

LANDSCAPE PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION

NEW DWELLING, 36 HAVANT ROAD, HAYLING ISLAND, PO11 0PX

FOR

Mrs E Forster

January 2017

External Planting and Maintenance Provisions

(Cultivation and other operations associated with plant establishment, and timing of planting.)

GENERAL INFORMATION/ REQUIREMENTS

SITE CLEARANCE GENERALLY

- General: Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
- Large roots: Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.

SOIL CONDITIONS

- Soil for cultivating and planting: Moist, friable and (excepting aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged.
- Frozen or snow covered soil: Give notice before planting. Provide additional root protection. Prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

TIMES OF YEAR FOR PLANTING

- Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March.
- Conifers and evergreens: September/ October or April/ May.
- Herbaceous plants (including marginal): September/ October or March/ April.
- Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favorable.
- Watering and weed control: Provide as necessary.
- Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.
- Green bulbs: After flowering in spring.
- Aquatic plants: May/ June or September/ October.

WATERING

- Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
- Application: Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Frequency: As necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting.
- General: If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation, do not carry out planting until instructed. If planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

PREPARATION, PLANTING AND MULCHING MATERIALS

- General: Free from toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.
- Certification of source, analysis, suitability for purpose and absence of harmful substances.

PLANTS/ TREES – GENERAL

- Condition: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
- Appearance: Of good shape and without elongated shoots.
- Hardiness: Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
- Health: Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
- Budded or grafted plants: Bottom worked.
- Root system and condition: Balanced with branch system.
- Standard: The National Plant Specification.
- Species: True to name.
- Origin/ Provenance: Contractor's choice.

CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS/ TREES

- Growing medium: With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.
- Plants: Centered in containers, firmed and well watered.
- Root growth: Substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.
- Hardiness: Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied.
- Containers: With holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

PLANT HANDLING, STORAGE TRANSPORT AND PLANTING

- Standard: To HTA 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'.
- Frost: Protect plants from frost.
- Handling: Handle plants with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.
- Plant packaging: Coextruded polyethylene bags with black interior and white exterior.
- Packaging of bulk quantities: Pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped.
- Planting: Upright or well balanced with best side to front.

PLANTING SHRUBS/ HERBACEOUS PLANTS/ BULBS

RANDOM PLANT LAYOUT TO ALL BEDS

- Spacing: Evenly, avoiding straight lines.
- Density: As plant schedule.

SHRUB PLANTING PITS

- Timing: Excavate 1-2 days (maximum) before planting.
- Sizes: Wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread and 75 mm deeper than root system.
- Backfilling material: Reuse excavated material.

FORMAL HEDGES

- Shrubs for hedges: Consistent in species, cultivar and clone to ensure a uniform hedge.
- Planting: In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

NATURALIZED HEDGES

- Planting: In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

AFTER PLANTING

- Watering: Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Firming: Lightly firm soil around plants and fork and/ or rake soil, without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with gentle cambers and no hollows.

MULCHING PLANTING BEDS

- Material: Ornamental bark mulch.
- Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
- Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
- Coverage: 50 mm depth.
- Finished level of mulch: 50 mm above adjacent grassed or paved areas.

PLANTING TREES

TREE PITS

- Sizes: 900 mm diameter x 600 mm deep.
- Sloping ground: Maintain horizontal bases and vertical sides with no less than minimum depth throughout.
- Pit bottoms: With slightly raised centre. Break up to a depth of 150 mm.
- Pit sides: Scarify.
- Backfilling material: Tree backfilling material.
- Accessories: Perforated plastics irrigation/ ventilation pipe.

TREE PIT ACCESSORIES

- Locations: All tree pits.
- Manufacturer: Contractor's choice.
- Type: Perforated plastics irrigation pipe, 50 mm diameter, in circle above and around sides of rootball, with plastics cap.

STAKING GENERALLY

- Stakes: Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end.
- Nails: To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.
- Stake size (minimum): 50 mm diameter.

SHORT DOUBLE STAKING FOR ALL TREES

- Staking: Drive stakes vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit on either side of tree position before planting.
- Backfilling: Consolidate material around stakes.
- Height of stakes: Cut to approximately 600 mm above ground level.
- Cross bar: Hessian Tree Tie.
- Firmly fix on windward side of tree and as close as possible to stem.
- Ties: Hessian Tree Tie.

TREE BACKFILLING MATERIAL

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required.
- Ameliorant/ Conditioner: Organic tree planting compost.

- Application rate: To manufacturer's/ supplier's recommendations.

MULCHING TREES

- Material: Ornamental bark mulch.
- Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
- Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
- Coverage: To cover tree pit area.
- Finished level of mulch: 50 mm above adjacent grassed or paved areas.

INDIGENOUS MIX PLANTING

EXISTING VEGETATION/ WEED CLEARANCE

- Surface vegetation clearance: Hand clear weeds with hand tools.

REMOVING TREES AND HEDGES

- Identification: Clearly mark trees and hedges to be removed.
- Work near retained trees: Where canopies overlap, take down trees carefully in small sections to avoid damage to adjacent trees that are to be retained.
- Tree stumps: Cut as close to ground as possible and kill with ammonium sulfamate immediately after felling.

PRUNING OF RETAINED TREES AND HEDGES

- Identification: Clearly mark trees and hedges to be retained.
- Pruning of existing hedges: Prune existing hedges to be retained to uniform height and shape, remove all dead, damaged and diseased growth.
- Work near retained trees: Where canopies overlap, take down trees carefully in small sections to avoid damage to adjacent trees that are to be retained.

PROTECTING/ MAINTAINING/ MAKING GOOD DEFECTS

MAINTENANCE

Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting for 10 years.

FAILURES OF PLANTING

- Defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract: Plants/trees/ shrubs that have failed to thrive.

- Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage after completion.
- Rectification: Replace with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs.

- Replacements: To match size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater.
- Timing of making good: During the next suitable planting season.

PLANTING MAINTENANCE GENERALLY

- Weed control: Maintain weed free area around each tree and shrub.
- Diameter (minimum): The larger of 1 m or the surface of original planting pit.
- Keep planting beds clear of weeds: By hoeing.
- Planted areas: Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Take care not to reduce depth or effect of mulch.
- Precautions: Ensure that trees and shrubs are not damaged by use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools.
- Staking: Check condition of stakes, ties, guys and guards.
- Broken or missing items: Replace.
- Rubbing: Prevent.
- Ties: Adjust to accommodate growth.
- Damage to bark: Cut back neatly with sharp knife. Prevent further damage.
- Frequency of checks: At each scheduled maintenance visit.

PLANTING MAINTENANCE - PRUNING

- General: Prune to promote healthy growth and natural shape.
- Dead, dying, diseased wood and suckers: Remove.
- Timing: In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule.
- Trees: Favor a single central leading shoot.

Landscape maintenance

MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES

Location: All planting beds.

Duration: 10 years.

Aims: Enhanced landscape quality.

Results: Established Landscape scheme.

REINSTATEMENT

Damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings: Reinstate to original condition.

WATERING

Supply: To be confirmed on site.

Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil .

Application: Do not damage or loosen plants.

Compacted soil: Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.

Frequency: As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.

SHRUBS/TREES/HEDGES

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PLANTING

- Weed control:
 - Method: Keep planting beds clear of weeds by Hand weeding.
 - Area: Maintain a weed free area around each tree and shrub, minimum diameter the larger of 1 m or the surface of the original planting pit.
- Soil condition: Fork over beds to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Do not reduce depth or effect of mulch.
- Trees: When in leaf, spray crowns during warm weather.

TREE STAKES AND TIES

- Inspection/ Maintenance times: As scheduled and immediately after strong winds.
- Stakes:
 - Replace loose, broken or decayed stakes to original specification.
 - If longer than half of clear tree stem height, cut to this height in spring. Retie to tree firmly but not tightly with a single tie.
- Ties: Adjust, refix or replace loose or defective ties, allowing for growth and to prevent chafing.
 - Where chafing has occurred, reposition or replace ties to prevent further chafing.
- Removal of stakes and ties: Two years after planting.
- Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.

REFIRMING OF TREES AND SHRUBS

- Timing: After strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances.
- Refirming: Tread around the base until firmly bedded.
- Collars in soil at base of tree stems, created by tree movement: Break up by fork, avoiding damage to roots. Backfill with topsoil and refirm.

PRUNING GENERALLY

- Pruning: In accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice.
- Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem or bark.
- Wounds: Keep as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood.
- Cutting: Make cuts above and sloping away from an outward facing healthy bud, angled so that water will not collect on cut area.
- Larger branches: Prune neither flush nor leaving a stub, but using the branch bark ridge or branch collar as a pruning guide.
- Appearance: Thin, trim and shape each specimen appropriately to species, location, season, and stage of growth, leaving a well balanced natural appearance.
- Tools: Use clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools. Trim off ragged edges of bark or wood with a sharp knife.
- Disease or infection: Give notice if detected.
- Growth retardants, fungicide or pruning sealant: Do not use unless instructed.

FORMATIVE PRUNING OF YOUNG TREES

- Standard: Type and timing of pruning operations to suit the plant species.
- Time of year: Do not prune during the late winter/ early spring sap flow period.
- Young trees up to 4 m high:
 - Crown prune by removing dead branches and reducing selected side branches by one third to preserve a well balanced head and ensure the development of a single strong leader.
 - Remove duplicated branches and potentially weak or tight forks. In each case cut back to live wood.
- Whips or feathered trees: Do not prune.

PRUNING ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS

- General: Prune to encourage healthy and bushy growth and desirable ornamental features, e.g. flowers, fruit, autumn colour, stem colour.
- Suckers: Remove by cutting back level with the source stem or root.

PRUNING FLOWERING SPECIES OF SHRUBS AND ROSES

- Time of year:
 - Winter flowering shrubs: Spring.
 - Shrubs flowering between March and July: Immediately after the flowering period.
 - Shrubs flowering between July and October: Back to old wood in winter.
 - Rose bushes: Early spring to encourage basal growths and a balanced, compact habit.

TRIMMING RAPIDLY ESTABLISHING HEDGES

- General: Allow to reach planned height as rapidly as possible.
- Form: Trim back lateral branches moderately.

REMOVAL OF DEAD PLANT MATERIAL

- Operations: At the end of the growing season, check all shrubs and remove all dead foliage, dead wood, and broken or damaged branches and stems.

DEAD AND DISEASED PLANTS

- Removal: As soon as possible.
- Replacement: In the next scheduled round of replacement planting.

REINSTATEMENT OF SHRUB/ HERBACEOUS AREAS

- Dead and damaged plants: Remove.
- Mulch/ matting materials:
 - Carefully move to one side and dig over the soil, leaving it fit for replanting.
- - Do not disturb roots of adjacent plants.
- Replacement plants:
 - Use pits and plants: To original specification or to match the size of adjacent or nearby plants of the same species, whichever is the greater.

WEED CONTROL GENERALLY

- Weed tolerance: Weed to clear ground every maintenance visit.
- Adjacent plants, trees and grass: Do not damage.

HAND WEEDING

- General: Remove weeds entirely, including roots.
- Disturbance: Remove the minimum quantity of soil, and disturb plants, bulbs and mulched surfaces as little as possible.
- Completion: Rake area to a neat, clean condition.
- Mulch: Reinstate to original depth.

SOIL LEVEL ADJUSTMENT

- Level of soil/mulch at edges of beds: Reduce to 50 mm above adjacent grass or hard surface.

MAINTENANCE OF LOOSE MULCH

- Thickness (minimum): 50 mm.
- Top up: At end of defects period.
- Mulch spill on adjacent areas: Remove weeds and rubbish and return to planted area.
- Weeding: Remove weeds growing on or in mulch by hand weeding.

WINTER LEAF REMOVAL

- Operations: Take down temporary leaf fences. Collect accumulations of drifted leaves from the vicinity and from planting beds.