



# ROSEBANK

## SOFT LANDSCAPING IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

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**Project: 28 Nicholas Way, Northwood, HA6 2TT**

### TOPSOILING

#### **1.0. GRADING SUBSOIL**

- 1.1. General: Grade to smooth flowing contours to achieve specified finished levels of topsoil.
- 1.2. Areas of thicker topsoil: Excavate locally.

#### **2.0. SUBSOIL SURFACE PREPARATION**

- 2.1. General: Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels

##### 2.2 Loosening:

- Light and noncohesive subsoils: When ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 300 mm.
- Stiff clay and cohesive subsoils: When ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 450 mm.
- Rock and chalk subgrades: Lightly scarify to promote free drainage.
- Stones: Immediately before spreading topsoil, remove stones larger than 50mm.
- Other items: Remove arisings, contaminants and debris

#### **3.0 INSPECTING FORMATIONS**

- 3.1 Give notice: Before spreading topsoil for planting beds. Notice period: 7 days.

#### **4.0 TOPSOIL ANALYSIS**

- 4.1 Soil to be analysed: Imported topsoil. Samples: Collect in accordance with BS 3882, Annex A.

##### 4.2 Submit originals of:

- Declaration of analysis of soil in accordance with BS 3882 figure 3
- Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.

## **5.0 IMPORTED TOPSOIL (TO BS 3882)**

5.1 Quantity: Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.

5.2 Additional analyses: As Clause 4.0. Other requirements: As Clause 4.0

## **6.0. CONTAMINATION**

6.1. General: Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are:

- Corrosive, explosive or flammable.
- Hazardous to human or animal life.
- Detrimental to healthy plant growth.

6.2. Subsoil: In areas to receive topsoil, do not use subsoil contaminated with the above materials. Give notice: If any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site, or in topsoil to be imported.

## **7.0. SPREADING TOPSOIL**

7.1. Temporary roads/surfacing: Remove before spreading topsoil.

7.2. Layers: Depth (maximum): 150 mm. Gently firm each layer before spreading the next.

7.3. Depths after firming and settlement (minimum): 450 mm for shrub beds or 150mm for grass areas - no topsoil to be spread in areas of wild flower seeding

7.4. Crumb structure: Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

## **8.0. FINISHED LEVELS OF TOPSOIL AFTER SETTLEMENT**

### **8.1**

- Above adjoining paving or kerbs: 20 mm.
- Below dpc of adjoining buildings: Not less than 150 mm.
- Shrub areas: Higher than adjoining grass areas by 25mm.
- Within root spread of existing trees: Unchanged.
- Adjoining soil areas: Marry in.
- Thickness of turf or mulch: Included.

## **PLANTING**

## **9.0. SOIL CONDITIONS**

9.1. Soil for cultivating and planting: Moist, friable and (excepting aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged.

9.2. Frozen or snow covered soil: Give notice before planting. Provide additional root protection. Prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

## **10.0. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS**

10.1. General: Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. Do not plant during periods of frost or strong winds.

## **11.0. TIMES OF YEAR FOR PLANTING**

11.1. Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March.

11.2. Conifers and evergreens: September/ October or April/ May.

11.3. Herbaceous plants (including aquatic and marginal): September/ October or March/ April.

11.4. Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.

11.5. Ensure that adequate watering and weed control is provided.

11.6. Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.

- Colchicum (crocus): July/ August.
- Green bulbs: After flowering in spring.

## **12.0. MECHANICAL TOOLS**

12.1. Restrictions: Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems.

## **13.0. WATERING**

13.1.

- 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.

## **14.0. WATER RESTRICTIONS**

14.1. 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.

## **15.0. PREPARATION, PLANTING AND MULCHING MATERIALS**

15.1. General: Free from toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.

15.2. Certification: Submit a certificate giving supply source, content analysis, confirmation of suitability for purpose and confirmation of absence of harmful substances.

- Certified materials: Manufactured planting media and Imported composts
- Give notice before ordering or using.

## **16.0. PLANTS/ TREES - GENERAL**

### **16.1.**

- 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, discolouration, weeds and physiological disorders.
- Budded or grafted plants: Bottom worked.
- Root system and condition: To requirements of The National Plant Specification and balanced with branch system.
- Species: True to name.

### **16.2.**

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

## **17.0. CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS/ TREES**

### **17.1.**

- 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.

## **18.0. SUPPLY OF PLANTS/ TREES**

18.1. Plant supply shall be obtained from a nursery that are members of the Horticultural Trades Association Nursery Certification Scheme and approved by the project landscape designer.

## **19.0. PLANTS/ TREES RESERVED AT SUPPLIER'S PREMISES**

### **19.1.**

- Types/ Species: As schedule
- Predelivery inspection: Give notice.
- Labelling: Identify inspected plants/ trees as reserved for use on this project.

## **20.0. PLANT/ TREE SUBSTITUTION**

20.1. Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering:  
Submit alternatives, stating:

- Price.
- Difference from specified plants/ trees.

20.2. Further alternatives: Proposed substitutions may not be acceptable and submission of further alternatives may be required. Obtain approval before making any substitution.

## **21.0. PLANT/ TREE HANDLING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT**

### **21.1.**

- Standard: To HTA 'Handling and establishing landscape plants' (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) Part I, Part II and Part III, paragraphs 1.3.3 to 1.3.6, 3.0, and 4.0.
- Frost: Protect plants/ trees from frost.
- Handling: Handle plants/ trees 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

## **22.0. PLANTING GENERALLY**

22.1. Plant handling and planting operations shall be undertaken in accordance with Horticultural Trades Association "Handling and Establishing Landscape Plants" (Parts I - III)

22.2. Topsoil for the landscape planting works shall be obtained from site material and imported soils to make up any deficiency.

22.3. Imported topsoil shall be fertile with maximum 35% clay content and 5% minimum organic content, pH levels between 5.8 - 7.5 and free of perennial weeds, weed seeds and contamination. Existing soil to be ameliorated and/or screened, if necessary, to achieve this specification.

22.4. Imported topsoil shall be to BS3882: Multi Purpose Grade, from an approved local source and to accord with the above specification

## **23.0. HERBICIDE**

23.1. General: Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by applying a suitable herbicide. Delay cultivation as recommended by manufacturer.

## **24.0. GENERAL FERTILIZER**

### **24.1.**

- Product reference: In accordance with soil report
- Application: Spread evenly.
- Timing: Immediately before cultivation.
- Coverage: in accordance with soil report

## **25.0. SOIL AMELIORANT/ CONDITIONER**

### **25.1.**

- Type: In accordance with soil report
- Coverage: In accordance with soil report
- Timing: Apply prior to cultivation.

## **26.0. CULTIVATION**

### **26.1.**

- Compacted topsoil: Break up to full depth.
- Cultivation: Loosen, aerate and break up soil into particles of 2-8 mm.
- Depth: Top 350 mm of planting beds.

- Timing: Within a few days before planting.
- Weather and ground conditions: Suitably dry.
- Surface: Leave regular and even.
- Levels: Within 25 mm of levels specified on drawings.

26.2. Undesirable material brought to the surface: Remove, including weeds, roots, stones and clods larger than 50 mm in any dimension, tufts of grass and foreign matter. Soil within root spread of trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.

## 27.0. PLANTING SHRUBS/ HERBACEOUS PLANTS/ BULBS

### 27.1. SHRUB PLANTING PITS

- Timing: Excavate 2 days (maximum) before planting.
- Sizes: 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 300 mm deep
- Pit bottom improvement
- Break up to a depth of 150 mm, incorporating 25 g of approved slow release fertilizer per planting pit.
- Backfilling material: As clause 27.3.

### 27.2. 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.

### 27.3. BACKFILLING MATERIAL

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required, together with:
  - Ameliorant/ Conditioner: Mushroom compost
  - Coverage: 1 m<sup>3</sup> per 10 m<sup>3</sup> of topsoil
  - Fertilizer: Slow release
  - Coverage: To suit soil report recommendations

### 27.4. 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: Sanitised and stabilized compost as clause 358, 50 mm thick

### 27.5. MULCHING PLANTING BEDS

- Material: Medium grade bark mulch
- Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
- Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
- Coverage: 75 mm thick
- Finished level of mulch: 30 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas

## 28.0. PLANTING TREES

### 28.1. TREE PITS

- Sizes: 1200 mm diameter x 800 mm deep for extra heavy standard
- 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 200 mm
- Pit sides: Scarify.
- Additional requirements: Incorporate approved slow release fertilizer at 40g per m<sup>2</sup>, worked into pit bottoms
- Backfilling material: As clause 586

- Accessories: Root barriers as clause 510 and double tree staking

#### 28.2 TREE PIT ROOT BARRIERS

- Locations: Trees within 2m of underground service or trees located within hard surface
- Manufacturer: Greenleaf or similar
- Depth of top of root barrier below finished soil level: 75 mm
- Installation: With sides vertical.

#### 28.3. TREE PIT ACCESSORIES

- Manufacturer: Greenleaf or similar
- Type: Perforated plastics irrigation pipe system, 50 mm diameter, in circle above and around sides of rootball, with stainless steel caps (if required)
- Tree anchoring systems – Platipus or similar approved manufacturer – used where required

#### 28.4. STAKING TO TREES

- Stakes: Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end.
- Preservative treatment: Not required
- Nails: To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.
- Minimum stake sizes: 75mm dia.
- Staking: Drive stakes vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit on either side of tree
- position before planting. Consolidate material around stakes during backfilling.
- Height of stakes: Cut to approximately 600 mm above ground level.
- Cross bar: Wood, as stake. Firmly fix on windward side of tree and as close as possible to stem.
- Ties: Adjustable cushioned ties
- Tying: Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to cross bar.

#### 28.5. BACKFILLING MATERIAL TO TREES WITHIN LANDSCAPE BEDS OR LAWNS

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required, together with:
  - Ameliorant/ Conditioner: Mushroom compost
  - Coverage: To soil report recommendations
  - Fertilizer: Slow release
  - Coverage: To suit soil report recommendations