

# **Canadian Landscape Standard**

**Published by:**

**Canadian Society of  
Landscape Architects**

**Canadian Nursery  
Landscape Association**

## **The Canadian Landscape Standard**

Published jointly by:

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## **Dedication**

The CSLA and the CNLA humbly dedicate the Canadian Landscape Standard to all the volunteers from the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA) and the British Columbia Nursery Landscape Association (BCNLA – previously known as the BCNTA). They envisioned the BC Landscape Standard and through their leadership, turned that vision into reality. Landscape architects Ken McKillop and David Mitchell, and nursery growers John Mathies (Cannor Nurseries) and Don Fraser (NorthWest Landscape Supply) worked alongside Dr. John Neill (founder of the landscape architecture program at the University of British Columbia) to create the BC Landscape Standard. We are deeply indebted to these visionaries.

## **Legacy**

The roots of the Canadian National Landscape Standard are firmly planted in the development of the BC Landscape Standard. In 1982, a group of BC landscape contractors and landscape architects met to discuss the varying levels of professionalism and quality of landscape projects in the province. Many stakeholders had reported inconsistencies in planting methods, installation methods and maintenance practices. The decision was made to develop a BC Landscape Standard, a joint effort between the BCNTA (the predecessor to the current BCLNA) and the BCSLA.

The first BC Landscape Standard was published in 1984. Landscape managers and supervisors, landscape architects and landscape industry specialists developed and wrote the many sections that comprise the BC Landscape standard. Industry professionals reviewed all sections to assure their clarity and accuracy.

The BC Landscape Standard has been a continual ‘work in progress’ (or living document). It has been updated regularly in order to remain current with technological advancements and innovations in product, methodology and design. The BCSLA and BCLNA provided time and funds where needed to review and improve the document, and joint funding was also provided by industry funders such as the BCLNA’s Industry Development Council.

The BC Landscape Standard was in its 8<sup>th</sup> Edition in 2012, when the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association approached the BCSLA and the BCLNA to ask whether the BC Landscape Standard could serve as the basis for a national standard.

This Canadian Landscape Standard is a testament to the professionals of the BC industry who have developed it from its beginnings in BC to its new national presence. Many volunteers, including individuals, companies and firms have invested their time, energy and expertise over the past 35 years to ensure the perennity of the BC Landscape Standard. This has resulted in an authoritative national standard applicable across the country.

## Canadian Landscape Standard

To the many, many people who have since collaborated and participated in meetings and discussions to build this into an excellent reference document that has formed the basis for the Canadian Landscape Standard; our industry owes you a debt of gratitude.

This Canadian Landscape Standard is an invaluable national resource and we collectively thank you.

## **Preface**

### **The Canadian Landscape Standard**

This first edition of the Canadian Landscape Standard has been prepared by a joint Standing Committee of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), and the Canadian Nursery & Landscape Association (CNLA). The initial 2016 publication of the Canadian Landscape Standard has evolved and expanded with the voluntary efforts of a wide range of individuals and organizations. The Standing Committee wishes to thank everyone who has contributed their time and expertise to offer comments and criticisms, and help with the research and organization of the 2016 edition of this Standard.

The purpose of this Standard is to document acceptable Canadian landscape construction practices as agreed upon by the CSLA, the CNLA, government authorities and other industry associations. This Standard sets guideline and makes recommendations for all major aspects of the landscape industry. It is intended that the Canadian Landscape Standard will set guidelines for landscape construction projects across Canada. It is intended for use by anyone who specifies landscape work, including landscape architects, landscape designers, municipal parks, planning departments, procurement departments, and allied organizations. It is intended for landscape contractors to support them in the bid process. Furthermore, it supports industry related educational and training programs. Although the standard is not a specification, it will help streamline the specification writing process by referencing one nationally recognized industry standard.

This first edition of the Canadian Landscape Standard has been thoroughly reviewed by the Canadian Landscape Standard Steering Committee contributors and reviewers from across Canada and reflects the best practices of the industry.

The CSLA and CNLA recognize this Canadian Landscape Standard as the national standard for the landscape industry.

Some of the highlights from the 2016 first edition includes:

- Formatting for ease of reading.
- Revision and expansion of all sections as required to apply to all regions in Canada.
- Addition of provincial resources section.

Comments, criticisms, and suggestions for improvements to this Standard are welcomed and can be forwarded to the Canadian Landscape Standard Standing Committee, in care of either:

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Phone : (905) 875-1399

Website: <http://www.cnla-acpp.ca/>

### **Endorsements**

The 2016 edition of the Canadian Landscape Standard is endorsed by the CSLA and the CNLA.

### Acknowledgement

CSLA and CNLA wish to express sincere appreciation for the contributions of many industry subject matter experts, from the landscape architecture and landscape professions who contributed to the 2016 publication. The CSLA and CNLA extend a special acknowledgement to the following representatives of the industry.

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## Canadian Landscape Standard

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## Introduction

### Standards and Specifications

**This document is not a Specification.** The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a “Specification” in part as “a detailed description of work to be done or materials to be used in a project...”, “a detailed precise presentation of something or a plan...” A “Standard” is defined as: “a type of non-proprietary specification that relies on accepted reference standards to describe a product, material, assembly or piece of equipment to be incorporated into a project.”

### This Standard

This Standard contains adopted existing trade standards. It has documented existing successful practices. It is therefore a widely accepted reference for normal, acceptable performance in the landscape industry across Canada. The Canadian Landscape Standard is the benchmark standard for industry stakeholders. As it is a Standard, it has not been written with detailed and precise wording. Therefore, the use or representation of this document as a Specification for landscape work is not recommended.

Applicable federal and provincial legislation is referenced to help ensure that all landscape work is carried out in compliance with applicable legislation.

As with many published standards, this Standard results from the effort of a group of partners, including manufacturers, producers, and industry professionals seeking simplification and efficiency or the assurance of a reasonable level of quality. This Standard recognizes and promotes:

1. Professional memberships (CSLA & CNLA/Provincial association memberships),
2. Competency (designations and qualifications),
3. Consumer protection,
4. Conformity, consistency and compliance,
5. The development of standardized training.

### Living Material

In contrast with most construction and product standards, this Standard deals with living materials and products.

First, many of the materials and products utilized are not manufactured rather, they are either organic elements present on sites where the work will take place, or they are produced by the management of organic components. These materials and products are therefore more widely varied in structure and not as easily quantified as manufactured products. This Standard strives to standardize definitions of materials and products and their acceptable, recognizable levels of quality.

Second, and most important, these living materials and products must be handled with a full understanding of their vital nature. Mishandling can destroy the structure of a soil built up over centuries of natural processes; a lapse in providing for the needs of plants can cause irreparable damage. Recognition of these factors is integral to this Standard.

### **A Living Document**

This Standard is designed to be a living document capable of revision and expansion. It will be reviewed regularly to reflect changes in industry best practices, emerging scientific findings, evolving techniques, new products, research, sustainability, climate change, regulatory changes, and industry feedback. Amendments, supplements, and new sections will be published to keep this Standard as current and effective as possible.

## A Guide to the Use of This Standard

### Administration Recommendations

This Standard does not attempt to distribute responsibility for enforcement of its provisions, or to predetermine methods of use by Specifiers, municipalities or other Users. This Standard can be readily applied by a variety of users through the referencing of, or the adoption of, appropriate sections. If necessary, procedures based on Section 1, *General*, and Section 2, *General Requirements*, may also be adopted. Determining the suitability of this Standard for each user's purposes remains the responsibility of that user.

A written Standard cannot cover the specific requirements of all projects. Therefore, this Standard is intended to set a level of quality that shall be equal to or bettered in the construction documents for each project. Where specifications set out in the Contract Documents conflict with this Standard in order to meet unique site conditions or requirements, or where they exceed those set out by this Standard, the Contract Documents shall govern the Work.

### Format

For ease of cross-referencing by construction Specifiers, individual sections are in the universal three-part format: General, Products, and Execution.

The Standard is formatted using a decimal numbering system, the components of which are described as followed:

6	Section
6.1.	Part
6.1.1.	Subsection
6.1.1.1.	Article
6.1.1.1.a.	Sentence
6.1.1.1.a.i.	Clause