

Rules for Arboreta

(See brochure for fee schedule)

1. An email newsletter is okay for level 4; it does not need to be a mailed copy. It “**should**” be a minimum of 120 recipients.
2. Labels not on the tree must be in close proximity to the tree (within 3 feet).
3. If ground labels are not practical, then signs can be attached to the trees with aluminum nails (not steel) preferably or screws. Aluminum nails are less likely to break a chain on a chain saw churning at 10-12,000 RPM, whereas screws create a wound every year as you back them out.
4. All trees must be planted properly in the ground, not temporarily heeled-in as B&B or in a container (no matter if garden center or nursery).
5. No hybrids! If a third of the site’s trees are hybrids, then we lose sight of the educational opportunity.
6. Species count stops at the species level. 2 or more varieties of the same species count only once. Ex. A Mary Jane Magnolia counts as a Southern Magnolia. It counts for So. Magnolia if there is no other Southern Magnolia, but it can’t count again if there are two.
7. Neighborhoods can be considered for arboretum, only if trees are accessible from the street. Trees should **not** be in the back yard, and the map must have all tree locations shown.
8. Fenced and gated properties should not be certified (goes against public access). Exceptions may be granted if public access can be assured through a letter from the applicant stating that visitors to the arboretum will be permitted.
9. Dirr’s Manual of Woody Landscape Plants (most current edition) is the official reference for tree verifications and inspections.
10. If the label is wrong, it must be corrected to count as a labeled tree. If the inspector thinks it is wrong but not sure, then a decision has to be made on whether to count it. If the inspector is stumped, go with what the site coordinator has it labeled as.
11. *** **(Extremely important)** *** There must be proof of a permanent maintenance program to maintain all sites to the level on inspection day. As an educational tool, arboreta must promote correct arboriculture and horticulture maintenance practices as well as the diversity of trees to be considered in our landscapes. A maintenance person must be assigned to each arboretum for the certification period of five years.