

4. If weather and ground conditions permit, trees must be planted immediately after arrival on site. All planting periods should avoid very dry spells or extreme wet weather.

APPENDIX MS(i)

PLANTING & AFTER-CARE (PRINCIPLES) OF CONTAINER-GROWN STANDARD TREES

Planting:

1. Excavate a **square tree-pit** to a depth of 450mm and at least 750mm across (i.e. enough space into which to place the root-ball with a wide gap around it into which soil can be back-filled). The excavated soil must be kept for back-filling with the exception of sub-soil or inferior material that should be discarded. Unless soils are in extremely poor condition, added fertilisers are unnecessary. When the correct depth is reached (see point 4 below), the bottom of the tree-pit should be lightly broken up to aid root penetration and drainage. All glazed (clay) sides must be loosened. Tree pits must not be left open over night.
2. Before planting, all young trees should be pruned to remove all dead wood and weak or crossing branches to encourage the development of a well-shaped/developed crown. All damaged roots must be cleanly removed. All branch pruning cuts should conform with the natural target pruning methodology and in accordance with **BS 3998 (2010) 'Tree Work-Recommendations'**.
3. Remove the tree from its container. If roots are coiled around the shape of the pot they should be gently loosened to prise them out. Any trees that are pot-bound (i.e. with thick girdling roots running around the shape of the pot) should be rejected and returned to the supplier.
4. Trees must be planted so that the joint of root and stem (**nursery mark**) is level with the finished planting height. Backfill should consist of the excavated top-soil (no sub-soil or inferior material).
5. Use only a short (no more than 1/3 height of the tree) single/double tree-stake to allow trunk movement and trunk-base thickening. To prevent chaffing, the tree-tie(s) should form a figure of eight or have a spacer between the tree and the stake. **IMPORTANT:** Remove tree-stakes after 2-3 years.
6. Tread gently to firm the root-ball into position.
7. Immediately water the tree to saturate the soil to the full depth of the roots.
8. To control weed growth and keep moisture in the soil add mulch: a 10cm deep layer of wood-chips/bark-chippings around the tree base. This should cover an area at least 1m dia. See strimmer/mower damage in section 9 below.
NB Keep mulch away from the trunk base or fungal rot may result.
9. In order to avoid mower/trimmer damage to tree trunk bases (i.e. bark stripping), grass seed/turf **should not** be laid within a 0.5m (min.) radius around trees.
10. **IMPORTANT:** Remove tree-stakes after 2-3 years.

After Care:

The after-planting maintenance period for container-grown standard trees is twenty-four months after first bud-break. During this period such after-care works must include the following:

- Watering during dry summer months.
- Checking stakes and adjusting tree-ties at least twice per year (**NB** tree-ties are a *temporary* measure and should ideally be removed after three years).
- Weed control preferably by mulch reapplication (see point 8 above).
- Stake removal ideally after 3-4 years. Before the stake is removed completely gently rock the tree from side to side to check that the root-ball is firmly anchored in the ground. If this lifts out of the ground then re-tie the tree and carry out this procedure the following year.