



Lawn Care and Maintenance



Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other information regarding lawn care.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LAWN CARE AND MAINTENANCE?



Lot areas that are not designated for buildings, sidewalks, parking or storage shall have turf grass, native vegetation, or combined ground cover of cultivated vegetation, garden, hedges, trees or shrubbery.

Turf grass and weeds are not allowed to grow to a height greater than 8 inches on any lot. Noxious weeds of any kind are not be permitted to grow on any portion of a lot.

It is important to remember that leaves, brush and other yard waste are considered waste matter 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 before disposal.

Is composting allowed in Crystal?

Composting is encouraged and is an ecological way to recycle organic material. It reduces waste and provides a humus-rich soil to use in gardens, potted plants and landscaping.

Compost may only consist of the following materials:

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



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



Can I trim my own trees?

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.

SHADE TREE DISEASE PREVENTION

To control and prevent the spread of shade tree diseases such as Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt, the city tree inspector may inspect any premise for diseased elm trees and bark-intact elm wood. When the inspector 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.

RESOURCES:

Hennepin Recycling Group
hrg-recycling.com
763-493-8006

Maple Grove Yard Waste Disposal Site
mgyardwaste.com
763-420-4886

Can I plant in the boulevard?

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.



How should I store firewood?



The storage of cut firewood is permitted in residential areas provided the firewood is used on the premises where it is being stored. All firewood must be cut/split, prepared for use, and stored in neat, secure stacks. Stacks of wood may be located only in rear yards, but not on a property line. A stack of wood located within five feet of a property line must be screened with a solid wall or fence.

VISIBILITY TRIANGLE

The visibility triangle is measured at intersecting streets and each leg is 40 feet long, measured along the street curb from the hypothetical intersection of the extended curb lines of the intersecting streets.

The hypotenuse of the triangle shall be the line connecting the outside end of each leg.

No structures or planting of trees or shrubs shall be permitted within the visibility triangle (see Figure 1). If there is an existing tree in this area, branches must be trimmed to a height of 8 feet from the ground and shrubs must be less than 30 inches in height. A 10-foot visibility triangle must be maintained where driveways or alleys intersect sidewalks and streets (see Figures 2 and 3).



Figure 1

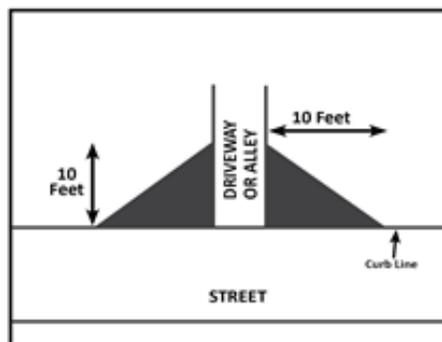


Figure 2

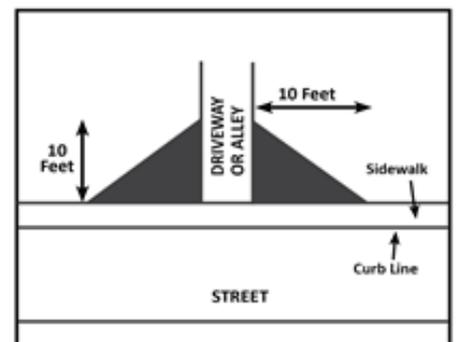


Figure 3