- Ilex opaca
- Laurel Oak
- Liquidambar styraciflua
- Liriodendron tulipifera
- Loblolly Pine
- Longleaf Pine
- Magnolia grandiflora
- Magnolia virginiana
- Mockernut Hickory
- Morus rubra
- Nyssa aquatica
- Tupelo Gum
- Nyssa sylvatica
- Overcup Oak
- Pecan
- Pinus elliottii
- Pinus palustris
- Pinus taeda
- Platanus occidentalis
- Pond Cypress
- Post Oak
- Quercus falcata
- Quercus falcata pagodifolia
- Quercus laurifolia
- Quercus lyrata
- Quercus marilandica
- Quercus michauxii
- Quercus shumardii
- Quercus stellata
- Quercus virginiana
- Red Mulberry
- Slash Pine
- Southern Live Oak
- Southern Magnolia
- Southern Red Oak
- Sugar Hackberry
- Swamp Cow Oak
- Swamp Red Maple
- Swamp Red Oak
- Sweet Bay Magnolia
- Taxodium ascendons
- Taxodium distichum
- Ulmus alata
- Winged Elm
- Yellow Poplar Tuliptree

Live oaks planted on 60-foot-by-60-foot spacing is adequate, but ideally, live oaks need to be planted on 90-foot centers.