

**More Questions?** Contact the Tree Protection Officer at (828) 625-9983, or read the Subdivision Regulations at [www.TownOfLakeLure.com](http://www.TownOfLakeLure.com)

# TREE PROTECTION As You Clear or Grade Your Lot for DEVELOPMENT



This pamphlet is designed to provide general information only.

Any decisions and processes will be based upon the regulations of the Town of Lake Lure.

**Town of Lake Lure, NC  
September 30, 2008**

Issued by the Lake Lure Community  
Development Department

## What you should know before you clear and/or grade your lot for Development....

- **How is “development” defined?**

Construction, reconstruction, conversion, alteration, relocation, or enlargement of a structure; mining, excavation, or landfill, or any use or extension of the use of land.

- **How many trees may I cut without a permit?**

Without a permit you may cut any dead or hazardous tree, or any tree smaller than “significant” size, or clear an area of up to 500 sq. ft. that is 50 ft. or more from the lake; or up to 100 sq. ft. nearer the lake.

- **How is a “hazardous” tree defined?**

(1) A dead or diseased tree likely to fall or drop limbs on a road, structure, or other area where property exists or people reside. (2) Any tree of a species prone to flammability in dry weather that is within 30 feet of a flammable structure where property exists or people reside. See the “[Tree Management Handbook \(TMH\)](#),” available at Town Hall. (3) Any tree that interferes with routine activities of people, such as obstructing visibility for motorists or interfering with utilities.

- **How is a “significant tree” defined?**

Any stable, healthy tree at least as large as the diameter listed as significant for that species. See the zoning regs at [www.townoflakelure.com](http://www.townoflakelure.com), or TMH.

- **What are the rules for developing my lot?**

Do not begin any clearing or grading without an approved land disturbance permit (Erosion and Sedimentation Control regs) and an approved site plan, and until structure boundaries and clearable areas have been staked as shown on the site plan. No significant trees may be cut in areas not approved on the site plan. Tree-topping is prohibited. See Section 92.119 of the zoning regs, then call town staff (828-625-9983) for information and advice.

- **Are all trees protected?**

No. Only significant trees and areas of native shrubbery exceeding 100 sq.ft.

- **What is a native shrub?**

Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron, and other species listed in the TMH

- **Do I have to protect all significant trees?**

No, but the fewer trees you have, the more of them you need to protect. See the zoning regulations for details on preparing a tree protection plan.

- **What is a tree protection plan?**

Information recorded on the site plan about the trees, shrubs, and forest areas to be protected, forest coverage on the land before and after development, etc., as given in the zoning regulations.

- **Do I have to be careful with protected trees?**

Yes. A visible boundary such as an orange barrier fence must be set up around protected trees, shrubs, and forest areas before clearing or grading begins and kept in good repair until development is finished, to show which trees and shrubs must be protected. See the zoning regulations for the types of damage to be avoided.

- **Why is tree-topping prohibited?**

Cutting back the tree top or limbs larger than 3 in. removes the normal canopy, disfigures, and can kill a tree. See the TMH for approved pruning methods.

- **What if I cut or damage too many trees?**

New native trees, in sizes appropriate for successful planting and in numbers sufficient to equal the total diameters of the improperly cut or damaged trees, must be planted on the property and remain in good health for three years. Significant fines may also apply.