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ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PRELIMINARY PLAN REVIEW
BUREAU

SUBJECT: SPECIMEN PLANTS

JAN 13 1981

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In the past, our Standard Specifications have included a definition of specimen plants under 713-06 TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES. Although this definition applied to street trees only, we have found that landscape designers have been specifying specimen quality for evergreens, minor trees and shrubs, and using the street tree definition as a quality standard. This is inappropriate.

Therefore, the definition of Specimen Plants has been deleted from 713-06 in the Standard Specifications dated January 2, 1981. From now on, whenever designers can clearly establish the need for a high quality "specimen" plant, they must provide a definition under Landscape Development Notes on the Landscape Development Sheet (LB-7a 3/80), with appropriate references in Schedule C.

Specimen plants are only effective in refined urban or suburban situations. The effectiveness of such expensive, high-quality plants is of questionable value along rural roadsides, controlled access facilities and other similar locations where plantings are usually massed for visual effect. Specific justification for specimen plants in such locations will be required.

Where street trees rather than specimen plants are necessary, the definition in the American Standard for Nursery Stock, Section 1.1.2, is appropriate and may be included on the Landscape Development Sheet by reference.

PREL.	FINAL
DESIGN	LANDSCAPE
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