



**SPECIFICATION**

**GROUND PREPARATION - GENERAL**

Prefering for levelling  
Grading operations shall be in accordance with BS 4428:1998 section 4. Subsoil that is to receive topsoil, whether obviously overcompacted or not, be thoroughly broken up by hand, by heavy rotavator, by subsoil or tined equipment with adequate passes made to thoroughly break up the surface to a depth of 150mm, clear of all large stones, roots and debris. Wherever possible, stones over 100mm in diameter shall be removed by hand, by rotavator, by subsoil or tined equipment, leaving the base levelled off. Ground shall not be left to be traversed by heavy machinery, for grading of any other purpose after subsoiling and/or topsoiling has taken place.

**Subsoil grading**

Subsoil shall only be graded after levelling as above, and this shall be undertaken by the use of a tractor and blade/ganger on large areas and by a small mechanical grader or by subsoil free from metal, concrete or organic material with any dimension greater than 100mm. All imported fill material shall be natural subsoil free from metal, concrete or organic material with any dimension greater than 100mm. All imported fill material shall be approved by the Landscape Architect prior to being spread.

**Matting levels**

When subsoil is deposited in low lying areas to raise formation levels, it shall be lightly consolidated and left broken up as directed. Imported fill material shall be natural subsoil free from metal, concrete or organic material with any dimension greater than 100mm. All imported fill material shall be approved by the Landscape Architect prior to being spread.

**Supply of topsoil**

Topsoil to be supplied shall be approved by the Landscape Architect and details of the source of supply shall be provided in order that inspection may be made before delivery. Topsoil to be supplied shall conform to BS 3882: 2015. Recommendations and classification to topsoil clause 4.1. The soil shall be free of weeds, roots or perennial weeds, pests, diseases, debris, tree roots, sticks, subsoil and foreign material and shall be capable of being broken down to a fine tilth.

**Spreading topsoil**

When spreading topsoil the formation level shall be cleared of stones, rubble, debris with any one dimension greater than 75mm. Areas to be seeded or turfed shall be covered by topsoil 100mm thick and areas to be planted shall be covered by topsoil 400mm thick. Topsoil shall be spread in an evenly consolidated layer and shall be left cleared of stones and debris with any one dimension greater than 50mm throughout its depth. Unless otherwise stated the finished level shall be 20mm above adjacent hard areas. No topsoil shall be spread until the seedbed grade has been inspected off. Loading on these areas is permissible.

**PLANTING**

**Cultivation**

Planting areas shall be rotated to a depth of 225mm in the original ground, or where the ground is compacted, rippled and rotovated. Stone to be flushed with the ground surface.

**Soil improvers**

Wherever possible, composts, fertilisers and other additives shall be incorporated into the soil. Spread manure/compost or similar shall be spread to the specified thickness and incorporated, by rotovating, into the soil. 100m<sup>2</sup>. Fertilisers, organic or inorganic, shall be raked into the soil.

**Rejection of plants**

Plants shall comply with the minimum requirements in BS 3006-1: 1992 Specification for trees and shrubs and BS 3001-A: 2007 Specification for forest trees. Any plant material which does not meet the requirements of the Landscape Architect, do not meet the requirements of the specification, or is unsuitable, or defective in any other way, will be rejected. The plant specimen in the plant schedule will be strictly enforced. The contractor shall replace all plants rejected at his own cost.

**Planting**

All plant material shall generally be planted between November and March in cool weather. Planting shall not take place in frost, snow or waterlogged conditions. Where appropriate all container grown plants may be planted outside the described season, but adequate watering shall be supplied. Torn or damaged roots and branches shall be avoided.

**Planting of whips, transplants and shrubs**

The nature of the material to be planted will decide the contractor shall be able to plant as follows as described in BS 4428: 1998 section 7.

- Whips & Transplants: 1000 x 100mm x 100mm. Feathers and other parts which have any dimensions greater than 50mm and remove 50mm. Do not cultivate across any drain where the stone is flush with the ground surface.
- Shrubs: 1000 x 100mm x 100mm. Feathers and other parts which have any dimensions greater than 50mm and remove 50mm. All roots and branches shall be straightened and bent back into the shrub. All roots and branches shall be straightened and bent back into the shrub.
- Small trees: 900 x 900 x 900mm. Feathers and other parts which have any dimensions greater than 50mm and remove 50mm. All roots and branches shall be straightened and bent back into the tree. All roots and branches shall be straightened and bent back into the tree.
- Large trees: 900 x 900 x 900mm. Feathers and other parts which have any dimensions greater than 50mm and remove 50mm. All roots and branches shall be straightened and bent back into the tree. All roots and branches shall be straightened and bent back into the tree.

**Tree planting within soft landscape areas**

Feathered trees: 900 x 900 x 900mm and be planted in tree pits of the following sizes unless directed otherwise.

- Heavy standards/Extra heavy standards - 1200 x 1200 x 600mm
- Medium standards/Extra medium standards - 900 x 900 x 600mm
- Light standards/Extra light standards - 750 x 750 x 600mm
- Stakes: 1000 x 100mm x 100mm. All stakes shall be straightened and bent back into the tree. All stakes shall be straightened and bent back into the tree.

**Compost for planting pits**

Compost shall be a proprietary product, bark based incorporating fertilisers and improving additives. The type of compost shall be approved before delivery to the site or the contractor shall be responsible for the preparation of the compost. Compost shall be applied to the bottom of the pit and backfilled with subsoil (site or imported) to comply with BS 8091: 2013. The bottom of the pit shall be backfilled with subsoil (site or imported) to comply with BS 8091: 2013.

**Stakes for trees**

Stakes shall be straightened and bent back into the tree. Stakes shall be driven into the base of the pit prior to placing the tree and backfilling. Stakes shall be driven into the base of the pit prior to placing the tree and backfilling. Stakes shall be straightened and bent back into the tree. Stakes shall be straightened and bent back into the tree.

**Tree ties**

For smaller trees, shall be approved rubber half-ties on type of cushioned supports such as Toms, or similar equal and approved. Nails shall be flat headed galvanised and shall hold the tie securely into the stake. Ties shall not be overtight on the stem. Ties available from J Toms Limited, Wheeler Street, Headcorn, Ashford, Kent, TN22 9SH.

**Feathering Type**

Feathering Type - 40 cm (one per stem)

**Heavy standards/Extra heavy standards - Type L3 (one per stem)**

**Feathering Type**

Feathers and container grown plants shall be 50mm rubber tree belts in a figure of eight around the tree. Fixed to the stake with two flat head galvanised nuts.

**Select standards Type - two belts**

**Select standards Type - Extra heavy standards - two belts**

**Planting of trees**

The tree shall be set upright and at the same depth as in the nursery, the roots shall be spread out (bareroot) and the soil shall be backfilled with subsoil (site or imported).

**Matching**

For large areas, turf shall be delivered at appropriate intervals through the site so as to avoid stocking for long periods.

**Turf preparation and cultivation**

All areas to be laid must be cultivated to a depth of at least 100mm, all weeds, stones and refuse larger than 50mm shall be removed to Contractor's tip, and shall be brought to a depth of 100mm. All areas to be laid must be cultivated to a depth of at least 100mm, all weeds, stones and refuse larger than 50mm shall be removed to Contractor's tip, and shall be brought to a depth of 100mm.

**Turf**

To be laid - only quality measure is to lay and cut to size in accordance with BS 4428: 1998, section 6, Turfing. The Contractor shall inform the Landscape Architect of the location of the supply, so that all turves are similar to the approved sample. The Contractor shall inform the Landscape Architect of the location of the supply, so that all turves are similar to the approved sample.

**Season**

Areas to be laid when weather and soil conditions are suitable and, where possible, preference should be given to autumn and early winter operations. No turf shall be laid in exceptionally dry or frosty weather or in other unsuitable weather conditions.

**Delivery and stacking**

For large areas, turf shall be delivered appropriate intervals through the site so as to avoid stocking for long periods.

**Laying around trees**

Turf shall be laid to within 300mm of any tree trunk.

**Watering**

The contractor shall be responsible for the replacement of any scorched turf. All necessary watering shall be carried out with sprinklers or oscillating sprays so as not to wash soil out of joints. If shrinkage occurs and the joints open, fine topsoil shall be brushed in and well watered.

**PROTECTION TO EXISTING TREES**

The recommendations in BS 5837: 2012, Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction must be complied with at all times.

No pruning, lopping, felling or severing of trees is to take place without prior consent of the local authority.

The position and construction of protective fencing shall be agreed with the local authority prior to any site works commencing.

No vehicles shall pass under the canopy of existing trees.

No ropes, cables, services or notice boards shall be fixed to existing trees.

Scallopining may only be applied within protected areas if it is done so in accordance with BS 6537.

Alternative canopies under existing canopy spreads shall be done to hand.

**Maintenance**

All maintenance to be carried out to handover to the adopting authority/householder from the day of planting and turfing to ensure successful establishment. All dead, diseased, or dying trees must be removed by the contractor within 12 weeks of handover.

**Weeding**

All beds to be kept weed by hand weeding. Beds to be forked over as necessary to keep soil loose to accommodate canopies with no hollows.

**Pruning**

At appropriate time, prune plants to remove dead, dying or diseased wood and suckers to promote healthy growth and natural shape.

**Watering**

The contractor shall ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth.

**Litter**

Site to be kept free of litter.

**Grass cutting**

Grass cutting shall be carried out when first growth is apparent, blades set 20mm above ground. The Contractor shall continue cutting at appropriate intervals during the growing season and maintain 40mm high sward and grass areas are handed over. Watering, weeding, cutting, repair of all erosion and re-seeding as necessary to establish a uniform and healthy stand of grass shall continue until handed over to the householder.

**GRASS SEEDING AND MAINTENANCE**

**Soil Preparation and Cultivation**

Soil shall be cultivated by the Landscape Architect before cultivation and seeding. All areas to be seeded shall be cultivated to 150mm depth and all weeds, stones, and refuse larger than 50mm shall be removed to tip. Cultivated soil shall be left to dry out before sowing. Wherever possible, the contractor shall use a harrow/harrower where machine work is not possible. Seeding should immediately follow the preparation of the bed.

**Seeding**

Seeding shall be carried out during calm weather. All sowing is at the contractor's own risk and any areas where germination fails shall be replaced at the contractor's own expense.

**Seeding rate**

The operation should be carried out at equal sowing and transverse directions and the seed shall be sown at 20g per square metre per m<sup>2</sup>.

**Seed mix**

The seed mix shall be 40% mix, obtained from German Seeds GS. Sowing shall be set out for the composition, purity and germination as specified in the certificate of analysis. Alternative cultivars of the above species may only be used if approved by the landscape architect.

**Protection of Newly Seeded Areas**</p