Tree Protection Summary Guide

TOWN OF COMOX

WHAT IS A REGULATED TREE?

Town of Comox Tree Protection Bylaw No. 2063

A REGULATED TREE IS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

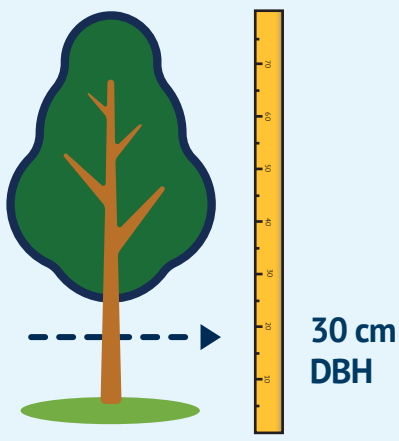
1 Trees with a DBH of 20 cm or more

Priority Species are regulated once the trunk diameter reaches 20 cm DBH.

- Douglas-fir
- Western redcedar
- Western hemlock
- Grand fir
- Sitka spruce
- Western white pine
- Shore pine
- Pacific yew
- Seaside juniper
- Arbutus
- Garry oak
- Bigleaf maple
- Trembling aspen

2 Trees with a DBH of 30 cm or more

Trees other than Priority Species are regulated once the trunk diameter reaches 30 cm DBH.



Email parks@comox.ca or ask to leave a message for Parks at 250-339-2421

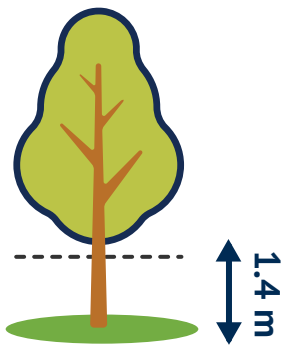
3 Trees with a DBH of 50 cm or more

Trees are considered **Protected Trees** once the trunk diameter reaches 50 cm DBH. Other classes of **Protected Trees** are:

- Trees on land owned or managed by the Town
- Trees planted or retained as a permit or approval condition
- Covenant trees, replacement trees, or retained trees

WHAT IS DBH?

DBH means diameter at breast height, measured 1.4 m above the ground.



REMINDER

If you are not sure whether a tree is regulated, contact the Town before doing work.

see Questions? below...

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TOWN OF COMOX

Tree Protection Summary Guide

TOWN OF COMOX

REPLACEMENT TREES & TREE CREDITS

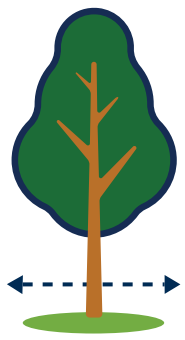
Town of Comox Tree Protection Bylaw No. 2063

WHEN A REGULATED TREE IS CUT OR REMOVED, THE TOWN MAY REQUIRE REPLACEMENT TREES, RETAINED TREE CREDITS, OR CASH-IN-LIEU.

1 Replacement trees required

The number of replacement trees is based on the diameter of the cut or removed tree.

Diameter of cut or removed tree (DBH)	Replacement trees required
19 cm and smaller	1
20 - 59 cm	2
60 - 69 cm	3
70 - 79 cm	4
80 - 89 cm	6
90 - 99 cm	8
100 cm and larger	10



DBH
(Diameter at Breast Height)

2 Retained tree credits

- 1 retained tree = 1 fewer replacement tree
- Replacement requirement can be reduced to 0
- No carry-forward of unused credits
- No reduction if more than 10 regulated trees are or have been removed within 2 years

A retained tree is a Regulated Tree kept on the lot and designated in the Tree Permit.

3 Planting requirements

- Replacement trees must be planted on the lot
- Replacement trees must be selected from the Town's acceptable species list
- If 1, 2 or 3 trees are required, at least 1 must be a medium or large canopy tree species
- If 4 or more trees are required, at least 25% must be large canopy species
- If the removed tree was a Priority Species, 1 replacement tree or half of the total requirement, whichever is more, must also be a Priority Species
- Minimum stock: conifers 1.4 m tall; deciduous trees 4 cm caliper

4 Cash-in-lieu

- The Town may accept cash-in-lieu instead of planting replacement trees
- For development applications, this is considered only where there is not enough growing space on the lot
- For valid emergency removals, the replacement requirement and any associated cash-in-lieu amount are waived
- Funds go to a Town reserve fund for tree planting and maintenance

Town-owned trees may be charged at their appraised value when it exceeds the cash-in-lieu rate.

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Tree Protection Summary Guide

TOWN OF COMOX

TREE BYLAW FLOW CHART

Town of Comox Tree Protection Bylaw No. 2063

KEY DEFINITIONS

DBH = diameter at breast height, measured 1.4 m above the ground.

Regulated Tree

- A Priority Species with DBH of **20 cm** or more, including:
  - Douglas-fir
  - western redcedar
  - western hemlock
  - grand fir
  - Sitka spruce
  - western white pine
  - shore pine
  - Pacific yew
  - seaside juniper
  - arbutus
  - Garry oak
  - bigleaf maple
  - trembling aspen
- Any other tree with DBH of **30 cm** or more
- Any Protected Tree

Protected Tree

- Any tree with a DBH of **50 cm** or more
- Any tree on land owned or managed by the Town
- Any tree planted or retained as a permit or approval condition
- Any covenant tree, replacement tree, or retained tree

Replacement Tree Guide

DBH (cm)	Replacement Trees
19 cm and smaller	1
20 to 59 cm	2
60 to 69 cm	3
70 to 79 cm	4
80 to 89 cm	6
90 to 99 cm	8
100 cm and larger	10

Replacement requirements are approved by the Parks Manager.

1. Is the tree a Regulated Tree?
(See side panel for definition)

- **NO** → No permit is required.
- **YES** →

Permit required.
Fee & application required.
Replacement trees required.
Continue to Question 2 to confirm whether Protected Tree limits also apply.

2. Is the tree a Protected Tree?
(See side panel for definition)

- **NO** → This Regulated Tree can be removed for any purpose. A valid permit is required.
- **YES** →

Protected Tree

Does at least one protected tree reason apply?

1. Dead, or more than 50% of the crown is dead.
2. Hazardous and cannot be made safe without removal.
3. Conflicts with an approved building footprint.
4. Required works or services cannot be located elsewhere.
5. Damaging a lawful building or service, and the damage cannot be fixed another way.
6. Removal recommended by a qualified professional to reduce wildfire hazard.
7. Invasive species.
8. Must be removed to comply with another Town bylaw.

- **YES** → A permit will be issued if at least one listed reason applies. Additional information may be required to evaluate the application.
- **NO** → A permit will not be issued.

EMERGENCY REMOVAL

If a Regulated Tree is in imminent danger of falling and injuring people or property, removal may occur before applying.

Apply for a Tree Permit within 3 business days.

If confirmed as a valid emergency:

- No fee required
- Replacement trees are not required

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