



THE ROSEDALE PLANTSMAN'S GUIDE TO THE MEASUREMENT OF NURSERY PLANT SIZES

The American Standard for Nursery Stock

For purposes of measuring the sizes of nursery plants, Rosedale follows the American Standard For Nursery Stock (1996), which has been developed by the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA) for use in the nursery industry.

In general, the sizes of balled and burlapped plants are measured as follows:

Single-trunk deciduous trees are measured by height from the base of the trunk until they reach 6 feet. At 6 feet and over these trees are measured in 1/2" increments of caliber (trunk diameter) until they reach 5 1/2-6" caliber size: larger sizes are measured in 1" caliber increments. The diameters of 1 1/2 up to 4" caliber trees are measured at 6" above ground level; for trees of 4" caliber or more, diameter is measured at 12" above ground level.

Most evergreen trees and multi-stem deciduous trees are measured by height (in one foot increments) to 8' ht., and above that size by two ft. increments (10-12' ht., etc.). Some slower-growing varieties of these trees (e.g., Hemlocks) are measured by 1/2 foot increments up to 3' ht. by 1' increments from 3' to 10', and in larger sizes by 2' increments. Height is always measured from soil level and does not include the rootball.

Most deciduous and evergreen shrubs are measured by the larger of their height or spread (width) in one-half foot increments (18-24", 2- 2 1/2 ' etc.) to 6' ht., and then are measured by one-foot increments (6-7', etc.).

Fast-growing deciduous shrubs (e.g., Privet, Forsythia) are graded entirely by one-foot increments for sizes above 24" up to 6 feet tall, then in double feet (8 ft., 10 ft., etc.).

According to both the ANLA Standard and customary nursery practice, a plant properly belongs in a particular size category (e.g., 2 1/2-3' ht.) if it has reached the minimum size for the category (e.g., 2 1/2' ht.) and has not yet reached the maximum size (3'). Thus, a 30-35" tall plant would be described as 2 1/2-3' in size. Please note that the rootball is not counted in measuring plant height. Many container (potted) plants are sold by either their measurement size or container size (e.g., 1, 2, 5 gal.), or both.

When describing sizes, usually only the minimum measurement for the size category is listed. In order to save type space on price lists and printed forms (such as Rosedale's quotations), Rosedale follows the ANLA *Standard* by size range. Therefore, a 13' White Pine would be graded as 12-14' ht., but usually would be listed on Rosedale's quotations, correspondence, and price labels as "White Pine 12'."

Please feel free to ask us for further information and assistance regarding plant sizes or other landscape and horticultural questions. We're glad to help.