

Woodlands Residential Care Home
84 Long Lane
Ickenham
Uxbridge
UB10 8SX

Planting Methodology & Planting Timelines

A. Soil Conditions & Preparation.

- Operations involving topsoil and subsoil in the soft landscape areas should only take place when the soil is reasonably dry and workable and not when the soil is wet.
- For new planting areas excavate soft landscape areas to accommodate topsoil depths as follows: Grassed areas 100mm; Shrub areas 400mm; Tree pits depth as per the root ball depth, width & length allowing an extra 300mm of space around the root ball once planted. Backfill to 300mm below ground, sandy loam with low organic matter content.
- Topsoil edges 50mm above bordering hard surfaces to allow for settlement;
- Finished level (after mulch or other finishing) to be at least 150mm below the top of any damp proof course.
- Any imported topsoil to be: to BS 3882 multipurpose natural topsoil; stone size to pass a 40mm sieve and stone content to be less than 10%; free of sub-soil, perennial weed seed, stolons, rhizomes or poisonous substances.

B. Supply, Handling & Labelling of Plants.

- Shall comply with the *National Plant Specification* and the *Code of Practice for Plant Handling*.
- All plants delivered to site shall be clearly and durably labelled with exact genus, species, cultivar and supplier. Where plants are grouped one label is to be retained in place on completion of the work.

C. Planting Seasons

- Undertake planting in the following seasons when weather conditions are typically mild, dull and moist.
- Deciduous plants at the beginning November to end March.
- Evergreen plants during October/November or April.
- Turfing or grass seeding during March/April or September/October.
- Bulbs when available depending on species, usually in Autumn or Spring.
- No planting to take place when the temperature is below 4°C and falling, when the ground is covered in snow, in frozen or waterlogged ground or in drought conditions.

D. Preparation of Plants

- Remove inorganic containers.
- Check for and reject any damaged, diseased, poorly rooted pest infested, wrongly identified plants, or plants not complying with all the requirements of the plant list.
- Carefully prune any minor root damage.
- Incorporate bone meal in planting areas at the rate of 70gm/m² into the topsoil.

E. Planting

- Plant in previously prepared pits and planting areas
- Plant in position shown on the drawings or in the absence of drawings space evenly.

- Plant at the rate specified, avoiding regimented rows unless specifically shown.
- Plant in holes large enough to allow adequate root spread and tease out congested root balls of container grown plants.
- Set plants so that their original soil level matches the new surrounding ground and with their best side displayed.
- Post planting lightly prune back any damaged or malformed growth.
- Rake soil to an even, fine tilth to the required levels.

F. Watering.

- Saturate the root ball of container grown and rootballed plants before planting.
- Water thoroughly immediately after planting and at intervals as necessary.

G. Mulching.

- Fork soil to a medium tilth in the areas to be mulched. Apply 30mm of mulch after watering.

Maintenance Plan for Shrubs and Herbaceous Plants

- Shrubs shall be kept in a healthy, vigorous condition, free from disease and large concentrations of pests. Shrubs will be pruned to achieve a strong framework keeping the shrub healthy, dependent on the shrub species and the time of year.
- Shrubs shall be pruned as required only as needed to remove branches that are dead, diseased, damaged, extending beyond the planting edge. Overall pruning will be no more than twice a year and pruned as required.
- Hedges will be maintained by trimming back to the main body of the hedge to achieve a neat and tidy appearance, and avoiding the bird nesting season between March and August.
- All grass areas will be cut approximately 12 times between March and October.
- WATERING - In dry periods, between April and September inclusive, newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered.
- WEEDING – Regular weeding around newly planted trees and shrubs will be required in order to keep a vegetation-free circle at least 1.2m (4ft) in diameter around the plant for its first three years to help avoid competition for water. Weeding generally should be carried out every 3 or 4 weeks during the growing season.
- FEEDING & MULCHING - At the time of planting, all trees and shrubs will be planted along with approximately 50 – 100g per sq.m of bone meal plant fertilizer. , larger trees will be planted with Rootgrow Mycorrhizal is applied as a light dusting into the bottom of the planting hole with the rootball of the new tree placed directly on the granules and backfilled as normal.
- WATERING OF NEWLY PLANTED SHRUBS - Newly planted shrubs should be watered early in the morning, to avoid evaporation loss during the day. During warmer summer days, evening watering may also be required if the soil. Ensuring watering during times of low humidity also helps reduce incidence of plant disease.

On completion of planting 10mm layer of soil conditioner such as BSI PAS 100 Certified (Green Waste) 10mm screened will be added to the final surface of the soil.

Subject to the soil condition and plant health it may be necessary to apply a 10mm layer of well-rotted wood fibre based horse manure on the planting beds during the autumn period, which will be dug in the following spring

To establish the need for watering the soil should be inspected at spade's depth to ascertain moisture levels. Any watering needs to penetrate the root level not just the soil surface. Subject to the soil type a general guide is up to 24L per sq.m every 7 – 10 days, which will be sufficient to maintain plant growth.

Evergreen shrubs may require a little watering during the winter months if it is particularly dry, this does not need to be done routinely and should only be done in response to a period of dry winter weather.

- **WATERING OF NEWLY PLANTED TURF OR GRASS SEED** - Aim for ten minutes of watering per session using a lawn sprinkler, both morning and evening in order to provide enough water to keep the top couple inches of soil moist. As the new grass seed or turf grows and flourishes, watering deeper and less frequently will encourage established grass roots to extend deeply into the soil.

Existing planting areas will be protected during the construction process, with the aim to ensure that the boundary planting appears the same on completion. If there is any noticeable damage to any plant, whereby they are unlikely to recover from a hard prune, then the plant will be replaced with a similar plant species. This relates to the South and East Boundaries both of which have existing *Laurus nobilis* hedge plants. Any gaps in the current hedge line at the end of construction will be replaced with the same species at the nearest size available at the time of ordering.