

2.1.5 Spring Bulbs in Grassed Areas

Only cut grassed areas populated by spring bulbs after the leaves of the bulbs have died down and/or yellowed completely. Initially reduce height by one third, followed by a 2-3 stage further reduction over two weeks to achieve desired grass height.

2.1.6 Failed areas

Areas of grass which fail or are damaged or worn shall be reinstated by re-turfing or re-seeding in accordance with the original specification.

2.2 Shrub Planting

Shrub areas shall be kept litter and weed free, particularly of perennial weeds. Healthy growth shall be maintained to cover as much as possible of the planting area and allowing the individual plants to achieve as near as possible their natural form. With the exception of hedges, boxing or pruning to shapes is prohibited. Plants shall be contained with designed planting areas and pruned to avoid obstructing pathways or sightlines. Climbers are to be pruned and tied into trellises as required, with two main inspections annually to check trellis system is intact and anchor points are secure.

2.3 Pruning

In general pruning shall be done only to enhance natural growth. Dead, damaged and diseased portions of the plant will be removed. All cuts shall be flush and clean, leaving no stubs or tearing of bark. All major pruning shall be done following flowering or during plant's dormant season. Emergency or minor pruning shall be done when needed.

Pruning shall be carried out to maintain proper size in relationship to adjacent plantings and intended function. Remedial attention and repair to shrubs shall be provided as appropriate by season or in response to incidental damage.

Groundcover plants shall be pruned as required to restrain perimeter growth to within planting bed areas where adjacent to walks and curbs. Tip prune selected branches of low growing shrub or groundcover masses to maintain even overall heights and promote fullness.

Certain plants, such as Cornus spp. will require heavy annual pruning in order to maintain healthy colourful stems and healthy leaves. All arising's from pruning shall be removed of site.

2.4 Weed Control

Planting beds shall be maintained relatively weed free (no more than 10% of weed cover at maximum) by hand weeding or spot spraying any emergent weeds during the growing season with Glyphosate or approved equivalent. Saplings shall be removed from all planting areas on emergence or immediately after to prevent establishment.

Specific weed control operations shall be carried out a min of 9no. times per year, however it will be the contractor's duty to control weeds by hand weeding or other if weed cover exceeds 10% of the planting area.

2.5 Mulching

Shrub beds shall contain a min. depth of 50mm bark mulch throughout the year. Contractor to top-up as 2 times per year or as appropriate to maintain depth. Mulch is not required in areas where plant foliage completely covers the soil surface, such that the soil is not visible through the foliage. The contractor shall spot treat to remove emergent weeds as specified above but do not cultivate or incorporate the mulch into the soil. Any mulch outside of designated planting areas shall be returned to the planter on a weekly basis.

Mulch shall be uniform in colour and appearance, and free of leaves, sticks, or trash. Mulch may be chipped or shredded wood, bark. When replacing existing mulch, use a mulch product that is similar in appearance to that already at the site.

2.6 Tree Planting Care

Trees shall be maintained in a healthy, vigorous growing condition with a well-shaped framework for future growth.

2.7 New Tree Planting

Spring and autumn of each year during the maintenance period the trees, double-stakes, rabbit guards and ties shall be checked and adjusted, the soil firmed, any dead wood removed back to healthy tissue and mulch adjusted to original levels. Any broken stakes or ties evident throughout the maintenance period shall be replaced.

A 1m-diameter mulch circle/square shall be maintained at the base of each tree located in open grass areas or grass verges. Top up bark mulch to 75mm where required and make good any mulch mats.

During the first growing season all standard trees / semi-mature trees shall be watered at least five times during the growing season - in April, May, June, July and August unless otherwise directed by the Landscape Architect. During the second growing season trees will be kept well watered, particularly during June, July and August.

The edge of the mulch circle shall be maintained in a neat and tidy condition as above.

The surface of all planting pits is to be kept free of weeds during the maintenance period by hand weeding of annual weeds, and spot application of translocated herbicide, (as per manufacturer's instructions), for perennial weeds to be carried out on three visits during the growing season.

2.9. Tree Stakes and Ties

Check tree stakes and ties on each maintenance visit. Repair, strengthen and adjust (loosen / tighten) to ensure optimum functioning and trees not being damaged by poor fixings. If trees no longer require stake / tie remove. Prior to handover, check all tree stakes and ties and remove those no longer required.

2.8 Woodland/Scrub Area Management

Woodland areas specified shall be maintained in a healthy, vigorous condition and free from litter and noxious weeds throughout the year.

Certain areas of woodland may require thinning over the 5-year period. These areas shall be thinned by no more than 10%, removing only the weaker tree specimens. Thinning shall be carried out as directed onsite by administrative authority.

Woodland areas shall be sprayed 3 times per year with a suitable contact herbicide. Contractor to ensure that no damage is caused to trees by herbicide application.

Areas of natural scrub as indicated on the maintenance plans shall be contained by trimming back once per year. The contractor shall spray the perimeter of the scrub areas with a contact herbicide to control noxious weeds. This shall be carried out 2no. times per annum.

All clearance operations within woodland and scrub areas shall be carried out outside of the bird-nesting season to preserve the bird life in the area. This season extends from the 1st March to 31st August.

2.09 Litter Clearance/Pick-up

The contractor shall maintain all areas free from litter. This shall mean the removal of all extraneous litter, rubbish and any other debris from all areas, which will include grass areas, planted areas, carparks, footpaths as well as woodlands and tree canopies.

Notwithstanding the above it is expected that the contractor and his staff shall take sufficient pride in the appearance of the site and that they would pick up all visible litter during every site visit.

In addition to removal of litter from footpaths, planted areas, etc., the contractor shall make provision for the immediate (within 1 days of notification) arrangement for collection and removal of all extraneous matter which has been deliberately been deposited on site by persons known or unknown (fly-tipping).

2.10 Replacements

Any tree, hedge or shrub that is removed, uprooted, destroyed or becomes seriously damaged, defective, diseased, or dead shall be replaced in the same location with another plant of the same species and size as that originally planted within 5 years after planting. All such replacements shall be carried out in the first available planting season after the requirement to do so is recognised.

3.0 Maintenance Programme

This programme is a guideline only and times of operations may vary on approval by landscape architect.

ONGOING REQUIREMENTS:	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Lawn grass cutting (Min 24 cuts)	*	**	**	**	***	***	***	***	***	**	**	
Edging to lawn grass areas			*				*			*		
Rough Grass						*	*					
Fertiliser application to lawn grass areas.				*	*		*		*			
Hedge pruning/cutting					*		*			*		
Shrubs pruning and feeding				*		*	*		*			
Weed control of hedge and shrub planting areas		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tree pruning											*	*
Removal of tree stakes (3-5yr)				*								
Mulch top-up to tree circles/ squares						*				*		
Herbicide app. to tree mulch circles				*			*			*		
Herbicide app./weeding to shrubs & hedgerow				*			*			*		
Watering of new trees (or after 3 weeks of no rain)				*	*	*	*	*				
Trimming of scrub areas												*
Weed control of scrub areas				*					*			
Application of residual weed killer to footpaths, cycle paths.				*								
Litter Clearance/pick up	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

