

SLS01

SLS03

SLS02

SLS04

#### 1) Setting out

- Plantings and beds must be set out as per the approved soft landscaping plan, and measured from existing fixed points.
- Where site constraints allow, planting beds should be a minimum width of 600mm. Should it be found that planting beds are sealed or atop concrete, the landscape contractor must contact the site manager to determine whether amendments need to be made to the scheme or if modifications can be made to the constraint.

#### 2) Ground preparation

- Where weeds are present on proposed planting beds, a pre-planting herbicide application is required. When used, it must be applied by a skilled and qualified operative using suitable spraying apparatus. The herbicide must also be applied in line with the manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with 1997 Control of Pesticides Regulations and 2003 COSHH regulations. On heavily weeded sites, multiple applications may be required so as to kill of dormant seeds.
- To ensure that the existing topsoil within the planting beds complies with BS 3882:2007 rocks and rubble/debris larger than 50mm diameter, must be removed.
- To ensure that planting beds are not compacted and are free draining, they must be forked over or machine rotavated to a depth of at least 300mm if under 5m in width, and a tractor mounted subsoiler or ripper (500mm centres) should be used to a depth of 500mm when beds are >5m in width (This should not be done where there are services present, or within 10m of tree stems and 3m of hedges).
- Where the soil is >20% clay, amelioration will be required to provide a more suitable planting environment. All beds should have 100g per m<sup>2</sup> of Hortibase CRF (16-8-12) slow release fertiliser applied as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- When within 500mm of grassed and paved areas, the soil of planting beds must be graded to a level 65mm below that of surrounding grassed and paved areas. Grassed areas should be flush or up to 10mm lower than adjacent surfacing (not proud).
- Where imported topsoil is required, it must conform to BS 3882:2007 and be free from rocks >50mm diameter and have less than 20% clay.

#### 3) Planting

- All planting shall be carried out in accordance with the approved specification and plant schedule and following the specified planning bed preparation specification.
- Plants must be planted at the correct depth making sure that the root collar is at the proposed surface level; adjust depth as required.
- Plant substitutions are not permitted without prior approval of the project manager and client. All plants must be of a size and specification in line with the approved specification, unless otherwise agreed by the project manager and client. All shrubs (other than ground cover) should be 400-600mm height and spread, or otherwise specified for the pot size by the HTA National Plant Specification. They must also be bushy, healthy, disease free stock, not pot bound, leggy or spindly.
- Immediately following planting, all shrubs, herbaceous plants, whips and transplants shall be watered in with 20 litres per square metre. Trees must be watered in with 25 litres per tree position.

#### 4) Mulch and Supports

- Self clinging climbing shrubs or wall shrubs (other than ivy and Virginia creeper) shall be trained to the wall/fence with heavy duty, plastic coated garden wire. Training wires must be attached horizontally to the wall/fence by means of 125mm long stainless steel eye screw fittings. Position 1No. at 250mm from ground, and 1No. 250mm from top of the wall/fence, and string the wire tightly between the fixings. Train the climber to the wire with plastic coated garden wire tags.
- Newly planted trees should be secured with two wooden stakes and rubber or Hessian ties installed in line with, and at a distance of 150-250mm, from the tree's stem. Around the base of each newly planted tree a 50mm deep layer of mulch should be spread. This should extend 500mm from the base of the tree.
- If grass surrounds the base of the newly planted tree, rabbit/deer guards should be installed around the base of the tree's stem.

#### 5) Aftercare

- Following the establishment of the selected hedge plants and trees (3-5 years after planting), annual pruning/trimming may be required.
- Supplemental irrigation will be required in order to ensure the long-term health and survival of the plants. The frequency and extent of the supplemental irrigation should consider the prevailing weather conditions and season (e.g. prolonged dry periods or rainfall patterns). However, it is advised that for the initial 2 years, following planting, each plant will require watering between three to seven days per week, during the summer months.
- It is recommended that newly planted trees receive supplemental irrigation for their initial 2 years. Irrigation will need to occur every 3-5 days, during the summer months. Ligna Consultancy recommends the use of a 75L 'Tree Hydration Bag' so as to keep this frequency to a minimum.