



## Artificial Crop Protection Structure and Shelter Belt Guidance

Before you start building artificial crop protection structures or planting a shelter belt on your orchard, here is some guidance material that may guide your decision-making process

### Definitions

#### Artificial Crop Protection Structures

Structures with material used to cover and protect crops

#### Shelter belt

A line of trees or shrubs planted to protect an area, especially a field of crops, from weather

Artificial crop protection structures and shelter belts are not a regulatory requirement<sup>1</sup> however it is highly recommended that these types of structures are included in your orchard plan to prevent spray drift and to protect your plants from adverse weather events.

While not a requirement, most District plans include rules for artificial crop protection structures (type of cloth that can be used, setback rules, height) and shelter belts (setback rules, height) and these will vary from region to region. The requirements that apply will depend on the district plan zone and the definition of building and whether artificial crop protection structures are included or excluded from this definition. It is important that you consider the requirements below and do your research before you start the building or planting process. Most Councils offer a one-hour free service to answer questions and provide guidance.

#### Type of cloth allowed

Generally, only green or black cloth can be used vertically within a specified distance from the boundary. Some districts allow white cloth to be used if written approval from neighbouring properties is obtained. Any colour can be used horizontally.

#### Set back rules

This is the distance that you can erect a structure or plant a shelter belt from the boundary of your property. The distance will vary so make sure you check your local district plan for guidance.

#### Height and daylighting requirements

Height restrictions will vary from region to region and will allow for adequate levels of sunlight and daylight to reach adjacent properties throughout the year. Some district plans exempt structures and shelter belts from daylighting requirements.

The district plan for your region is noted below. Alternatively, you can seek advice from your local District Council or from Sarah Cameron, Senior Policy Analyst at [sarah.cameron@nzkgi.org.nz](mailto:sarah.cameron@nzkgi.org.nz)

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<sup>1</sup> Shelter belts are required in the rural living (residential) zone when it borders the rural production (orchard/farms) zone in the Far North district however are only required when there is a change of use

Western Bay of Plenty District Plan	<a href="https://www.westernbay.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/district-plan-and-resource-consents/district-plan/current-operative-district-plan#toc-link-1">https://www.westernbay.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/district-plan-and-resource-consents/district-plan/current-operative-district-plan#toc-link-1</a>
Opotiki District Plan	<a href="https://www.odc.govt.nz/our-council/policies-plans-and-bylaws/district-plan/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.odc.govt.nz/our-council/policies-plans-and-bylaws/district-plan/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Whakatane District Plan	<a href="https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/documents/council-plans/operative-district-plan-2017">https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/documents/council-plans/operative-district-plan-2017</a>
Hawkes Bay District Plan	<a href="https://www.chbdc.govt.nz/services/district-plan/">https://www.chbdc.govt.nz/services/district-plan/</a>
Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (Gisborne)  Note: this is a unitary plan including both regional and district plan rules	<a href="https://www.gdc.govt.nz/the-tairawhiti-plan/">https://www.gdc.govt.nz/the-tairawhiti-plan/</a>
Far North District Plan	<a href="https://www.fndc.govt.nz/services/the-far-north-district-plan/district-plan-electronic-version">https://www.fndc.govt.nz/services/the-far-north-district-plan/district-plan-electronic-version</a>
Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in part) Note: this is a is a unitary plan including both regional and district plan rules  Previous District Plans are only operative in relation to any parts of the Unitary Plan that are under appeal.	<a href="https://unitaryplan.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/pages/plan/Book.aspx?exhibit=AucklandUnitaryPlan_Print">https://unitaryplan.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/pages/plan/Book.aspx?exhibit=AucklandUnitaryPlan_Print</a>  <a href="https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/district-and-regional-plans/district-plans/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/district-and-regional-plans/district-plans/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Waikato District Plan	<a href="https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/district-plan">https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/district-plan</a>
Tasman Resource Management Plan  Note: this is a unitary plan including both regional and district plan rules	<a href="https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/key-documents/">https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/key-documents/</a>
Horowhenua District Plan	<a href="https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Plans-Strategies/District-Plan">https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Plans-Strategies/District-Plan</a>
Whanganui District Plan	<a href="https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/our-services/planning-services/district-plan/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/our-services/planning-services/district-plan/Pages/default.aspx</a>