

General Landscape Specification

Planting areas:

Prepare areas shown for planting after completion of building works: Site won topsoil should be of landscape quality. It is to be carefully excavated separate from subsoil and stored in heaps not more than 1m high. Weed control operation are to be undertaken to prevent seeding of weeds. Do not place any other material on top of spoil heaps. Do not allow construction plant to pass over soil heaps. Prevent compaction and contamination throughout the works. Remove all hardcore from all planting areas and dig through compaction pan before replacing with topsoil that is fertilised, free of debris, stones and roots and includes 10% of green waste.

- 1) Strim/Kill off existing vegetation as required from all planting and grass areas.
- 2) Rip all planting and grass areas to a depth of 450mm at 1m ccs. Rip with tines set on bar, mounted on a crawler tractor. One tine shall be set centrally in each wheel track of the tractor. Rip only in dry weather conditions, when soil will fracture. Rip in two transverse directions.
- 3) Cultivate all planting areas min. 300mm deep, removing debris and stones >50mm off site.
- 4) Add a 300mm layer of good quality fresh topsoil (multipurpose grade topsoil BS 3882:2007) to all planting areas to finish 20mm above surrounding grass and paved areas (allowing for settlement).
- 5) Final raking to a fine tilth and tidying of all soil surfaces, remove all stones >50mm post-planting operation.
- 6) Supply and fix non-woven bonded fabric geotextile, such as Terram, to form a weed control membrane at the interface between the topsoil and mulch covering. Membrane to be fitted using the largest pieces practicable within each planting space. Membrane to be fixed with proprietary fixing pins around the perimeter of each piece and across the centre of each piece of fabric. Pins to be spaced no greater than @ 2.5m c/cs. Membrane to be buried in a 100mm x 100mm deep trench around the margins of each planting bed. Overlaps to be a minimum of 300mm. All shrub and perennial planting to be completed as per detail drawing.
- 7) Post-planting apply a 50mm layer of bark mulch to all planting areas.

Shrub, climbers and perennial flower planting:

- 1) All root balled and pot grown plants shall be completely soaked in clean freshwater for a min of one hour prior to planting.
- 2) Plant as per planting detail drawing.
- 3) All plants will be planted in a planting hole excavated to a size that ensures a min. of 50mm growth space to accommodate root spread, and to a depth that allows planting to same depth as per container soil level. The base of the planting hole is to be broken up prior to back filling.
- 4) Backfill each planting hole with multipurpose grade topsoil to BS 3882:2007. Carefully firm each layer avoiding soil compaction.
- 5) On completion of planting, any broken branches or foliage shall be neatly pared back to sound tissue and/or the closest branching point.
- 6) Upon completion of planting, all ground finish shall include raking off and removal of stones greater than 50mm excavated during the course of the digging for planting purposes.
- 7) All plants shall also be watered after planting to consolidate soil around the roots.
- 8) Plants shall be delivered to site only after direction has been issued that the site is ready for planting.
- 9) Plants shall be planted in a staggered planting pattern in groups of uneven numbers, typically 7-9. Plants shall not be planted in straight lines or rows.
- 10) All planting shall be carried out by a trained and qualified professional.
- 11) Plants will be planted into geotextile. Cuts into geotextile for planting will be of the minimum size and pinned down. Planting area will be neatly finished with pebble with no geotextile showing.
- 12) After sowing the ground will be raked or chain harrowed, then rolled and cross-rolled with a light-weight roller. All stones exceeding 25 mm in any direction which are brought to the surface during this.
- 13) Topsoil shall conform to B.S. 3882 2007 multipurpose grade, and shall be a free draining sandy loam. It shall be of neutral or close to neutral pH

free of stones over 30 mm diameter, and shall not exceed 5% by weight. It shall be free from subsoil, sods, roots of trees/ shrubs, and rubbish.

14) All plant material shall be good quality nursery stock, free from fungal, bacterial or viral infection, aphids, red spider or other insect pests and any physical damage. It shall comply with the requirements of B.S. 3936: Parts 1-11 Specification or Nursery Stock, where applicable.

Tree planting:

Specified trees are to be planted after completion of building works and preparation of the planting areas.

- 1) Advanced nursery trees shall comply with B.S. 5236: 1992. They shall have a well-defined straight and upright central leader, with branches growing out of the stem with reasonable symmetry, or a well-balanced branching head, according to the Schedule. The crown shall be well shaped, balanced, of a form and habit natural for the species. Trees shall have a sturdy, reasonably straight stem not less than 1.8 metres from ground level to the lowest branch.
- 2) Trees shall be supplied with securely wrapped root balls of a size appropriate to the species and size of the tree selected.
- 3 a) Use a double - stake and cross-bar system for trees in planted areas. Stakes to be pressure treated timber 100mm minimum diameter, pointed at one end. Cross braces, where specified, shall be recessed into the stakes. Tree ties shall be of rubber, PVC or proprietary fabric laminate composition, min. 50 mm wide for select standard trees and shall be strong and durable enough to hold the tree securely in all weather conditions for a period of three years. Fit with a curved block spacer to prevent chafing, and with a buckle for adjustment.
- 3 b) For trees in paved areas an adjustable underground guying system is to be employed such as the Platipus anchoring system, or similar approved. Details to be submitted to landscape architect for approval prior to installation.
- 4) Remove any non-biodegradable wrappings/ bindings on the root-ball. Operation will be removed. Where the ground cannot be rolled, due to gradient, all stones exceeding 25 mm in any direction will be removed.
- 5) For trees in paved areas use a proprietary Stockholm tree system, such or similar approved. A minimum of a single line of units around each pit shall be employed for use.
- 6) All work to soil shall be carried out in dry weather, and when the soil can be reduced to a friable condition, avoiding smearing or panning, and rutting and compaction by tractors.

Mulch:

Post-planting apply a 50mm layer of bark mulch to all planting areas.

Grass Seeding:

Cultivate all grass areas min. 150mm deep, removing debris and stones >30mm off site. Rake and grade.

- 1) Add a 150mm layer of good quality fresh topsoil (multipurpose grade topsoil BS 3882:2007) to all grass areas.
- 2) Final grading, remove all stones > 30mm, raking to a fine tilth and prepare a LEVEL seed bed for all grassed areas.
- 3) Seed all grass areas with mix detailed below.
- 4) After sowing the ground will be raked or chain harrowed, then rolled and cross-rolled with a light-weight roller. All stones exceeding 25 mm in any direction which are brought to the surface during this.
- 5) Topsoil shall conform to B.S. 3882 2007 multipurpose grade, and shall be a free draining sandy loam. It shall be of neutral or close to neutral pH, free of stones over 30 mm diameter, and shall not exceed 5% by weight. It shall be free from subsoil, sods, roots of trees/ shrubs, and rubbish.
- 6) Grass seeding to be completed 6 weeks before PC. Once grass seeding is completed temporary fencing to be installed along the perimeter to restrict access.
- 7) Areas of grass that fail to take should be over seeded by the contractor.

Wild flower mix:

Proper management of a perennial wildflower mix varies from year to year.

- 1) First year: In the first year it is important to keep the area cut short. This is firstly to keep "weeds" down but also to provide light to seedlings to help them

grow. Cut the sward to a height of 75 mm whenever the vegetation reaches 150mm, and remove the cut vegetation if possible. Over the first season perennial weeds should be treated (removed by mechanical means or by careful spot spraying) after cutting.

2) Cut the meadow no later than mid-November to a height of 30 mm and remove all vegetation.

3) Second and third years: After year one, the meadow is cut just once annually. The goal in years 2 and 3 is to encourage germination the following year. Cut the sward just once, after the seed has set (or no later than mid-November), to a height of 30 mm. Leave the cut vegetation for 3 days then remove. After cutting, perennial weeds should continue to be treated through mechanical removal or careful spot spraying.

4) It is difficult to provide exact ideal timing for annual cutting as it can depend on weather and other unpredictable factors. The goal is to allow the seed to ripen and fall from the seed heads before cutting.

5) After cutting in Year 2 and 3, Yellow Rattle can be over-sown. Yellow rattle is a semi-parasite that reduces grass dominance.

6) If you want more diversity, the area can be enhanced with plug plants of other wildflowers.

Maintenance schedule:


Maintenance period for 12 months after practical completion.

- 1) All hard standing areas shall be kept clean and weed free.
- 2) All litter shall be removed from hard standing and landscaped areas on each maintenance visit.
- 3) Leaves shall be removed from grassed areas, plant beds and hard standing areas over the course of the year.
- 4) Firm any plants loosened by frost, wind, or cultivation at each maintenance visit. Plants to be re-dug and planted where required. Ensure all roots are belowground. Any plants whose roots have become exposed are to be re-planted.

5) The contractor shall be responsible for keeping the ground around all planted material weed free during the course of the contract. This shall include complete weed control in planting beds, as well as the maintenance of 1m diameter weed-free circles around trees in grass areas. The base of the hedge is to be kept free of all competing weed growth throughout the maintenance period.

6) The Contractor is responsible for the watering of all trees and shrubs during the maintenance period. Apply water to moisten full depth of root run of each tree or plant. Avoid washing or compaction of the soil surface.

- 7) Plant replacements; following planting, any tree or shrub that has died shall be replaced. Replacement planting shall conform with this specification.

A	03/11/22	CM	Landscape detail
Rev	Date	By	Details
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Copyright Austen Associates, 2022			
Client:		Lidl GmbH	
Project title:		Lidl Newcastle	
Drawing title: Landscape Specification			
Drawn by: CM		Scale: no scale on A3	
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