

## Artificial Crop Protection Structure and Shelterbelt Guidance

This document provides guidance on artificial crop protection structures and shelterbelts.

### Definitions

**Artificial crop protection structures** are structures with material (cloth) used to protect crops and/or enhance growth.

**Shelterbelt** is a line of trees or shrubs planted to protect an area, especially a field of crops, from weather.

### Shelter is strongly recommended

Artificial crop protection structures (ACPS) and shelterbelts are widely recognised and used as best practices for protecting crops from adverse weather, pests, disease, and for mitigating spray drift.

Most district plans have rules about shelter height and set-back etc, but do not require shelter<sup>1</sup>.

The rules vary by region. It's important you understand the requirements of the relevant district plan before you start planting or building. Many councils offer a complementary consultation to answer questions and provide guidance.

We also suggest understanding our Principles of Shelter<sup>2</sup>. The guidance provides other principles and recommendations for shelter.

### District plan rules to look out for

Below are the descriptions of a few shelter rules to look out for in district plans.

#### ACPS cloth colour

Generally, only green or black cloth can be used vertically within a specified distance from the boundary. However:

- white or other colour may be used if written approval from neighbouring properties is obtained.
- white or other colour may be used for vertical artificial screens (screens between rows of vines).
- Any colour may be used horizontally.

#### Set-backs

The minimum distance a shelterbelt or ACPS is from a boundary.

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<sup>1</sup>Far North District Council requires shelterbelts in the rural living (residential) zone when it borders the rural production (orchard/farms) zone; but only required when there is a change of land use. Note Northland Regional Council has a definition of 'effective shelter' with regard to spray buffer requirements; however, does not require shelter.

<sup>2</sup> Principles of shelter guidance is available on the NZKGI website or the Zespri Crop Protection Standard on Canopy.

## Height and daylighting

Height restrictions allow for adequate levels of sunlight and daylight to reach neighbouring properties throughout the year. Some district plans exempt structures and shelterbelts from daylighting requirements.

## District plans

Far North District Plan	<a href="#">Far North District Plan</a>
Auckland Unitary Plan Note: this is a unitary plan including both regional and district plan rules	<a href="#">Auckland Unitary Plan</a>
Waipā District Plan	<a href="#">Waipā District Plan</a>
Western Bay of Plenty District Plan	<a href="#">Western Bay of Plenty District Plan</a>
Whakatāne District Plan	<a href="#">Whakatāne District Plan</a>
Ōpōtiki District Plan	<a href="#">Ōpōtiki District Plan</a>
Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (Gisborne) Note: this is a unitary plan including both regional and district plan rules	<a href="#">Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan</a>
Hastings District Plan	<a href="#">Hastings District Plan</a>
Tasman Resource Management Plan Note: this is a unitary plan including both regional and district plan rules	<a href="#">Tasman Resource Management Plan</a>
Whanganui District Plan	<a href="#">Whanganui District Plan</a>