

## **Agenda Item: Motion 2019-1, Text Amendment to Table of Approved Tree List and Shrub List § 155.606.14 of UDO**

**DATE:** April 1, 2019

**FROM:** Mary Jo Gollnitz

### **Background/Issue:**

As discussed at the Public Hearing, staff has updated the Approved Tree and Shrub list in the UDO.

- Planning Board recommended unanimous approval of the request.
- The Appearance/Tree Advisory Committee met on March 18, 2019 to review the requested changes.
- They recommend that Sweet Gum be replaced with Rotundiloba Sweet Gum which is a “fruitless” tree.
- The Committee also noted that Black Gum should remain on the approved list because this tree does not bear fruit.
- Appearance/Tree Advisory Committee members Jill Palmer and Debbie Foster along with Landscape Manager Ralph Ramsaur recommend that Virginia Creeper remain on the proposed list (see attached email).

### **Proposal/Solution:**

- The Town Board at the Public Hearing requested research in the removal of Sweet Gum and Black Gum trees from the approved list.
- Planning Board requested review of Virginia Creeper in the Ground Cover and Vines section of the lists.
- Adopt text revisions as most recently revised.

### **Financial Impact:**

None

### **Related Town Goal(s) and/or Strategies:**

Quality of Life

Economic Development/Land Use Planning

### **Recommended Motion/Action:**

Staff recommends approval of Motion 2019-1 Text Amendment to the UDO Table of Approved Tree List and Shrub List § 155.606.14, as most recently revised.

**STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL ADOPTED GROWTH POLICIES  
Final Decisions on Zoning-Related Issues**

**MOTIONS 2019-1 Text Amendment to the UDO Table of Approved Tree List and Shrub List §  
155.606.14.**

**Matthews Board of Commissioners adopts the checked statement below:**

A)   X   The requested action, as most currently amended, is **approved**, and has been found to be **CONSISTENT** with the Matthews Land Use Plan (or other document(s)), and to be **REASONABLE**, as follows:

**CONSISTENT:** The updating of approved tree and shrub lists within the UDO is consistent with the goals of adopted Matthews Land Use Plan since it would assist in appropriate standards to multiple land use and zoning categories.

**REASONABLE:** It is reasonable and in the public interest to update standards in the UDO to assure the needs of the community are met.

**OR**

C)   X   The requested action, as most currently amended, is **not approved**, although it has been found to be **CONSISTENT** with the Matthews Land Use Plan (or other document(s)), it is **NOT REASONABLE**, as follows:

**CONSISTENT:** The updating of approved tree and shrub lists within the UDO is consistent with the goals of adopted Matthews Land Use Plan since it would assist in appropriate standards to multiple land use and zoning categories.

**NOT REASONABLE:** It is not reasonable to update development regulations to already adopted policies.

*(In each case, the Statement must explain why the Board deems the action reasonable and in the public interest (more than one sentence). Reasons given for a request being “consistent” or “not consistent” are not subject to judicial review.)*

Date   April 8, 2019

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**Re: Tree and shrub list**

1 message

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**Debbie Foster** <fostdebbie@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 29, 2019 at 10:15 AM

To: Mary Jo Gollnitz <mjgollnitz@matthewsnc.gov>

Cc: Jill Palmer <jpalmer53@earthlink.net>, Ralph Ramsaur <rramsaur@matthewsnc.gov>

I'm good with it!

Thanks!

Debbie

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2019, at 9:19 AM, Mary Jo Gollnitz <mjgollnitz@matthewsnc.gov> wrote:

Thanks Jill!

Mary Jo Gollnitz, CZO  
Senior Planner/Zoning Administrator  
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Matthews, NC 28105  
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Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 132, Public Records, this electronic mail message and any attachments hereto, as well as any electronic mail message(s) that may be sent in response to it may be considered public record and as such are subject to request and review.

On Fri, Mar 29, 2019 at 9:14 AM Jill Palmer <jpalmer53@earthlink.net> wrote:

I am good with it on the list. I am not sure it is even available in the nursery trade.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2019, at 8:49 AM, Mary Jo Gollnitz <mjgollnitz@matthewsnc.gov> wrote:

Ladies,

Good morning.

At the Planning Board meeting Monday night, a question was raised about the Virginia Creeper. They wanted to know if it should be removed from the list. I explained that your group had reviewed the list, that this a native plant to the area and that it is not considered invasive.

I spoke with Ralph on Wednesday about this and he feels that this it is fine leaving this on the list.

Just want to double check with the two of you and make sure we are all on the same page before the Council final decision on April 8th.

Let me know if you are good with leaving this on the list.  
Thank you all.

Mary Jo Gollnitz, CZO  
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TOWN OF MATTHEWS UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

**1. Large Maturing Deciduous Trees**

Recommended for use specifically in the Special Highway Overlay District				
Recommended for all other landscaping applications				
		Common Name	Botanical Name	Mature Height (feet)
◆	◆	Ash, Green*	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	50-60
◆	◆	Ash, White	<i>Fraxinus Americana</i>	50-80
	◆	Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	50-70
	◆	Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	60-75
◆	◆	Beech, American	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	40-60
◆	◆	Birch, Black	<i>Betula lenta</i>	50-60
◆	◆	Birch, River	<i>Betula nigra</i>	40-60
◆	◆	Black Gum*	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-50
◆		Sweet Gum <del>Rotundiloba</del>	<del>Nyssa Liquidambar</del> <i>sylvatica</i>	20-50
◆		Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	20-50
	◆	Cherry, Japanese	<i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	20-50
	◆	Chinese Elm & B Hybrids	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	30-60
	◆	Chinese Pistache	<i>Pistachia chinensis</i>	25-35
	◆	Hackberry, Weeping	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	40-60
	◆	Hackberry, Common	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	60-70
	◆	Hickory	<i>Carya spp.</i>	50-80
◆	◆	Hornbeam, American hop	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25-40
	◆	Sugar Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	50-80
	◆	Katsura Tree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	40-60
◆	◆	Maple, Red*	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	40-60
◆	◆	Maple, Sugar*	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	60-75
◆	◆	Oak, Black	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	60-80
◆	◆	Oak, Chestnut	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	60-70
◆	◆	Oak, Laurel	<i>Quercus hemisphaerica (laurifolia)</i>	40-60
◆	◆	Oak, Northern Red	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	50-60
◆	◆	Oak, Pin	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	60-70
◆	◆	Oak, Post	<i>Quercus stellate</i>	30-50
◆	◆	Oak, Sawtooth	<i>Quercus Acutissima</i>	40-60
◆	◆	Oak, Scarlet	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	65-100
◆	◆	Oak, Shumard	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	40-60
◆	◆	Oak, Southern Red	<i>Quercus falcate</i>	70-80
◆	◆	Oak, Swamp Chestnut	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	60-100
◆	◆	Oak, Water	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	50-80
◆	◆	Oak, White	<i>Quercus alba</i>	50-80

**TOWN OF MATTHEWS UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

◆	◆	Oak, Willow	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	70-90
	◆	Pagoda Tree, Japanese*	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	50-60
◆		Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	40-60
◆		Persimmon	<i>Diospyrus virginiana</i>	40-60
◆		Sour Wood	<i>Oxydendron arboreum</i>	40-60
◆		Southern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignoniodes</i>	75-100
◆	◆	Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	75-100
◆	◆	Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendron Tulipifera</i>	70-90
	◆	White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	75-90
	◆	Yellow Wood	<i>Cladrastis kentuckea</i>	30-50
	◆	Zelkova, Japanese*	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	50-80

\* Many varieties available

**2. Small Maturing Deciduous Trees**

Recommended for use specifically in the Special Highway Overlay District

Recommended for all other landscaping applications

		Common Name	Botanical Name	Mature Height (feet)
◆	◆	Alder, Tag	<i>Ainus serrulata</i>	20-30
	◆	Althea*	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	8-12
	◆	American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus Americana</i>	10-15
◆		Birch, River	<i>Betula nigra</i>	20-30
	◆	Buckeye, Red	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	10-20
	◆	Chanticleer Pear**	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	20-30
	◆	Chaste Tree	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	15-20
◆	◆	Cherry, Japanese*	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	15-25
◆	◆	Cherry, Yoshino	<i>Prunus X yedoensis</i>	20-25
◆	◆	Cherry, Laurel	<i>Prunus Caroliniana</i>	15-25
	◆	Crabapple, Flowering*	<i>Malus sp.</i>	7-25
	◆	Crepe Myrtle*	<i>Lagerstroemia sp.</i>	15-25
	◆	Devil's Walking Stick	<i>Aralla spinosa</i>	10-20
◆	◆	Dogwood, Flowering*	<i>Cornus florida</i>	15-30
	◆	Dogwood, Kousa	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	10-15
◆		Dogwood, Redosier	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	15-30
	◆	Eastern Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	5-20
◆		Elm, Winged	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	20-30
	◆	Goldenrain Tree*	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	20-30
◆	◆	Hawthorn*	<i>Crategus</i>	15-30
◆		Holly, American	<i>Hexllex opaca</i>	20-30

TOWN OF MATTHEWS UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

◆	Holly, Possumhaw	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	20-30
◆	Ironwood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20-30
◆	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	20-30
◆	Magnolia, Saucer	<i>Magnolia soulangiana</i>	20-30
◆	Magnolia, Sweetbay*	<i>M. Virginia</i>	10-20
◆	Magnolia, Star*	<i>M. Stellata</i>	15-20
◆	Maple, Amur	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	15-20
◆	Maple, Chalk	<i>Acer leucoderme</i>	25-30
◆	Maple, Hedge	<i>Acer Campestre</i>	15-25
◆	Maple, Japanese*	<i>Acer Palmatum</i>	15-25
◆	Myrtle, Wax	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	10-15
◆	Paw Paw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	20-30
◆	◆ Redbud, Eastern*	<i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	20-30
◆	Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	20-30
◆	◆ Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier sp.</i>	10-20
◆	◆ Silverbell, Carolina	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	20-30
◆	◆ Snowbell*	<i>Americanus</i>	8-15
◆	◆ Sparkleberry	<i>Vaccinium arboretum</i>	5-20
◆	◆ White Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	12-20

\* Many varieties available

~~\*\*Recommended as substitute for Bradford or Aristocrat Pears. Many native plant materials are not mentioned in this list. On certain sites, they offer a great deal of benefit and suitability to the landscape. In this regard, the Town will entertain specific recommendations.~~

### 3. Evergreen Trees

Recommended for use specifically in the Special Highway Overlay District			
Recommended for all other landscaping applications			
	Common Name	Botanical Name	Mature Height (feet)
◆	◆ Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i>	20-30
◆	◆ Hemlock, Carolina	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	20-30
◆	◆ Holly, American*	<i>Ilex opaca*</i>	20-40
◆	◆ Holly, Chinese (Tree Form)	<i>Ilex cornuta*</i>	8-15
◆	◆ Holly, Foster	<i>Ilex x attenuate</i>	20-30
◆	◆ Holly, Hume	<i>Ilex x attenuate</i>	25-35
◆	◆ Holly, Nellie R Stevens	<i>Ilex x Nellie R Stevens</i>	15-25
◆	◆ Holly, Yaupon*	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	15-20
◆	◆ Holly, Savannah*	<i>Ilex x attenuate</i>	25-30
◆	◆ Magnolia, Southern*	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	60-80

TOWN OF MATTHEWS UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

◆	◆	Pine, Loblolly	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	60-90
◆	◆	Pine, Shortleaf	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	80-100
◆		Pine, Virginia	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	40-60
	◆	Spruce, Norway	<i>Picea abies</i>	40-60
	◆	Ti-ti or Leatherwood	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	8-25

\* Many varieties available

**4. Low Maintenance Shrubs**

Recommended for use specifically in the Special Highway Overlay District

Recommended for all other landscaping applications

		Common Name	Botanical Name	Mature Height (feet)
◆	◆	Abelias++	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	6
	◆	Azalea, Pinxter	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	7
	◆	Azalea, Swamp	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	15
	◆	Azalea, Sweet	<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	20
	◆	Beautyberry, American	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	8
	◆	Blueberry, Highbush	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	10
◆	◆	Blackberry (various)++	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	6
	◆	Camelia Sasanquas++	<i>Camelia sasaqua</i>	6
◆	◆	Carolina Rose+++	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	6
	◆	Chokeberry, Red	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	10
	◆	Common Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	8
	◆	Hearts-a-bustin	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	12
◆	◆	Elaeagnus (various)++	<i>Elaeagnus spp.</i>	8
	◆	Buford Holly++Holly, Buford++	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	8
	◆	Holly, Inkberry++	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	12
	◆	Holly, Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	15
	◆	Ligustrum++	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	6
	◆	Loropetalum++	<i>Loropetalum chinensis</i>	6
	◆	Otto Luykun Laurel++	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	5
◆	◆	Privet++	<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>	8
	◆	Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	16
	◆	Sweet-pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	9
	◆	Sweetspire, Virginia+++	<i>Itea virginica</i>	6
	◆	Upright Juniper++	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	6
◆	◆	Viburnum (various)++	<i>Viburnum spp.</i>	8
	◆	Viburnum, Arrowood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	8
	◆	Viburnum, Blackhaw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	15

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◆	Viburnum, Mapleleaf	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	6
◆	Wax Myrtle++	<i>Morella (Myrica) cerifera</i>	12

++ Evergreen

+++ Semi-Evergreen

## 5. Groundcover & Vines

Recommended for use specifically in the Special Highway Overlay District

Recommended for all other landscaping applications

	Common Name	Botanical Name	Winter Leaves
◆	Coral Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Evergreen/deciduous
◆	Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Deciduous
◆	Grape (various)	<i>Vitix spp.</i>	Deciduous
◆	Green Brier (various)	<i>Smilax spp.</i>	Deciduous
◆	Clematis (various)	<i>Clematis spp.</i>	Deciduous
◆	Winter Jasmine	<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	Deciduous
◆	Crossvine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Evergreen/Deciduous
◆	Carolina Jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Evergreen
◆	Passionflower	<i>Passiflora incarnate</i>	Deciduous

(These varieties to be retained in required screens.)

(Ord. 1598, passed 10-8-07; Am

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**Re: Text amendment**

1 message

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Debbie Foster <fostdebbie@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 9:20 AM

To: Ralph Ramsaur <rramsaur@matthewsnc.gov>, Mary Jo Gollnitz <mjgollnitz@matthewsnc.gov>

Cc: Jill Palmer <jpalmer53@earthlink.net>

Morning! Discussion last night led us to leaving the black gum on the list, and to replacing the regular sweet gum with the cultivar that doesn't produce the sweet gum balls but still provides the fall color ( Rotundiloba).

Pamela Tobin made a motion to remove the sweet gum currently on the list and replace it with the cultivar Rotundiloba, adding a note that this variety doesn't produce the sweet gum balls. Karen Dixon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

We saw no reason to remove or replace Black Gum, as it doesn't have the same properties as Sweet Gum.

Let me know if you have any questions

Thanks!

Debbie

*Debbie Foster*

*CPBT-KA (IAATE), CPBC (IAABC)*

*Parrot Ps and Qs - <https://www.facebook.com/Parrot-Ps-and-Qs-415065378648379/>*



*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Rotundiloba'

## Rotundiloba Sweetgum



**Height:** 45' | **Spread:** 25'

**Zone:** 5

**Shape:** Pyramidal

**Foliage:** Bright green, rounded lobes

**Fall Color:** Orange to purple

**Fruit:** Fruitless

This is the only Sweetgum known to be entirely fruitless. The foliage is completely unique among sweetgum cultivars, with smooth, rounded lobes.

