



# GENERAL MAINTENANCE

## Green Roof Extensive System

Lightweight sedum system XF301.

## BAUDER EXTENSIVE GREEN ROOF SYSTEMS

XF301 and SB & WB vegetation blankets and other substrate based planting schemes.

### What to Expect From a Bauder Extensive Green Roof System

There is a common misconception that extensive green roofs, and sedum plants in particular, are always green and that from ground level they resemble grass. This is misleading, as they consist mainly of low growing, drought tolerant plants including sedums, saxifrage, wild flowers, grasses, moss and herbs.

The appearance of the vegetation within an extensive green roof will change year on year, dependent upon fluctuations in the seasonal weather throughout the period. It should also be expected that more grass and moss will be present during the wetter months, because the conditions will be ideal for these species to exist, they will tend to die off during the dry summer months, as free-draining extensive substrates will not hold sufficient moisture for them to survive.

The growth and flowering of the individual species within the vegetation mix through the late spring and summer will be dependent upon the weather prevailing at the time, which will also determine which species will be most prominent in any given year.

In the winter, sedum will become smaller and turn red/brown in colour as they prepare themselves to withstand the coming winter frosts. This gives the vegetation a red/brown hue in the late autumn and winter months, which is sometimes mistaken for the plants being distressed, when in fact they are in optimum condition for the time of year.

It is another misconception that extensive green roofs are maintenance free> Green roofs are 'low maintenance' rather than 'no maintenance'. Bauder recommend that all green roofs have a way of watering during prolonged periods without rain. All green roofs will benefit from water during droughts (See Bauder's Watering Guide).

All green roofs will require feeding from time to time e.g. Bauder's lightweight Xero Flor Sedum Blanket contains little in the way of natural nutrient, so fertiliser must be applied annually to ensure that the plants become resistant to extremes of weather and temperature.

The Bauder XF301 Sedum Blanket contains approximately 14-17 different plant species, some very similar in appearance to others but being more drought tolerant. Not every species incorporated will survive and the more dominant will be expected to prevail over time because they will adapt better to a particular location. Regardless of this, we would anticipate that at least 50% of the species will flourish.

Extensive green roofs that have a deeper substrate growing medium, where the vegetation is provided either by selected plug plant species or seeds, will generally support a broader species mix, which can include wild flowers, grasses and herbs. An increased amount of dead vegetation will arise from this type of species mix following flowering, which will need to be cut back and removed, both to reduce the bio-mass on the roof and to encourage seed drop from the dead flower heads.

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**Watering and Irrigation:** all green roofs will require water during prolonged periods of dry weather, generally sedums are much more drought tolerant than native wildflowers but both will benefit from a prolonged soaking (not little and often) to prevent them from fully drying out (Details are in the Bauder Watering Guide).

## General Maintenance

General maintenance is normally carried out annually during springtime. However, certain tasks which will be dependent upon the location of the roof, such as the removal of weeds, seedlings and accumulated leaf litter from overhanging trees may also need to be done during the autumn.

The following procedures should be carried out as indicated below, in order to ensure that the roof is maintained in good condition and to protect the validity of the guarantee.

### Preliminary Maintenance Procedures

- Ensure safe access can be gained to the roof and that relevant Health and Safety procedures are followed when working at roof level. It is advised that the contractor should always seek proof of current maintenance for any man-safe roof access systems prior to proceeding with the work on site.
- Remove all dead vegetation and debris from the roof surface, taking particular care to ensure that all chute outlets, gutters and downpipes are clear. Where the species mix incorporates wild flowers and grasses it is recommended that all dead vegetation is trimmed off and the waste lowered to the ground and carted away.  
**Please note:** Roofs in the vicinity of taller trees will need more frequent maintenance. We recommend removing dead leaves during the spring and again in the autumn, to ensure that they do not damage the roof vegetation.
- Remove the lids of all inspection chambers, ensure that all rainwater outlets and downpipes are free from blockages and that water can flow freely away.
- Ensure that any protective metal flashings and termination bars remain securely fixed in place. Advise the client of the need to repair or renew as necessary.
- Examine all mastic sealant and mortar pointing for signs of degradation. Advise the client of the need to repair or renew as necessary.
- Check that all promenade tiles and paving slabs remain in position, secure and in good condition.
- Ensure that any new items of plant/equipment that may have been introduced to the roof are mounted on suitable isolated slabs and that any fixings used to secure the plant/equipment in place do not penetrate the waterproofing. If in doubt, please contact Bauder for further advice.
- The Building owner should keep a record of all inspections and maintenance carried out on the roof. Any signs of damage, contamination or degradation to the waterproofing should be reported to Bauder immediately, in order that arrangements can be made for remedial work to be carried out if necessary. Damage to the landscaping should be reported to the building owner. If this damage includes Bauder components, then Bauder may be contacted for remedial advice.

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- When carrying out maintenance to adjoining areas, care must be taken not to damage either the landscaping or the waterproofing system. If it is considered that either has been affected, the Bauder should be contacted for advice. Any waterproofing damage caused after completion of the original installation may invalidate the guarantee.
- Any unauthorised alterations to the waterproofing system will invalidate the guarantee. If such a situation should arise, then Bauder should be contacted so that we may advise on the alteration and how it should be incorporated without affecting the guarantee.

## Vegetation Maintenance Tasks

The following tasks should be carried out annually: -

**Application of Fertiliser to the vegetation:** As a general rule all sedum based green roofs require feeding annually to promote strong growth in the sedum and make them more drought tolerant. Biodiverse and Wildflowers system often do not need annual fertiliser as this may allow weed species to out compete them.

### 1. Plant encroachment

Any vegetation which has encroached into drainage outlets, walkways and the vegetation barriers (pebbles) should be removed. The vegetation removed may be set aside and used to repair any bare patches if required (see below). If movement/settlement of the pebble vegetation barrier has occurred, additional washed stone pebbles similar to the existing are to be added.

### 2. Monitor the colour and rate of growth

The colour and rate of growth of the vegetation should be reviewed to establish the health of the plants. It should be noted that many factors can affect the growth and colour of the vegetation and that plants tend to be greener in wetter, mild conditions (springtime) and where the roof pitch is shallow.

### Notes

- During May, June and July, sedum plants flower and you will see a mixture of colours – predominantly whites, pinks and yellows with some purple. The foliage of some species of sedum, such as Sedum Album “Coral Carpet”, is blush red naturally during the summer and autumn, and so the vegetation can take on a more ‘red/brown appearance. This becomes more noticeable once plants have flowered, leaving remnants of dry brown seed heads. The best visible indication of the health of a plant is if the leaves are fleshy and contain plenty of water.
- When exposed to extreme conditions, sedum plants have a tendency to turn a deep red colour. This is a natural phenomenon and is important to help the plant to acclimatize, ready to survive a cold winter or hot summer. This will usually occur during extreme cold weather as well as periods of prolonged drought, in very exposed locations or when the plants are in distress through lack of nutrient (fertiliser).
- If an irrigation system is fitted, it is best to run it only during prolonged dry weather and for limited periods – see ‘Irrigation’ information below.

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- If sedums are showing signs of distress, but have received regular rainfall, then the most likely problem is a lack of nutrient and a fertiliser should be applied.
- Only a relatively few species of sedum and other plants suitable for an extensive green roof installation will persist in partial and full shade, and they will generally be greener in colour and grow “leggier” in these locations. There will be a significant variance in the growth and colour between the plants growing in full or partial shade and those in full sun and this should be recognised as a feature of the living nature of each individual roof.
- If problems with the vegetation are suspected, Bauder may be contacted for advice and, if necessary, a suggested course of action.

### 3. Weeding

With the exception of saplings, which should always be removed, weeds in an extensive green roof should be considered as a problem only of aesthetics. If considered excessive, they can be removed either manually or by using a ‘spot weed wipe’, ensuring that care is taken to follow specific instructions regarding the use of any proprietary products. After the removal of weeds and saplings, treat the affected area as if it were a bare patch (see below). All extensive green roof installations will at times include some moss and grass.

### 4 Repairing Bare Patches.

Bare patches can be easily repaired and this is best done during the main growing seasons of March/April or from late August until the end of September. Take vegetation cuttings from surrounding areas of abundant growth and place on bare patches, pressing gently into the soil. A light sprinkling of sand mixed with compost should then be dressed over the affected area to improve the uptake of the cuttings. The best results will be achieved if this work is carried out during spring maintenance and the affected area is kept moist for a short period afterwards. Please contact Bauder for further project-specific advice.

**Please note:** In areas of extreme exposure or where localised wind-swirl is caused by adjacent structures, it is possible that both the vegetation and substrate will be disturbed by periods of high wind. Should this occur, consideration should be given to how best to secure the installation against similar conditions in the future prior to re-instatement. If a problem of this type is suspected, Bauder may be contacted for advice and, if necessary, a suggested course of action.

### 5 Fertiliser for Bauder XF301 sedum blankets

Bauder Sedum Blankets are grown in a shallow growing medium which contains very little nutrient, so the annual application of fertiliser is crucial to ensure that the plants remain healthy. Fertiliser should ideally be applied during March/April, as it helps the plants to prepare for extreme weather conditions and flowering whilst also allowing the different species to gain sufficient nutrients without competing against each other.

Organic fertiliser can be obtained direct from Bauder in 25kg bags, which is sufficient for an area of 312.5m<sup>2</sup> when applied at the recommended rate of 80gm/m<sup>2</sup>. Areas of up to 30m<sup>2</sup> may be applied using either a hand held spreader or strewn by hand from a bucket. Larger roofs should always be done using a trolley applicator, which can be purchased direct from Bauder. Always apply the fertiliser at the given rate written on bag.

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It is recommended that the fertiliser is lightly 'watered in' immediately after application, to avoid "burning" of the foliage, which may occur if fertiliser pellets settle on the leaves. Dung-based organic fertilisers should be avoided.

## 6 Irrigation

Bauder SB sedum blanket and XF301 systems

When Bauder sedum systems are installed we recommend the provision of either a sprinkler or drip line irrigation system where the following conditions apply: -

- All south-facing roof without shade.
- All roof slopes exceeding a 2° pitch.
- Windy or exposed site locations, where the wind can dry out the blanket.
- Sites up to 50 miles inland of the east coast of the UK mainland.

Irrigation should only be activated during periods of dry weather, or if the sedum plants are showing signs of distress. The irrigation system is best activated for 2-3 hours, preferably at dawn or dusk to minimize unnecessary evaporation. Then once every 4-6 days for the duration of the hot weather conditions. This can be easily managed by using an inexpensive battery-powered, programmable timer.

Native Wildflower/Biodiverse Roofs

Extensive substrate green roof systems vary greatly in the amount of water they require. Sedum is very drought tolerant, wildflowers much less so. The watering requirements will depend on the following factors:

- The Pitch of the roof
- The amount of rainfall it receives.
- The exposure of the roof.
- The vegetation growing on the roof.
- The depth of the substrate and drainage board.

Bauder always advise that there should be a way to water the roof during times of dry weather. This might be a water supply point adjacent to the green roof, or a fully automatic irrigation system.

Some Biodiverse roofs are designed not to be watered. Whilst this will remove the water demands from the roof, it will reduce the flowering period of the plants and over time reduce the number of species as plants struggle with the harsh environment.

In these cases Bauder would strongly recommend that increasing the depth of substrate in some areas (15-2000mm+) to help prevent the substrate drying out completely (See Bauder Water Guidelines).

**Please note** - continuous daily watering is neither recommended nor necessary and will only promote weeds and other unwanted plant species.

### Advice and Supply of Irrigation Equipment

Access Irrigation Ltd is one of the country's longest established irrigation specialists and has considerable experience in green roofs. They are happy to provide irrigation advice on any Bauder project and can supply a wide range of irrigation products.

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## Support

Extensive roofs should require only minimal maintenance. Bauder is happy to offer advice on any issues concerning your green roof and any such query should be forwarded to the Bauder Green Roof Technical Department at the address below in the first instance. We believe our products and systems are of the highest standard and we are always prepared to discuss any queries or concerns that may arise. It is always of great help if you can provide photographs of the affected area(s) to accompany any such queries.

Please note: In the event of any query arising which it is thought may affect the condition of the system, then Bauder should be contacted at the address below. We cannot accept responsibility for any problem or failure due to use outside those parameters for which the system was designed or 'acts of god' beyond our control e.g. extreme weather conditions or damage through pests.

## BAUDER GREEN ROOF MAINTENANCE SERVICE

With over 30 years' experience in the design and supply of green roofs throughout the UK and Ireland Bauder can offer unparalleled experience and expertise in green roof maintenance including sedum, plug planted and wildflower.

Having established the largest UK facility cultivating green roof vegetation blanket we have unique knowledge and horticultural expertise for roofscape vegetation. With national coverage by over 50 field personnel, you can be assured of a prompt reliable service to fully meet your requirements.

## Our Service

Bauder's experienced team will provide you with a tailor-made maintenance programme for your green roof. A typical Bauder maintenance programme Includes:

- Full inspection and evaluation of your green roof
- Application of organic slow release granular fertiliser
- Removal of leaves and debris
- Removal of unwanted vegetation
- Inspection and clearance of outlets
- Examination and testing of irrigation

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This work is undertaken by Bauder's experienced maintenance technicians who will carry out the necessary risk assessments and comply with all current health and safety legislation throughout the duration of the work. Finally, you will be provided with a bespoke report with photographic verification outlining the condition of the planting and any areas requiring on going treatment.

To discuss your specific requirements, please call our Green Roof Maintenance Team for a no obligation quote.

T: 0845 271 8801      E: [greenmaintenance@bauder.co.uk](mailto:greenmaintenance@bauder.co.uk)

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