

Volunteer

Professional

Volunteer + Professional

Dumping Preventer

Image Source: Framboise, "Berberis." 08 May 2005 via Flickr CC BY-NC SA 2.0.





The Dumping Preventer is designed to reduce the risk of illegal dumping on your lot. A planted barrier prevents vehicles and people carrying debris from accessing the lot from the street and through the alley.

The planted hedge is spiny, thick, and is two to four feet in height, making it difficult to enter the lot. Two multi-stemmed trees are planted within the hedge. The colorful, hardy plants in this lot design create a clean edge without having to plant the entire lot.

For more information refer to [DFC-lots.com](https://dfc-lots.com)

What is the lot design likely to cost?

The estimated cost of the Dumping Preventer is moderate (\$1,000 – \$2,500) and based on 1.5 inch diameter trees, potted plants and utilizing volunteer labor. To save money you can buy smaller trees or pots. The cost assumes that residents or volunteers have access basic safety gear and garden tools.

How much upkeep will this lot design require?

This is a low maintenance lot design. Maintenance will include watering hedges and newly planted trees, particularly during times of drought and excess heat. You can prune hedges at any time to create desired height.

Will the installation of this lot design require a professional?

The installation of this lot design should not require professional assistance if you, with the help and support of friends, family or neighbors would like to construct this lot design. Please refer to the Step-By-Step section for guidance. If you do not have the required support or feel unable to tackle this lot design, please seek professional assistance.

How long will it take to install this lot design?

While people tackle projects in different ways and at different speeds, the Field Guide estimates installation time of this lot design to be one full weekend with the help of at least three to five healthy adults or youth. The Field Guide assumes the lot is 'construction ready,' and all equipment and materials required for the lot design have been acquired and are ready to use.

Cost	\$50 - 1,000	\$1,000 - 2,500	\$2,500 - 5,500	\$5,500 +
People	Volunteer	Professional	Volunteer + Professional	
Experience	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	
Upkeep	Low	Medium	High	
Stormwater	Good	Better	Best	
Location	Single or Multiple Lots in Full Sun to Shade (Lots with Illegal Dumping are Ideal)			

Dumping Preventer

Examples of Dumping Preventer Plantings

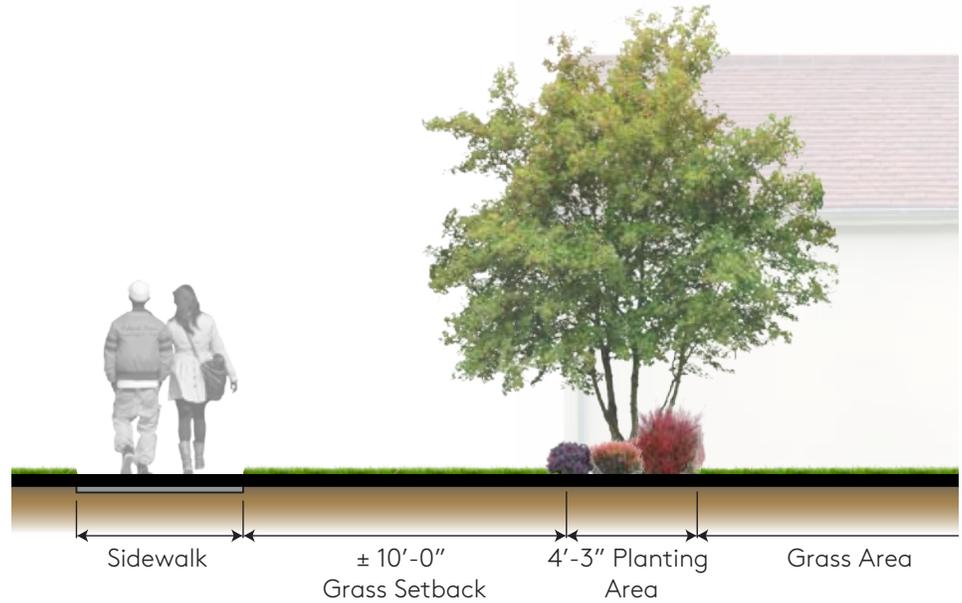
Section



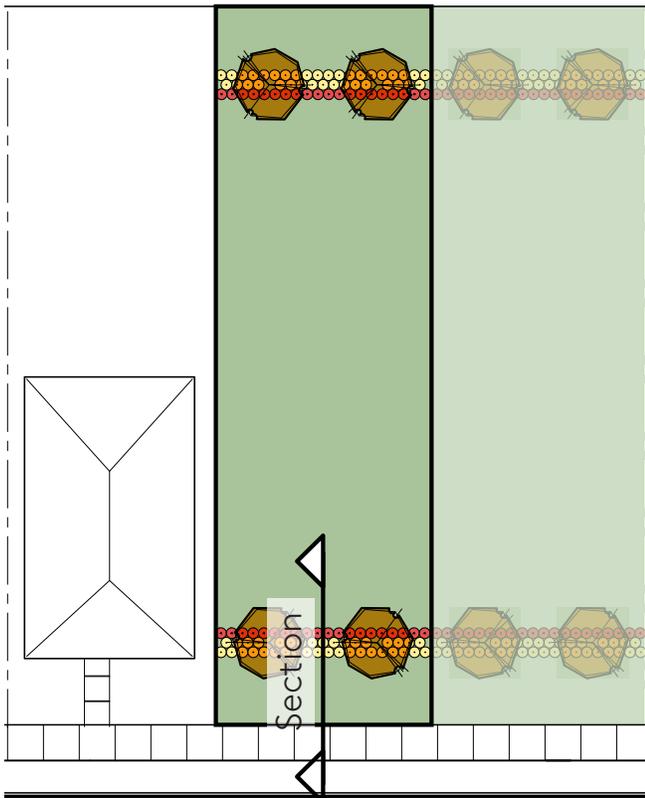
1 - Barberry Hedge



2 - Serviceberry Tree



Where Do I Grow?



The Dumping Preventer can be constructed on single or multiple lots. Multiple lots can help create a comfortable urban edge along roads and alleys. **If desired, a few plants can be removed to make a pathway into lot.** The images above show two plants: the Barberry Hedge and a Serviceberry Tree - both plants with wonderful fall color!

- Large Shrubs
- Small Shrubs
- Small Trees
- Grass or Optional Groundcover

Image Source: 1) Anneheathen. "barberry hedge" 8 May 2011 via Flickr CC By 2.0; 2) Dan Mullen. "Downy Serviceberry" 20 April 2010 via Flickr CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Before You Start

'Construction Ready'

This lot design assumes that you have prepared the lot to a 'construction ready' state.

'Construction Ready' refers to a lot that is clean and clear of trash, hazardous objects, unwanted trees, brush and vegetation, fences, and other unwanted structures.

It may be necessary to remove grass in preparation for your lot design. Refer to the Remove Your Grass box located on the right hand side of this page for more information.

Is there an available water source near your lot? Consider how and where you will access water during and after construction to ensure that your plants can establish.

If your lot is not ready for construction, refer to the [Clean + Green](#) lot design.

You can find the lot design at DFC-lots.com.

Call Before You Dig

Locate underground utilities before beginning your lot design. MISS DIG provides a free service to Michigan residents by locating and marking utilities on requested properties. Call (800) 482-7171 or 811 at least three days before you plan to start digging on your lot.

Test Your Soil

Harmful pollutants have made their way into many urban soils. To proceed with awareness, consider having your soil tested before construction. Two great options are available:

Soil testing is free to members of Keep Growing Detroit's Garden Resource Program. Call (313) 757-2635 for more information or visit detroitagriculture.net.

If you are not yet a member, you can work directly with Michigan State University's (MSU) Extension Program. They have a Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test Mailer for \$25. For more information call (888) 678-3464 or visit msusoiltest.com.

If you are concerned about the presence of lead or other contaminants in your soil, call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at (866) 691-5323 or (800) 424-LEAD.

Remove Your Grass

Need to remove grass in areas where you are constructing your lot design?

There are many ways to remove unwanted grass. The first is to remove the grass and its root system by digging up the grass. Another option is to cover your lot with cardboard or a plastic tarp to smother your grass in darkness. It will take several weeks, but after being covered, the dead grass will be easier to remove.

Till Safely

Before you till, inspect your lot for signs of buried concrete or rubble that was not removed during the cleanup stage. Large debris can ruin tiller blades.

When tilling, wear appropriate safety gear, such as covered boots with socks, long pants, safety glasses, dust mask, and ear protection. Make sure you understand the safe operating procedures of your tiller. Refer to the user's manual.

What You Need: Shopping List

Shopping List

The shopping list provides a breakdown of potential materials, tools, and resources required to construct this lot design.

This shopping list is designed for a single lot (30 by 100 feet).

Tools + Resources

Suggested Tools

- Marking Paint and Tape Measure
- **Safety Gear:** Gloves, heavy work boots, tall socks, pants, long sleeve shirts, dust masks, protective eye wear, ear plugs, and hard hats (if using heavy machinery)
- **Garden Tools:** Spades, shovels, rakes, trash bags, and wheelbarrows
- **Ball Cart**, for moving heavy trees

Potential Water Sources

- Garden Hose with potential extension hose
- Sprinkler
- Rain Barrel in addition to other water source

Field Guide Resources

Resources are available on the Field Guide's web site.

- Clean + Green
- Tree Planting Detail
- Perennials + Grasses Planting Detail
- Bulb Planting Detail

Materials List

Materials

- Mulch or Wood Chips, 1 cubic yard

Planting

- Bagatelle Barberry, 36 pots
- Concorde Barberry, 38 pots
- Rosy Rocket Barberry, 40 pots
- Shadblow Serviceberry, 4 pots

Remaining Lot (Optional)

Groundcover

- **Low-Maintenance Fescue Mix**, 15 pounds of seed
- **Germination Blanket**, 4 rolls (8 by 112.5 feet)

Dumping Preventer Step-By-Step

Let's Start

Want to create the Dumping Preventer but don't want to hire a professional? Here are a few guiding principles to help you construct your lot design.

Check off tasks as you go along.

Lot Design Steps

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Prepare Your Lot**
- Plant Hedge**
- Plant Trees**
- Maintain Your Lot Design**
- Sow Remaining Lot**

Lot Preparation

Decide on the best location for your hedge. Use marking paint to map out the size, shape, and dimensions of your design. The Field Guide recommends two planting beds approximately 4.3 by 30 feet or the width of the lot.

Minimal grass removal is required for your lot design. The Field Guide recommends removing the grass and its root system by digging the grass up.

Plant Hedge

A sunny to shade planting option is recommended for Dumping Preventer.

Place plants in desired location and remove plastic pots, loosen roots and plant.

The Field Guide recommends adding three inches (one cubic yard) of wood chips or mulch to planting beds. Adding wood chips or mulch will help suppress weeds.

For more guidance on planting perennials refer to the [Perennials + Grasses Planting Detail](#).

Plant Trees

The Field Guide recommends planting 1.5 inch diameter trees; however, smaller or larger trees can be planted if preferred. Trees can be purchased in pots or balled and burlapped. If you decide to plant larger trees, speak with a professional or an educational group as older trees can be more difficult to establish.

Plant trees as soon as possible after purchasing. If you cannot plant them the same day, do not leave unplanted trees in direct sunlight. Keep them in shade and well watered until you can plant them. (Trees dry out fast!)

Dumping Preventer Step-By-Step

Identify the location where you wish to plant the trees. Dig a hole three times the width of the root ball and equal to the depth.

Pots should be removed before placing the tree in the planting hole. Balled and burlapped root balls should remain wrapped until placed in hole. Unwrap the top 1/3 of the root ball and peel back the burlap once planted. Remove any twine, nails, or stakes. The root flare should be level with the ground when you place the tree in the hole.

Water the root ball, then backfill the hole with the soil previously removed from planting. Add water to the tree every six inches as you backfill the hole. Compact the soil lightly after each watering until the hole is filled with soil and level with the adjacent ground.

The Field Guide recommends adding three foot diameter by three inch depth of wood chips or mulch around trees. Keep mulch or wood chips a few inches away from tree trunks.

The Dumping Preventer plan shows two trees approximately 7.5 feet from planting bed edge.

For more guidance on tree planting, refer to the [Tree Planting Detail](#).

○ **Maintain Your Lot Design**

Trees and plants require care and attention to thrive. Planting beds are low-maintenance; however, water and weed tree and hedges while it is getting established the first two years. **Once your hedge is established, it will shade out the majority of the weeds.** Your hedge can be pruned at any time to keep the ideal height.

The Field Guide recommends connecting with an arborist or taking a workshop on proper tree health and maintenance. The Greening of Detroit offers a great Citizen Forester program to interested residents.

Dumping Preventer Step-By-Step



Visit the Resources page on the Field Guide's web site (DFC-lots.com) to discover other vendors and places to purchase plants.

Average Height of Plants



Trees and Shrubs

○ Sow Remaining Lot

If you are seeking a lower maintenance alternative to a traditional lawn, the Field Guide recommends a fescue seed mix. **If you follow Dumping Preventer lot design you will need approximately 15 pounds of fescue seed mix for the remaining lot (2,742 square feet) and four 8 by 112.5 foot rolls of single net germination blankets.**

This family of floppy grasses is drought-resistant and requires one cutting (in August or September) per year. Fescue can be established in full sun to shade and should be seeded in spring (mid-March to mid-May) or fall (August to September).

Soil should be prepared for seeding by scarifying, raking, or tilling the soil four to six inches deep to loosen any compaction, allowing for easier seed germination and better water infiltration. Apply seed mix to a damp lot.

Sow seed across the remaining lot by using a seed spreader or by hand. The Field Guide recommends a seed rate of five pounds per 1,000 square feet. Gently water seedlings daily until they are four to six inches in height. Placing a thin layer of straw or a germination blanket over seeded areas will help ensure that your seed establishes by keeping seeds from blowing away and protecting them from birds. Germination blankets or straw can be purchased at most nurseries and garden stores.

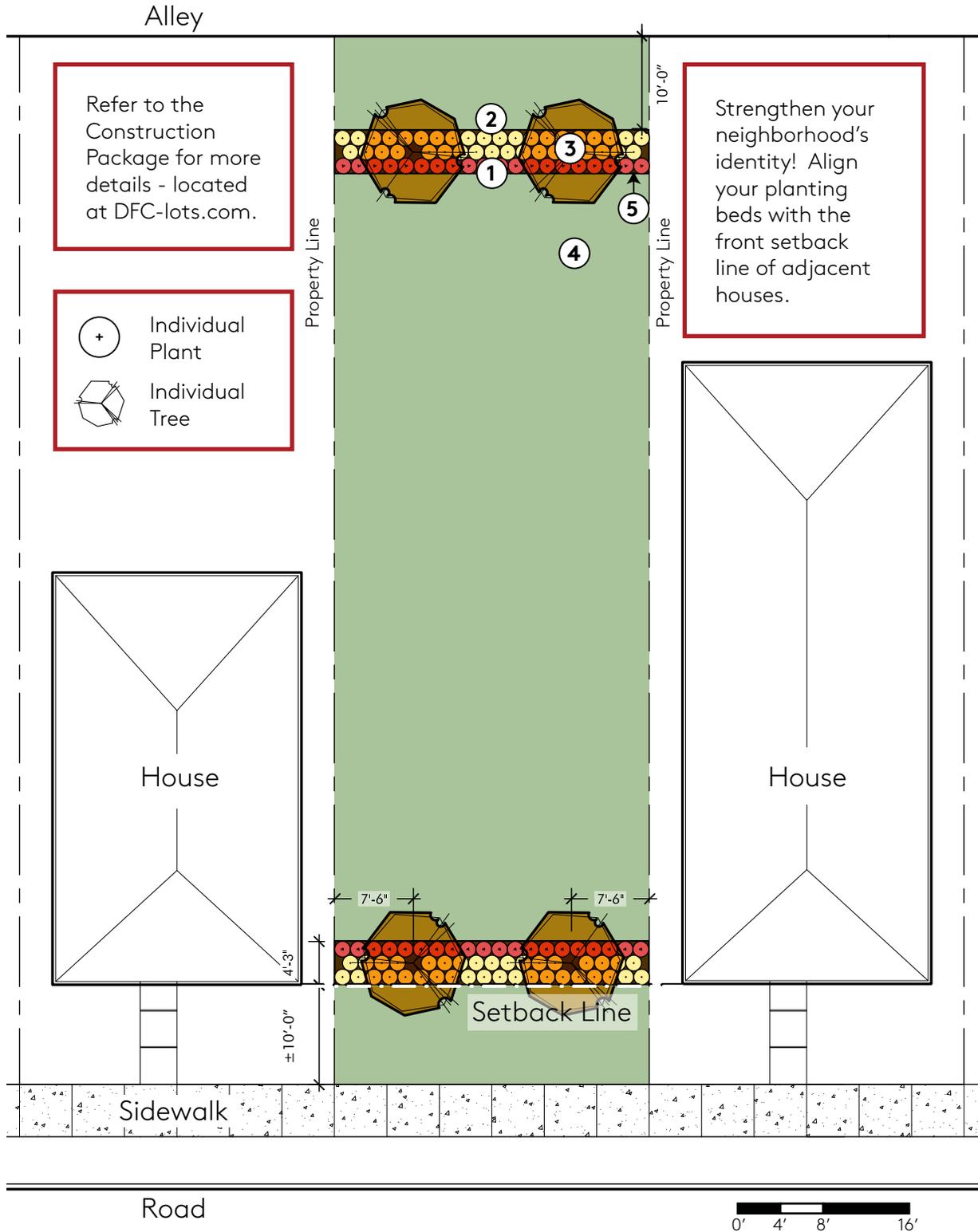
When established, grass will not require supplemental watering except during unusually dry periods. Eco-Turf Low Maintenance Fescue Mix is one recommended seed mix and can be purchased through the Michigan Wildflower Farm.

Other Field Guide lot designs can be used as groundcovers. Check out the web site for additional options and ideas.

Next Level: If you would like to bring additional color to your grass, you can always plant bluebells, crocuses and/or daffodils to create a decorative show in spring. Bulbs should be planted in the fall.

For more guidance on bulb planting refer to the [Bulb Planting Detail](#).

Dumping Preventer Lot Design



- 1** Small Shrub (Bagetelle & Concorde Barberry)
 - 2** Large Shrub (Rosy Rocket Barberry)
 - 3** Small Tree (Shadblow Serviceberry)
 - 5** Mulch
- 4** Grass or Optional Groundcover

Planting: Sun or Shade



Bagatelle Barberry¹
Berberis thunbergii
 'Bagatelle'
 15" Height x 15" Width,
 Spiny - Prune Anytime
Quantity: 36 pots



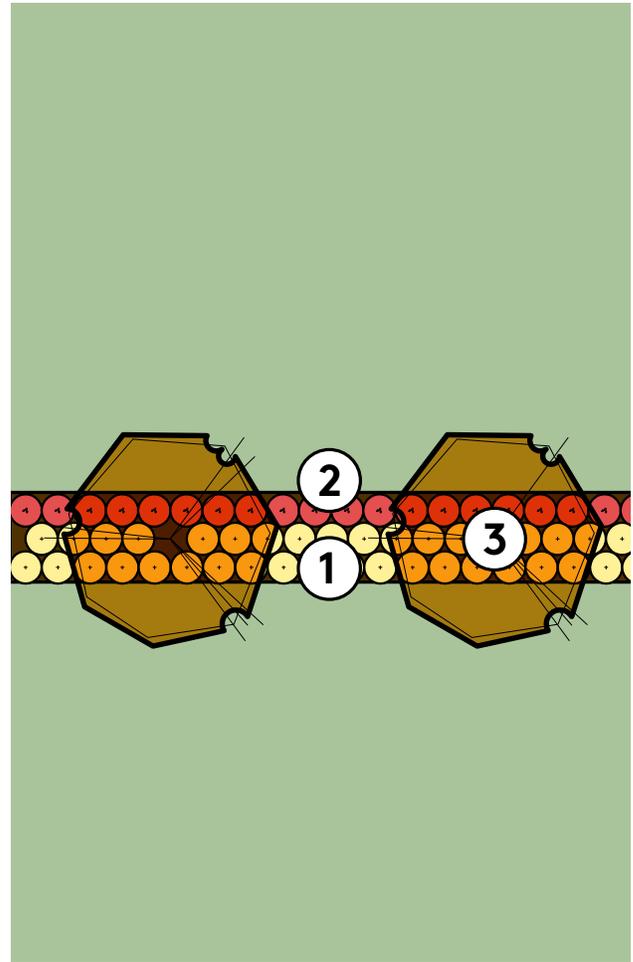
Concorde Barberry²
Berberis thunbergii
 'Concorde'
 18" Height x 24" Width
 Spiny - Prune Anytime
Quantity: 38 pots



Rosy Rocket Barberry³
Berberis thunbergii 'Rosy
 Rocket'
 48" Height x 16" Width
 Blooms in Mid-Spring
 Spiny - Prune at anytime.
Quantity: 40 pots



Shadblow Serviceberry⁴
Amelanchier canadensis
 15' Height x 15' Width
 Blooms April
Quantity: 4 pots or B & B



Plant Sizes



Pots: Plants can be purchased in one to five gallon pots. The size of pots can change based on availability.

1.5 inch diameter trees are available at commercial landscape supply stores in pots or balled and burlapped (B & B).

Key

- 1
Bagatelle Barberry & Concorde Barberry
 (Space approximately one foot apart.)
- 2
Rosy Rocket Barberry
 (Space approximately two feet apart.)
- 3
Shadblow Serviceberry
 (Space approximately 12 feet apart.)

Image Source: 1) Leonora Enking, "Berberis thunbergii 'Bagatelle.'" 27 April 2010 via Flickr CC BY-SA 2.0; 2) Megan Hansen, "Berberis thunbergii 'Concorde.'" 30 July 2010 via Flickr CC BY-SA 2.0; 3) Marie Richie, "Berberis_th-CrimsonPygmy." 11 March 2005 via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 4) Fairfax County., "Serviceberry (Amelanchier Canadensis)." 19 June 2005 via Flickr CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Did You Know?

Professionals Can Help!

The **Field Guide to Working With Lots** provides a **Construction Package** for each lot design. The **Construction Package** includes information and details required for a professional to construct this design. On the **Field Guide** web site, use the **Construction Package** link located near the top of this lot design page to download and print. Your selected professional will then be able to provide a cost estimate and schedule based on the condition of your lot and the design you select.

Want to Hire Locally?

DFC-lots.com has a growing list of **Detroit-based professionals and suppliers of landscape materials and services.**

Still unsure of where to start?

Call (313) 294-LOTS or email fieldguide@detroitfuturecity.com for assistance.

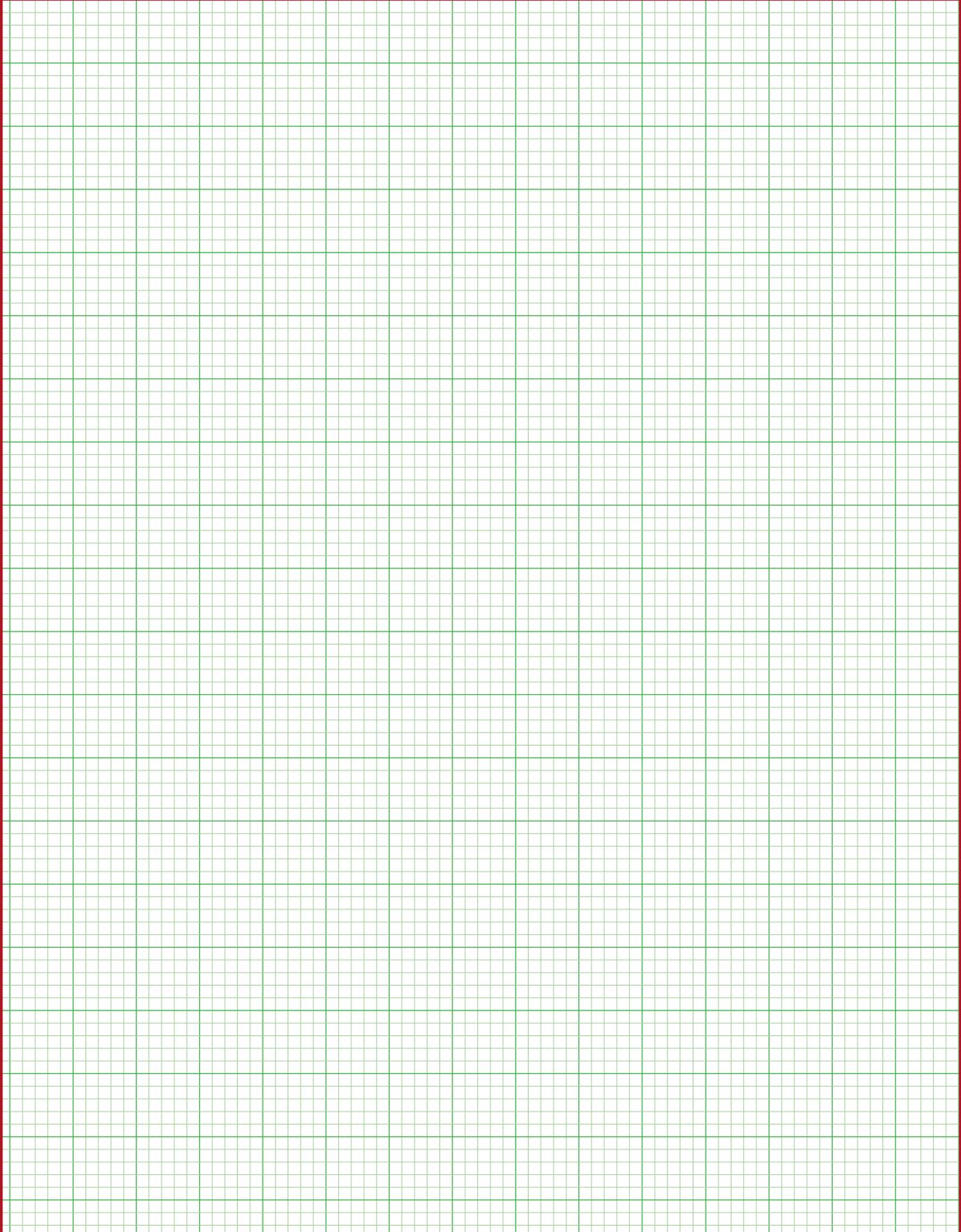
Helpful Facts

- While its primary purpose is to reduce the risk of illegal dumping, the hedge also provides habitat for a variety of birds.
- Barberry is tolerant of most soil types, fast growing, and produces colorful berries in the fall. Berries are not edible.
- Barberry shrubs are deer resistant.

Planting Tips

- Call ahead to make sure the nursery or garden store has the plants you need for your lot design.
- The best time to plant is in spring or fall.
- Do not plant in extreme heat.
- Water after planting and as needed. Do not let plants dry out.
- Weed weekly or as needed.
- If you do not have a back alley and do not want to plant the back of your lot, just cut the planting list in half.
- To create access to the lot, a pathway can easily be created by removing one hedge.
- Add crocus and snowdrops to existing grass for a colorful lawn in spring.
- Do not plant trees under overhead wires.

Draw Your Lot



Dumping Preventer Field Notes



**DETROIT
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**working
with lots**
A FIELD GUIDE

**Visit DFC-lots.com
#DFClots**

Image Source: Dan Mullen. "Downy Serviceberry" 20 April 2010 via Flickr CC BY-NC-ND 2.0