



PLANTING SPECIFICATION

General Guidance

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

The individual setting-out of the plants on site shall be the responsibility of the contractor and should follow closely 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 BS5637:2012. 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 tree pits or shrub beds and identify any potential conflicts to the client / landscape architect.

All arisings 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 should 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 grown and rootball trees must have been transplanted or undercut in 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 in 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 be allowed 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 football is thoroughly soaked prior to final backfilling.

Tree Planting

Generally plant trees in pits with minimum dimensions of:

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

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

Drainage layer

• 200mm layer of compacted inert fine draining gravel or pebble shingle, wrapped in geo-textile membrane

• 100mm layer of washed medium-course sand to act as binding 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 rootball to a max. depth of 400-500mm. Should the rootball be larger i.e. 800mm height, then the pit should be increased in depth to 800mm, but with the difference in depth from the 400-500mm topsoil layer and the drainage layer made up of quality impeded free-draining subsoil to BS5601:2013 to avoid topsoil occurring at depths of greater than 500mm.

Likewise, for smaller trees i.e. feathered trees, with more limited rootball/bare root, the depth of topsoil can be reduced to reflect the surrounding topsoil depth or a max. topsoil depth of 350mm, with a further layer of site-sourced or imported subsoil (to BS5601:2013) below 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 shall be 1m x 1m, however where planting is occurring in clean, undisturbed ground, pits should be dug to approx. 200mm greater than the rootball to limit distribution 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 tree pit at time of planting by hand, using a fork to ensure good drainage. Pits should be excavated no greater than 48hrs prior to planting and dewatered as required.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/ameliorant in the form of peat-free tree and shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost or 'Rootmaster' by Green-tech Ltd (01423 332100) into backfilled topsoil material at the rate of min. 40L per pit.

Incorporate soil improver 'Terracotem Arbor' by Green-tech Ltd (01423 332100) at a rate of 1kg per pit, mixed with a low, double stake consisting of 2No.

Backfill topsoil mix in layers of 150mm, firming at each layer and loosening the pit sides to aid drainage. The surface level of the pit should be 50mm above the surrounding ground.

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

Trees in soft planted areas to be dressed with a minimum 75mm mulch layer, consisting of pine bark fines, particle size 15-50mm to a min. diameter of 1000-1200mm.

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

For services 450mm deep

o Rerot 600' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717797) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 600mm, ribs facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soft landscaping.

• For trees adjacent to hard standings incorporating underground services; install the following

dependant on the depth of underground services; For services 450mm deep

o Rerot 600' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717797) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 600mm, ribs facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soft landscaping.

For trees adjacent to hard standings only (no underground services); install 'Rerot 300' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717797) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 300mm, ribs facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soft landscaping.

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