

CODE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

This checklist will help homeowners stay in compliance with city codes while transforming their yards into sustainable, diverse landscapes. Adhering to the checklist will also help avoid potential complaints from surrounding community members.

How to Select the Best Plants for your Garden

- I have checked to ensure the plants I am using are native Oklahoma plants
- I regularly monitor seasonal changes in growth. Most herbaceous plants and shrubs can take two years or more to fully mature.
- I have incorporated plants that provide both pollen and nectar sources for visiting pollinators.
- I have implemented the necessary ground preparation to support new plant life.

Garden Boundaries and Clearance Limits

- My Garden has clearly marked edges (e.g. mulch, rocks, bricks).
- My plants and general growth is kept under 12 inches tall unless they are trees, shrubs, or produce in a well-tended garden.
- I've avoided planting too close to sidewalks, streets or intersections.
- I've trimmed plants along property lines to prevent interference with city mowing and traffic.

Regular Maintenance in Respect to Code Compliance

- I control weeds regularly by top cutting or through manual removal.
- Dense, wild shrubbery or briar patches. Thickets create conditions that can harbor pests, have been avoided.
- Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac have been removed.
- I've prevented conditions that could cause fire hazards like the buildup of combustible materials (mulch, wood, and yard litter).

Be Neighborly and Support Wildlife Responsibly

- My neighbors have been informed about my landscaping choices and the benefits I'm hoping to bring to the community.
- I've included a small sign to explain my eco-friendly garden (e.g., Yard by Yard certification).
- I've planted for pollinators but avoid attracting pests like rodents or creating safety concerns.
- I regularly maintain any water features to avoid breeding mosquitoes.

By following these recommendations, one can enjoy a vibrant, low-maintenance yard that benefits the environment while keeping the yard neat.

NATIVE GARDENING IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

01.

Why is it important to have native plants?

- Native plants are **locally adapted**, meaning they can withstand the harsh weather conditions of Oklahoma.
- Native plants are **ecologically important** because they provide habitat and food to a variety of wildlife. Provide a blend of plants that are nectar and pollen rich.
- An easy way to secure you are using a native seed mix is by visiting **Johnson Seed Company** and ordering the **Yard-by-Yard Community Wildflower mix**. You can also find other great native plant seeds at local nurseries and suppliers.



Invasive plants are weedy, and will result in code violations if they are not managed.



Poison Ivy



Bull Thistle



Johnson Grass



Giant Ragweed



Cheatgrass

02. Respond to City Notices

- If you get a notice about code violations (such as overgrown vegetation or weeds), act within 10 days to stay in compliance with OKC requirements.
- If you need clarification, contact the code officer who issued the violation and they will help you work toward a solution.
- Avoid reoccurring violations as they can lead to reduction or removal of weeds by the city and charges will be placed on the property owner.
- For those who desire a more wildscaped or naturalistic approach, consider focusing efforts in your backyard.

03. Ecological Responsibility

- Being an active participant in the local biodiversity of your community aids in safeguarding ecosystems, natural habitats, and species such as the Monarch butterfly.
- It's important to remember why you want to have a native plant area of your yard, whether its aesthetics, preservation, or environmental advocacy!