

705E Fitzjohn's Office

Rev A 18th September 2017

Q31 External planting

To be read with Preliminaries/General conditions.

GENERAL INFORMATION/ REQUIREMENTS

112 SITE CLEARANCE GENERALLY

- ~ General: Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
- ~ Stones: Remove those with any dimension exceeding 50 mm.
- ~ Contamination: Remove material containing toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.
- ~ Vegetation: Clear scrub to ground level by flail mowing and remove arisings; retain and protect trees indicated on drawings.
- ~ Large roots: Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.
- ~ Additional requirements: Remove remnants of old fence posts and mesh.

120 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

- ~ General: Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.
- Strong winds: Do not plant.

125 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 favourable.
- Watering and weed control: Provide as necessary.
- ~ Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.
- ~ Colchicum (crocus): July/ August.
- ~ Green bulbs: After flowering in spring.
- ~ Wildflower plugs: Late August to mid November or March/ April.
- ~ Aquatic plants: May/ June or September/ October.

145 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.

150 WATER RESTRICTIONS

- ~ 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.

160 NOTICE

- ~ Give notice before:
 - Setting out.
 - Applying herbicide.
 - Applying fertilizer.
 - Delivery of plants/ trees.
 - Planting shrubs.
 - Planting trees into previously dug pits.
 - Watering.
 - Visiting site during maintenance period.

~ Period of notice: Three working days.

200 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: Grown in the United Kingdom for at least one growing season, unless otherwise approved.
- Definition: Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

215 PLANTS/ TREES - SPECIFICATION CRITERIA

~ Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria: As scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification.

216 PLANTS/ TREES - SPECIFICATION CRITERIA

~ Name, forms, dimensions and other criteria: To the relevant part of BS 3936.

225 BULBS/ CORMS/ TUBERS

- ~ Condition: Firm, entire, not dried out or shrivelled.
- ~ Health: Free from pests, diseases and fungus.
- ~ Handling: Remove from packaging immediately.
- ~ Storage: Permitted only when necessary.
- Location: Well ventilated, dark, covered, rodent proof container, away from exhausts and fruit.
- Duration: Minimum period.
- Temperature: 18-21°C.

235 CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS/ TREES

- ~ Growing medium: With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.
- ~ Plants: Centred 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.

260 PLANT/ TREE SUBSTITUTION

- ~ Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering: Submit alternatives, stating:
 - Price.
 - Difference from specified plants/ trees.
- ~ Approval: Obtain before making any substitution.

265 PLANT HANDLING, STORAGE TRANSPORT AND PLANTING

- ~ Standard: To CPSE '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: Black polyethylene bags.
- ~ Packaging of bulk quantities: Pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped ..
- ~ Planting: Upright or well balanced with best side to front.

290 SURPLUS MATERIAL

~ Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings: Remove.

PREPARATION OF PLANTING BEDS/ PLANTING MATERIALS

305 WEED CONTROL TO PLANTING BEDS

~ Locations: All planting areas.

~ General: Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by contractor's choice of herbicide.

375 CULTIVATION TO PLANTING BEDS

" Compacted topsoil: Break up to full depth.

" Cultivation: Loosen, aerate and break up soil into particles of 2-8 mm.

- Depth: 350 mm.

- Timing: Within a few days before planting.

- Weather and ground conditions: Suitably dry.

" Surface: Leave regular and even.

" Levels: 25 mm above adjoining paving or kerbs and 50 mm above adjoining lawns.

" Undesirable material brought to the surface: Remove visible weeds, roots and large stones

with any dimension exceeding 50 mm.

" Soil within root spread of trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.

PLANTING SHRUBS/ HERBACEOUS PLANTS/ BULBS

405 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..

~ Pit bottom improvement Break up to a depth of 150 mm, incorporating 25 g of slow release fertilizer per planting pit.

Backfilling material: Reuse excavated material.

445 PLANTING BULBS/ CORMS/ TUBERS

~ Depth: Top of bulb/ corm/ tuber at a depth of approximately twice its height, base in contact with bottom of hole.

~ Backfilling: Finely broken soil. Lightly firm to existing ground level.

~ Naturalized planting in existing grassed areas:

- Scattering: Random. Plant bulbs/ corms/ tubers where they fall.

- Planting: Neatly remove a plug of turf and replace after planting.

476 SHRUB, HERBACEOUS AND BULB BACKFILLING MATERIAL TO PLANTING BEDS

Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required.

" Ameliorant/ Conditioner: Mushroom compost.

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

" Fertilizer: Slow release.

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

480 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.

~ Top dressing: Not required.

- Depth: not applicable.

485 MULCHING PLANTING BEDS

Material: Ornamental bark mulch.

- Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
- Recycled content: 100% to BS EN ISO 14021.
- " Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
- " Coverage: 75 mm depth.
- " Finished level of mulch: 30 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas.

PROTECTING/ MAINTAINING/ MAKING GOOD DEFECTS

710 MAINTENANCE

- ~ Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting until the end of the rectification period..
- ~ Frequency of maintenance visits: Monthly during growing season.

720 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.

740 CLEANLINESS

- ~ Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces and grassed areas.
- ~ General: Leave the works in a clean tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

750 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: Every month.
- ~ Firming up: Gently firm loosened soil around trees/ shrubs. Straighten leaning trees/ shrubs.
- ~ Watering: Contractor's choice.

755 PLANTING MAINTENANCE - FERTILIZER

Time of year: March or April.

- " Fertilizer: Slow release.
- Manufacturer: Scotts Professional.
- Product reference: Scotts Landscaper Pro Maintenance.
- " Application: Evenly spread, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.
- " Application rate: To manufacturer's recommendations.

760 PLANTING MAINTENANCE - PRUNING

- ~ General: Prune to promote healthy growth and natural shape.
- Dead, dying, diseased wood and suckers: Remove.
- Timing: As appropriate to the species.
- ~ Arisings: Remove.

790 FINAL MULCHING

- ~ Timing: At end of the maintenance period.

~ Watering: Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to remulching, applying water where necessary.

~ Planting beds: Remulch.
Depth (minimum): 75 mm.