

PLANTING SPECIFICATION

General Guidance

All plant handling shall be in accordance with the HTA 'Handing and establishing landscape plants' Part I, Part II and Part III (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) and the CPSE publication: 'Plant Handing' and all planting to conform to National Planting Specification Guidelines.

The individual arrangement of the plants on site shall be the responsibility of the contractor and should follow exactly the locations shown on the detailed planting proposal drawings supplied by the landscape architect. Contractor to ensure that plants are equally spaced within individual planting groups.

Contractor to ensure that smaller plants are located to the front of plant species groups as shown on detailed planting plans.

Contractor shall maintain existing levels around the base of existing trees and shall undertake all planting works occurring within root protection areas (RPA) in accordance with BS5837:2012. Contractor shall not remove or relocate any tree protection fencing without prior consent of the client.

Contractor to check the locations of all underground services, existing and proposed, prior to the excavation of any pits or shrub beds and identify any potential conflicts to the client / landscape architect.

All areas shall be removed from site and the contractor shall at all times, keep the site free from rubbish and debris.

For the duration of the works the contractor shall keep the site free from injurious weeds as listed in the Weeds Act 1959.

All plants shall be supplied at the same size and of the same species as specified in the planting schedules on the landscape proposals plan. Any proposed replacement species or deviation from the planting schedules should be highlighted to and agreed with the client prior to installation.

All plants shall be hardened-off at the Contractor's own nursery or at the source prior to planting out.

All field and rootball treated trees must have been transplanted or under the nursery no less than 18 months prior to supply.

The Contractor shall carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. Planting is not to take place during periods of frost or strong winds.

The contractor is to ensure that adequate watering and weed control is provided at the time of planting.

Any topsoil retained on site is stockpiles for use in planting works is to be stored in accordance with the DEFRA publication, 'Code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites'.

Do not use peat or peat based products.

Prior to planting, planting areas shall be cleared of grass and weed growth physically and/or chemically with a proprietary translocated herbicide and a period of time shall allow to elapse as recommended by the manufacturer before commencement of soil preparation for planting.

All plants are to be watered thoroughly before planting stage to ensure rootball is thoroughly soaked prior to final bedding.

Trees Planting

Generally plant trees in pits with minimum dimensions of:

- 1000mm x 700-800mm deep for trees in soil, planted areas including, grass/scrub areas and rear gardens.

Backfill the pits in layers as specified below (from bottom up):

Drainage layer

- 200mm layer of compacted inert free draining gravel or per share, wrapped in geotextile membrane
- 100mm layer of washed medium-coarse sand to act as blinding layer between geotextile and soil.

Topsoil layer

- 400-500mm layer of retained site-sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015, sandy loam), depth dependent on size of rootball.

Depth of topsoil should only be as deep as the rootball of proposed tree to a max of 400mm. Should the rootball be larger i.e. 800mm height, then the pit should be increased in depth, but with the difference in depth of the topsoil layer and the drainage layer made up of quality imported free-draining subsoil to BS8601:2013 to avoid topsoil occurring at depths of greater than 500mm.

Likewise, for smaller trees i.e. feathered trees, with more limited rootballs, the depth of topsoil can be reduced to reflect the surrounding topsoil or a max. topsoil depth of 350mm, with a further layer of site-sourced or imported subsoil to BS8601:2013 below to create a total depth of growth medium of between 400-500mm i.e. 150-200mm layer of subsoil. Drainage layer should remain as above.

As stated above, the min. pit size for trees planted in newly created planting areas should be 1m x 1m, however where planting is occurring in dense, undrained ground, pits should be dug to approx. 200mm greater than the rootball to limit disturbance of surrounding soil structure. For very large stock, pit dimensions should be increased accordingly.

Break up bottom of tree pit to a depth of 200mm and ensure ground is free-draining. Loosen edges of the pit at time of planting by hand, using a fork to ensure good drainage. The soil should be excavated no greater than 48hrs prior to planting and dewatered as required.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/soil amendment in the form of peat free general purpose shale compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost across the planting bed in a 50mm layer at the rate of 300g per m², and incorporate to a depth of 25mm.

Install a proprietary geo-textile weed membrane onto the surface of the pre-prepared shrub planting beds with minimum 300mm laps. Once planting bed is prepared, dig planting holes for shrubs to be a depth of 200mm and a width of 150mm greater than the root ball size, ensuring that pits are loosely packed to ensure good drainage.

Ensure planting areas are random / natural and not formal in accordance with the planting proposal layouts as supplied by the Landscape Architect.

Amenity Grass Seeding

Areas to be seeded are to be finely graded to bring to a uniform and even grade at the correct finished level and to remove all minor hollows and ridges. All stones and debris greater than 50mm in size to be removed and disposed of off-site.

Ornamental Hedge Planting (incl. single species native hedges)

Plant hedges into pre-prepared planting trenches, 500-600mm wide for double rows. Planting strips to consist of topsoil to a depth of 350-400mm, mixed with soil conditioner as specified below.

To topsoil to be either, existing retained site-sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015; sandy loam), depth dependent on size of rootball.

Incorporate soil improver 'Terraform' Adorb by Greenleaf Ltd (4423 332100) at a rate of 1kg per m³, mixed thoroughly into backfilled topsoil.

All hedge planting areas to be dressed with a minimum 75mm mulch layer, consisting of medium chipped tree bark, composted for 2-4 weeks, particle size 15-50mm, laid directly onto weed suppressant membrane.

Trees shall be planted in the centre of the excavated pits.

Trees in soft planted areas to be dressed with a maximum 75mm mulch layer, consisting of pine bark fines, particle size 15-50mm to a min. diameter of 100-120mm.

Semi-mature trees shall be secured by use of a proprietary underground guying system, incorporating guy mats to protect the upper surface of the rootball and secured to the base of the tree or by use of deadman anchors. Guying supports to be sized in line with the size of the tree as recommended by the manufacturer.

Extra-heavy and heavy standard trees shall be staked and supported with a low, double stake consisting of 70n, 75mm diameter x 200mm length, rounded timber posts driven into the ground, 60mm above ground level and fixed to the tree by a proprietary rubber tree tie.

Where planting occurs into a retained area, then planting pits shall be excavated locally for each plant, with the surface vegetation removed.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/soil amendment in the form of peat free tree and shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost into the planting area.

Trees shall be installed with proprietary flexible perforated impervious/eravation pipe with integral cap. Pipe to be installed encircling equally around rootball to the full depth of planting pit, with the final cap section installed just above ground level and nailed securely in place to the adjacent timber stake.

All trees in grass areas to be protected by min. 450mm high (Roden) x 38mm diam. proprietary biodegradable plastic spiral guards, by Green-tech Ltd. or equal and approved. Where trees have a basal trunk diameter greater than, a semi-mature, then two or more guards should be joined together using joining tape and then secured in place.

Root Barrier Membranes

Where trees are proposed in close proximity to hard paved areas or proposed service runs, a root barrier membrane is to be installed to the adjacent root barrier membrane.

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Planting into pre-prepared planting beds

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Planting into pre-prepared planting trenches

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Planting into pre-prepared planting holes