



Amenity Garden Planting & Revegetation Areas

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1.0 NEW BED PREPARATION

- 1.1 The Contractor will spray with a suitable ground marker the outline of the garden beds to be cultivated in accordance with the landscape plan, taking into account any site variations. Any significant variations from the plan considered by the Contractor to be necessary to achieve the desired goal should be discussed with the Parks Advisor prior to implementation.
- 1.2 The Contractor will obtain sign off from the Parks Advisor for the shape of the garden beds prior to spraying the grass off.
- 1.3 A suitably qualified approved operator shall undertake spraying out of planting sites at least two weeks prior to commencement of planting.
- 1.4 All beds shall be rotary hoed to cultivate the existing soil and break up any large soil clods or clay pan areas.
- 1.5 Sufficient good quality compost is to be added to the beds to make the soil more friable, increase humus levels and promote biological activity. Compost will consist of decomposed organic matter, be pH neutral and shall not contain organic matter with a particle size greater than 10mm.
- 1.6 Prepared beds shall be to a cultivated depth of 200mm.

2.0 EXISTING BED PREPARATION

- 2.1 The Parks Advisor may require existing beds to be rotary hoed or dug by hand to cultivate the existing soil and break up any large soil clods.
- 2.2 Compost may be required to be added to existing beds as per 1.5.

3.0 PLANT SELECTION

- 3.1 All plants shall be good quality, nursery prepared stock of normal habit and true to type.
- 3.2 Plants should be hardened off to cope with the climatic conditions of the site and be free of pests and disease.
- 3.3 Plant root systems shall show no evidence of "spiralling" or being root bound.
- 3.4 The Parks Advisor reserves the right to reject any plants based on their quality, size or habit.
- 3.5 The plants to be used will be no smaller than PB3 grade for grasses, PB5 grade for flaxes and PB8 for shrubs. Wetland plants may be supplied in root trainers but must be well rooted.

4.0 PLANT SUPPLY AND CARE

- 4.1 The Contractor shall inspect the plants upon delivery and/or at collection time and inform the Parks Advisor within a day of this of any unacceptable defects in the plants supplied.
 - 4.2 The Contractor will be expected to maintain the plants in good condition in the yard and not damage the plants when transporting them to the planting site or at any other time during the planting operation. Any plants damaged by the Contractor will be replaced at the Contractor's expense.
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5.0 SETTING OUT

- 5.1 All plants shall be set out in their locations and spaced in accordance with the supplied planting plan and any agreements reached between the Parks Advisor and Contractor in Section 1.1 of this document.
- 5.2 The plant species and estimated numbers required will be outlined on a planting plan provided by the Parks Advisor. The Parks Advisor shall confirm plant numbers in consultation with the Contractor after the garden beds have been marked out.
- 5.3 As a general principle, gardens shall be planted at a density and with the size of plant that achieves 100% coverage of soil within two years.
- 5.4 In revegetation areas, the plants shall be grouped informally or spaced individually to produce a natural appearance. Plant spacings must be between 1.5m and 0.75m centres, dependant on the species. In some circumstances (e.g. steep slopes or unstable ground) spacings should be reduced to less than 0.75m centres to ensure quick coverage, promote bank stability and lessen maintenance costs. The selection and placement of plants must reflect the natural succession process.
- 5.5 Rows of plants shall be a uniform distance apart with plants positioned alternately to those in adjacent rows.
- 5.6 In areas of block planting, plants shall be spaced so that when established they will completely and evenly fill the areas indicated, unless otherwise specified. The extent of the area to be filled by each species shall first be defined with plants spaced around the perimeter. The remaining plants shall then be used to fill the centre of the area in an informal manner avoiding straight lines and regular geometric patterns, unless otherwise specified.
- 5.7 The locations of the plants may be required to be verified with the Parks Advisor onsite, before any planting works commence. The position of some plants and/or groups of plants may be changed onsite as the planting proceeds. The Contractor shall cooperate with this requirement.

6.0 PLANTING TECHNIQUE

- 6.1 Planting is generally to take place between 1 April and 30 September. Planting may occur outside these times with the approval of the Parks Advisor. Wetland areas may be planted outside the recognised planting season.
 - 6.2 Planter bags shall be removed from the root ball and the bags disposed of. Rootballs shall be saturated prior to planting and roots loosened if appropriate.
 - 6.3 Roots shall not be exposed to the sun or wind at any time. As soon as the plant is removed from the bag, it is to be planted immediately.
 - 6.4 Planting holes shall be 2x rootball diameter in width and 1-1.5 x rootball depth. The bottom and sides of the planting holes are to be loosened to encourage root movement into the surrounding soil. Soil removed from the planting hole shall be amended with 30% compost before planting. Fertiliser shall be applied as per Section 8.0.
 - 6.5 Each plant shall be placed in its planting hole and the surrounding soil shall be pushed in around the root ball to firm up the plant.
 - 6.6 The stems of the plants shall be upright and the nursery earth marks on them shall be at the same level as the existing ground level once planted.
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6.7 Soil surrounding the plant shall be compacted to hold the plant firmly in place and to ensure there are no air pockets below the surface.

6.8 The finished surface shall be compact, firm and level. Any surplus planting material from the holes shall either be removed or spread evenly over the surrounding area (leaving no soil on top of the mulch layer) and taking care not to cover the surface of the newly planted rootballs with additional fill.

7.0 WATERING AND IRRIGATION

7.1 Containerised plants shall be thoroughly moistened prior to planting. If plants are dry, they shall be submerged in water for five minutes until all air bubbles stop rising and then drained before planting.

7.2 All plants shall be watered within two hours of planting, ensuring that the moisture has penetrated to the full depth of the rootball. Watering is important to settle the soil around the roots and eliminate any air pockets. If a water supply cannot be provided at the site, the Contractor will need to provide his own water supply.

7.3 The use of water crystals for amenity plantings may be undertaken as per the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines upon instruction by the Parks Advisor.

8.0 FERTILISERS

8.1 Each plant hole shall have either 'Osmocote Exact – standard' fertilizer or Nitrophoska Permanent or a similar 12 month slow release fertiliser added to the bottom of the hole prior to planting.

8.2 Fertiliser shall be applied in quantities as recommended by the manufacturer.

8.3 No fertiliser shall be applied to wetland plants.

9.0 MULCH

9.1 The planted garden beds shall be mulched with a good quality bark (such as "Budget Bark" from Taggarts, Rangiora), at an approximate settled depth of 75mm.

9.2 All bark mulch shall be free from all other matter, organic or inorganic. All mulch shall also be free from phytotoxins and pathogens, and free of weed species including chip from willow, poplar or any other adventive weed species.

9.3 Mulch shall not touch the stems of the plants and a minimum circle of 50mm shall be cleared from around the stem to avoid stem rot.

9.4 Mulch shall be kept off any other adjoining surface, such as lawn or paved areas.

9.5 At no time shall any topsoil be mixed into the mulch.

9.6 Revegetation and restoration sites are not usually mulched. However, if weed suppression or moisture retention are major issues, mulch or individual weed mats may be applied. Mulch must not be placed where it is likely to be washed into the stormwater system during heavy rain.



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10.0 EDGING

- 10.1 All planted areas shall have a maintained edge. An edge is typically comprised of a minimum vertical cut of 100mm deep on the bed perimeter, with soil pulled back into the bed from the cut to provide a smooth, rounded and defined edge and to avoid any soil spread to lawn areas.
- 10.2 All curved edges shall be smooth and regular. Where the edge is straight, a string line must be used in order to ensure a true straight line.
- 10.3 Bed edges should be flush with the surrounding surfaces such as paths and lawns.

11.0 SITE CLEAN UP AND RECTIFICATION

- 11.1 The planting site will be left in a clean and tidy condition at the completion of the work, with any loose stones and soil being removed from grass verges.
- 11.2 The Contractor shall ascertain if ground conditions are suitable before commencing the work. Any damage to the turf or surrounding areas resulting from work carried out in unsuitable conditions shall be rectified by the Contractor at the Contractor's own expense.

12.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 12.1 The Contractor shall ensure that all requirements of the *Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992* are complied with.
- 12.2 If working on the road or road verge, the Contractor shall have in place an approved Traffic Management Plan.
- 12.3 The Contractor shall be solely responsible for public safety within and around the site and shall provide all necessary warning devices, barricades and personnel to ensure adequate safety, protection and warning to any person or vehicle or any property within and around the site.
- 12.4 The Parks Advisor shall be entitled to inspect the site and all plant and equipment at any time to ensure the Contractor is complying with its obligations under section 12.0.

13.0 MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATIONS

- 13.1 The Contractor may be required to maintain the amenity plantings for a minimum period of 12 months after completion of works to ensure the establishment of the plantings.
 - 13.2 All plants shall be watered to maintain healthy vigorous growth throughout the growing season.
 - 13.3 Plants shall be kept free of pests and diseases and garden beds free of organic and inorganic litter in order to achieve their optimum performance and visual amenity.
 - 13.4 Plantings shall be returned to a 100% weed free condition before weed growth exceeds 10% coverage of each area and 10cm in height. All weeds over 10cm in height shall be maintained by hand pulling.
 - 13.5 Additional fertiliser is to be applied to each plant in September of each year. This fertiliser shall be in the form of a balanced 12 month slow release fertiliser.
 - 13.6 All edging shall be maintained in a sharp, neat and vertical condition with all cuttings removed off site on the day of activity. Where the edge is to be a straight line, a string line is to be used to ensure a true straight line is maintained. All curves shall be smooth and regular.
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- 13.7 Bark mulch is to be kept at the settled thickness specified in Section 9.1 and shall be kept from hard surfaces.
- 13.8 Where plants overlap hard areas, growth shall be maintained so as not to restrict use of that area. Where plants overlap grass border edges, growth shall be maintained to allow free passage for mowing machines without damage to plants.
- 13.9 Plants damaged, vandalised, stolen or dead shall be replaced as required to maintain numbers. Replacement planting shall take place as soon as favourable growing and planting conditions exist, which in un-irrigated beds is usually during late autumn and early winter. Plants and planting standards shall be of the same quality as specified in Section 3.0 Plant Selection and 6.0 Planting Technique.

14.0 CONTRACT AUDITING

- 14.1 The Council will audit compliance with the contract by both site inspections and checking of associated documentation to the extent necessary to ensure the work is completed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and to the Council's standards.
- 14.2 The Contractor shall notify the Parks Advisor at least one working day prior to commencing various stages of the works. This is to enable audit inspections required by the contract to be performed.
- 14.3 The Parks Advisor shall send the contractor a copy of an audit carried out, with any areas of concern identified.
- 14.4 The minimum level of inspection shall be as follows:
- After the garden beds have been marked out and prior to the grass/area being sprayed.
 - At the commencement of planting to check plant stock, plant identity, health and size, plant layout, preparation of garden beds, and planting methods used.
 - On completion of the required works.
 - Once during the maintenance period to ensure maintenance conditions are being adhered to.
 - On completion of maintenance period.
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