Landscape Consultancy and Design Ltd

Soft Landscape Specification

Project: **14-16 Farncombe Road**

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1. Preliminaries

1.1 Description of Work

The Soft Landscape Scheme comprises new planting of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants as well as creating grassland areas for amenity and wildlife. The works include:

- Groundwork and preparation
- Soil handling
- Planting
- Seeding

This Specification applies to soft landscape works only and does not cover similar areas of works covered by other parties.

1.2 Compliance

All materials and workmanship must comply with the relevant British Standards and recognised Codes of Practice for the landscape industry. Where proprietary products have been specified, comply with manufacturer's published recommendations and instructions current on the date of the Invitation to Tender.

1.3 Workmanship Skills

Operatives must be appropriately skilled and experienced for the type and quality of work. In other case, operatives must be supervised on site by appropriately skilled and experienced leader.

1.4 Water for the Works

Water for cleaning and irrigation of planting must be secured on site. This must be clean and uncontaminated, from mains supply, rainwater harvesting or other source, subject to evidence of suitability.

1.5 Setting Out

Check on site and confirm dimensions and layout shown in drawings. Report any discrepancies and obtain instructions before proceeding.

1.6 Tests and Inspections

Confirm and record dates and times of tests and inspections to enable all interested parties to be represented. Submit a copy of test certificates and retain copies on site.

1.7 Defects

Should any work or product be known, or appear, to be not in accordance with the Contract, submit proposals for opening up, inspection, testing, making good, adjustment of the Contract Sum, or removal and re-execution. Such proposals are subject to consideration and may be unacceptable, so contrary instructions may be issued.

To make good any defects, make arrangements with the Project Manager to access the site and undertake rectification works. Notify when remedial works have been completed.

1.8 Pollution

Protect the site, the works and the environment against pollution. If pollution occurs inform immediately and provide relevant information.

Store fuels, lubricants and other such substances on hardstanding or other approved areas.

Use pesticides only where specified or approved, and then only suitable products listed on the government's websites. Operatives must hold a BASIS Certificate of Competence, or work under supervision of a Certificate holder. Remove empty or no longer required containers from site and dispose in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Keep such substances away from and take adequate precautions to ensure protection of watercourses, drains, soil and planting areas. Ensure there is no leakage or spillage. If spillage occurs, inform immediately and take appropriate emergency action.

1.9 Waste and Tidiness

Minimise production of waste prevent accumulation. Collect and store waste material in suitable containers. Remove frequently and dispose off site in a safe and competent manner. Keep the site and works clean and tidy.

It is not acceptable to leave and bury any waste in cavities, excavations and voids. All waste must be removed before closing in.

1.10 Invasive species

Prevent the spread of species that may adversely affect the site or works economically or environmentally/ ecologically. Report immediately any suspected invasive species discovered during execution of the works. Do not disturb.

1.11 Protection of Existing Infrastructure

Protect existing services, roads and footpaths, features (such as existing boundary treatment, walls, buildings, trees and hedges) and existing work.

Check and mark positions of mains/ services. In case of discrepancies or if unrecorded pipes, cables, drains, manholes, foundations, beds, voids, basements, filling, tanks, etc. not shown on the drawings are encountered, mark up on the drawings and report to Project Manager.

In case of damage to services as result from execution of the works, immediately give notice and make arrangements for the work to be made good without delay to the satisfaction of service authority / statutory undertakers or other owner as appropriate.

Check proposed methods of work for effects on adjacent structures inside and outside the site boundary. Monitor and immediately report excessive movement.

2. Protection of Existing Vegetation

2.1 Vegetation Intended for Retention

All vegetation not indicated for removal in the Project Arboriculturist's drawings and schedules should be considered as specified for retention and must be protected from damage throughout the course of the works. If in doubt, ask.

2.2 Protection Measures

The Main Contractor will be responsible for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of protection measures throughout the course of the works.

Upon commencement of the work on site, ensure that protective barrier (fencing) is erected around the perimeter of all trees and other vegetation intended for retention and that protective boxes are built around stems where erection of protective barriers would not be practical. All protection measures must be implemented in accordance with the Project Arboriculturist's drawings and Method Statement.

No works must take place within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of trees intended for retention unless specified otherwise. All works necessitating incursion into the RPA must be undertaken in accordance with Arboriculturist's drawings and Method Statement.

3. Clearance of Existing Vegetation

3.1 Extents of Vegetation Removal

Only vegetation clearly indicated for removal in Arboriculturist's drawings shall be removed. Care must be exercised to prevent damage to other vegetation intended for retention.

Clearly mark specimens and groups to be removed. If in doubt, ask and confirm on site with the Project Arboriculturist.

3.2 Methods of Removal

Where existing vegetation or planting have been identified for removal, this shall be done by:

Hand – removal of plants such as herbaceous species and small shrubs manually by pulling or digging out.

Handheld tools – where root systems or other circumstances prevent removal by hand. Sometimes, plants or their overgrown parts (such as roots, rhizomes) may require dividing into smaller chunks to enable safe and successful extraction.

Mechanical tools – where root systems or other circumstances prevent removal by hand or handheld tools.

Where require removal, cut down trees, shrubs, hedges. Grub up roots and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.

Chipping and shredding is permitted within approved areas. Do not shred sections of removed trees and branches which are specified to create habitat features.

3.3 Arisings

Retain on site sections of removed broadleaved trees and branches which are specified for retention and reuse in habitat creation. Only remove material infected with pests and diseases.

Remove all other arisings from site.

4. Ground Preparation, Soils and Ameliorants

4.1 Application

This Specification applies to soft landscape works only and does not cover similar areas of works covered by engineering specifications. For materials and workmanship below formations dedicated to plant rooting, refer to Engineer's specifications.

4.2 Site Clearance

Before topsoil stripping, if any, clear site of rubbish, debris and vegetation not intended for retention. Prevent compaction of topsoil.

Where underground structures are found within soft landscape areas, remove disused foundations, services, drains, manholes and the like to minimum depth of:

300 mm – for grass areas;

450 mm – for perennial planting;

600 mm – for shrub planting;

900 mm – for tree planting.

4.3 Quality of Materials

Soils/ growing media and mulches must be free of:

- pests and disease;
- fragments and roots of aggressive weeds, sticks, straw;
- subsoil, pieces of brick, concrete, glass, wire, large lumps of clay or vegetation, and the like.

Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are:

- corrosive, explosive or flammable;
- hazardous to human or animal life;
- detrimental to healthy plant growth.

Refuse and do not use materials with objectionable odour.

4.4 Topsoil System for Planting Areas and Tree Planting

Growing medium for new planting should preferably be the existing soil, subject to soil testing and availability. If existing soil is unsuitable (e.g. is contaminated) or insufficient to complete the work, imported topsoils must be used.

Performance parameters for imported topsoil:

Proposed soil to conform with the parameters of “Multipurpose” soil.

Soil textural class to sandy loam (in accordance with BS 3882, Figure 1)

Reaction, to BS 1377-3: pH 7.5 – 9.0.

Organic matter content: 5-20%

Nutrient content: Minimum index values: phosphorus (P) = 2; potassium (K) = 1; magnesium (Mg) = 1.

Crumb structure: Made up of discernible crumbs.

Maximum stone size in any dimension: 50 mm.

4.5 Topsoil System for Wildflower Grassland Areas

Growing medium for new planting should preferably be the existing soil, subject to soil testing and availability. If existing soil is unsuitable (e.g. is contaminated) or insufficient to complete the work, imported topsoils must be used.

Performance parameters for imported topsoil:

Proposed soil to conform with the parameters of “low fertility calcareous” soil.

Soil textural class to sandy loam or loamy sand (in accordance with BS 3882, Figure 1)

Reaction, to BS 1377-3: pH 7.5 – 9.0.

Organic matter content: 5-10%

Nutrient content: Minimum index values: phosphorus (P) = Max. 1; potassium (K) = 0; magnesium (Mg) = 0.

Crumb structure: Made up of discernible crumbs.

Maximum stone size in any dimension: 50 mm.

4.6 Topsoil System for Grass Areas

Amenity grass areas should be created on suitably prepared soil bed. If existing soil is unsuitable (e.g. is contaminated) or insufficient to complete the work, imported topsoils must be used.

Performance parameters for imported topsoil:

- Soil textural class to be loam or sandy loam (in accordance with BS 3882, Figure 1)
- Reaction, to BS 1377-3: pH 5.5 – 6.5.
- Organic matter content: 5-20%
- Nutrient content: Minimum index values: phosphorus (P) = min. 2; potassium (K) = min. 2; magnesium (Mg) = 2.
- Crumb structure: Screened to 10 mm. Soft and friable.
- Maximum stone size in any dimension: No inert material allowed.

4.7 Procurement of Topsoil

Before procuring topsoil, supply documentation, including:

- Full description of all soil components;
- Record of source for all soil components;
- Declaration of analysis: in accordance with BS 3882, clause 6 and Table 1;
- Chemical analysis;
- Chemical contaminants;
- Potentially toxic elements (PTEs).

Before contracting and delivery of entire required amount of topsoil to site, a sample 1 m³ load must be delivered to site for approval and comparison and all subsequent loads shall be at least equal in quality to the sample. Retain the sample until topsoil spreading is completed.

4.8 Handling Topsoil

Comply with BS 3882:2015 *'Specification for Topsoil and Requirements of Use'*. Follow good practice guidance given in *'Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites'* by DEFRA.

Prevent contamination or otherwise deterioration of soil quality. Do not mix topsoil with:

- Subsoil,
- Other classes of topsoil.
- Stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work.
- Other soil or material containing aggressive weeds, sharps, plastics and non-soil forming materials and notifiable animal or plant diseases.
- Oil, fuel, cement or other substances harmful to plant growth.

Keep multiple handling of topsoil to minimum. Handle topsoil in reasonably dry condition. Do not handle during or after heavy rainfall or when it is wetter than the plastic limit, as defined by BS 3882:2015.

Soil should be stored in an area of the site where it can be left undisturbed and will not interfere with site operations. Ground to be used for storing the topsoil should be cleared of vegetation and any waste arising from the development (e.g. building rubble and fill materials). Store topsoil in an appropriate way to prevent compaction and degradation of its structure, such as in loosely tipped heaps/ stockpiles of no more than 3 m in height. Tip and shape the soil from the side only, without running machinery on the heap at any time. The same principles apply when sourcing soil from heaps.

Shape sides of stockpiles to slopes with an angle of less than 40°.

To prevent the loss of soil structure:

- Do not place any other material on top of storage heaps.
- Do not allow construction plant or other vehicles to pass over and operatives to walk over storage heaps.
- Clearly mark out stockpile(s) by barrier tape and exclusion signs.
- Prevent compaction and contamination, by fencing and covering as appropriate.

If no space is available on site to store large volumes of soil, well planned deliveries of soil of consistent quality from a local supplier are recommended.

4.9 Surplus Topsoil

As far as possible, spread and level on site in agreed locations. Do not raise soil level within Root Protection Areas of trees that are to be retained.

Topsoil remaining after completion of all landscaping work should be removed from site, unless agreed otherwise with Contract Administrator.

4.10 Imported Subsoil for Planting Areas and Tree Planting

Ensure the amount of subsoil to provide the reminder of rooting depth below topsoil.

Performance parameters for imported subsoil:

- Soil textural class to roughly match existing. If soil test result not available use sandy loam (in accordance with BS 8601:2013 'Specification for subsoil and requirements for use', Figure 1).
- Reaction, to BS 1377-3: pH 7.5 – 9.0.
- Organic matter content: Less than 5%
- Crumb structure: Made up of discernible crumbs.
- Maximum stone size in any dimension: 50 mm.

4.11 Surplus Subsoil

Any surplus of subsoil must be kept in temporary storage heaps. Remaining materal must be removed from site.

4.12 Ground Preparation for Planting

Comply with BS 4428 – General Landscape Operations.

In areas are covered with turf or thick sward, plough or dig over to full depth of topsoil.

If the ground is hard, break it up thoroughly with a ripper to alleviate compaction and improve aeration.

Any temporary means of access must be removed before spreading of topsoil. Remove visible roots and large stones with a diameter greater than 50 mm.

If existing soil is unsuitable and new growing conditions need to be created for planting, the soil profile must be made up of subsoil layer overlain with topsoil. In accordance with BS 3882:2015, the depth of topsoil shall not normally exceed 300 mm and subsoil shall

provide the remainder of the soil profile to ensure minimum rooting depth. Recommended profiles, with minimum topsoil depth, are summarised in Table 1:

Table 1. Rooting profiles

Planting Type	Topsoil Depth	Rooting Depth
Grass lawn	150-300 mm	450 mm
Wildflower grassland (meadow)	Not necessary or 100-150 mm of low-fertility topsoil	450 mm
Herbaceous perennials	200-300 mm	450-600 mm
Shrubs	300 mm	600 mm
Trees	300 mm	900 mm

Once the majority of the rooting profile has been formed with subsoil, topsoil can be overlain. Spread topsoil in layers of some 150 mm and gently firm each layer before spreading the next. Do not compact topsoil - preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs, no bigger than 20 mm.

After spreading, the topsoil should be cultivated to a condition suitable for blade grading. Hollows and ridges should be avoided and are not acceptable in areas designated for lawns.

Finished levels of topsoil after settlement

In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces: 50 mm below (planting areas) or 25-50 mm below (grass).

In relation to DPC of adjoining buildings: Not less than 150 mm below.

In relation to adjacent grass areas: 50 mm below along the edge. May rise towards the centre of planting areas.

Seeded areas: Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.

Within root spread of existing trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.

Adjoining soil areas: Marry in neatly.

Thickness of turf or mulch: Not included, i.e. where planting areas adjoin hard surfaces, mulch layer should not spill out on them.

4.13 Mulching

Planting areas should be mulched to depth of 200 mm using mineral much.

Mineral Mulches: Sustainably sourced pea gravel/ shingle.

Particle size: 10-20 mm. Free from fines to impede harbouring weeds.

5. Planting

5.1 Conditions for Planting

Generally, do not undertake planting in unfavourable conditions which lead to plant stress that can make them prone to diseases and hamper successful establishment.

Weather: Plan the works for when conditions are not freezing, scorching hot, rainy or very windy. Still and cloudy weather is optimal.

Soil: Soil should be reasonably dry or slightly moist, friable and (except in aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged or frozen.

5.2 Times of Year For Planting

- Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March.
- Conifers and evergreens: September/ October or April/ May.
- Herbaceous plants (including marginal): September/ October or March/ April.
- Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.
- Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.
- Colchicum (crocus): July/ August.
- Green bulbs: After flowering in spring.
- Wildflower plugs: Late August to mid November or March/ April.
- Aquatic plants: May/ June or September/ October.

5.3 Watering Planting Areas

Quantity:

This depends on water holding capacity of the soil (existing or imported). If details of soil properties are not available, some rough principles can be assumed, as follows:

- For trees, apply the amount of water equal to roughly 2 litres of water per every 1 cm of stem diameter.
- For individual shrubs, assume the amount of water equal to the volume of their root balls or containers.

- For ground cover planting, apply 60 l/m^2 (assuming soil is sandy loam with total available water at 20%)

Less is needed in the spring and autumn, when there is more rain.

Application:

Water early in the morning. Wet full depth of topsoil within the entire surface of rootball, not only at the base of plant. Apply evenly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil. Do not pour over foliage.

Frequency:

First water thoroughly when planted (before applying mulch), and then at the point of bud burst in the spring. Continue throughout the spring and summer until the leaves have fallen in autumn (deciduous species). Apply water at least one-two times per week during spring and two-three times during summer.

Water restrictions:

If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation, do not carry out planting until instructed. If planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

5.4 Quality of Plants – Generally

Specification: All plants must be true to name, as per Planting Schedule and Specification.

Condition: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous. On visual inspection, of good shape and without elongated shoots. Root system must be balanced with branch system.

Health: Free from pests, diseases, discolouration, weeds and physiological disorders.

Hardiness: Grown outdoors in the United Kingdom for at least one growing season and hardened off, unless otherwise approved.

Origin/ Provenance: Native species should be grown from stock originating from [the island of] Great Britain and ideally be of local provenance. Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

Plant Substitution: If specified plants are unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering, submit alternatives, stating:

- difference from specified plants;
- price.

Obtain approval before making any substitution.

Conditions on Supply: Provide each plant/ or group of plants of a single species or cultivar with supplier's labelling, showing:

- full botanical name;
- total number;
- Supplier's name.

5.5 Quality of Bulbs/ Corms/ Tubers

Specification:

All plants must be true to name, as per Planting Schedule and Specification.

Condition:

Firm, entire, not dried out or shrivelled.

Health:

Free from pests, diseases and fungus.

Storage:

When necessary, store in well ventilated, dark, covered, rodent proof container, away from exhausts and fruit.

5.6 Container Grown Plants

Containers:

With holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

Growing medium:

With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.

Plants: Centred in containers, firmed and well watered.

Root growth:

Substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.

5.7 Plant Handling, Storage Transport and Planting

Comply with CPSE 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'.

Protect plants from frost.

Planting stock must be handled with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.

Plant packaging:

Black polyethylene bags. Bulk quantities should be supplied on pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped.

Treatment of tree wounds: Minor wounds happen during delivery. In such cases, selective pruning of branches may be required. When pruning:

- Keep wounds as small as possible.
- Cut cleanly back to sound wood using sharp, clean tools.
- Leave branch collars. Do not cut flush with stem or trunk.
- Set cuts so that water will not collect on cut area.
- Do not apply any sealants.

  In cases of more substantial damage, refuse such stock.

5.8 Planting

Planting Layouts:

Plant in random groups of (3)5-7 plants of the same species.

Follow densities specified in Planting Schedule.

Planting Pits:

Dig up pit that is square in shape to prevent root circling.

For bare-rooted stock, pits should be wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread. For container-grown stock pit should be twice as wide as the container.

If existing soil is suitable to reuse, when digging planting pits make sure to keep topsoil separately from subsoil.

Pit bottom should not be disturbed, unless soil is not free draining or subject to flooding. In such cases, break up to a depth of 150 mm. Smeared sides of pits should be scarified to facilitate root penetration.

Installation:

Plants should be planted and the same depth as they grew in the nursery to ensure that root collar is not buried. If plants are supplied growing deeper in their containers, the surplus growing medium should be removed to uncover the root collar.

Plants growing from bulbs/ corms/ tubers require to be planted at a depth relative to their size. As a general rule, planting depth of three times of their size should be assumed.

Place plants in the centre of pit in an upright position.

Plants rarely are symmetrical so install them to face their best side towards the viewer to achieve optimal display.
Backfilling:

Backfill pits with soil dug out previously or use imported soil. Put subsoil first and overlay with topsoil as shown in Table 1. Put soil gradually, in layers of some 150 mm, and gently firm each layer before adding the next. Do not compact the soil - preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs.

Support to Trees:

On windy sites, trees would require supporting with stakes or underground guying. Support devices should be installed before backfilling.

Stakes should be softwood, 75 mm in diameter, with pointed lower end. Straight, free from projections and large or edge knots.

Guidance on the number of stakes is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Tree Staking

Tree Stock Size	Number of Stakes	Depth	Fixing Height
Feathered, up to 1.5 m height	Not required	N/A	N/A
Feathered and Half Standards and Selected Standards up to 3.5 m height	1	300 mm below pit bottom	1/3 tree height
Heavy Standards, 12-14 cm girth, 3.5 m height and bigger	2	300 mm below pit bottom	1/3 tree height

Underground guying should include:

- protective mat or straps for the rootball;
- tensile strap with a ratchet (tensioner);
- 3 no. steel wires to attach to anchors/ deadman system;
- 3 no. anchors or deadmans. Where soil profile does not guarantee sufficient grip for the anchors, deadman system should be used. Concrete kerbs or edging units may be used as deadmans. Alternatively, wires can be attached to underground structures (e.g. rebar lattice sheet) or sides of concrete containers (using suitably robust eye bolts).

Components may vary in different proprietary systems.

Proprietary systems must be installed in accordance with Manufacturer's instructions.

Stakes must be removed after 2-3 years, whilst underground guying, due to its nature, must be left *in situ* permanently.

For the type of tree support used with individual trees, refer to Soft Landscape drawings.

After planting:

Immediately after planting, water the soil around plants thoroughly and without damaging or displacing the plants or the soil.

Lightly firm soil around plants and fork and/ or rake soil, without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with a gentle camber and no hollows.

Spread mulch to the specified depth.

5.9 Making Good Defects and Maintenance During Rectification Period

Carry out maintenance from completion of planting until the end of the rectification period. The rectification period is to be for 1 year after practical completion.

Frequency of maintenance visits: Monthly

6. Grass Areas

6.1 Quality and Standards

Preparation and implementation shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of BS4428:1989 – Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces).

When proprietary seed mix is being used, refer to Seed Supplier's recommendations for specialist advice.

6.2 Anticipated Effect

Once established, grass sward should be healthy, vigorous, free from the visible effects of pests, weeds and disease.

Grass should form a closely knit, continuous ground cover of even density, height and colour.

Finished grass levels should be 25-50 mm above surrounding kerbs/ edging, paving and planting areas.

6.3 Products/ Proposed Grass Seed Mixes

Amenity Lawn Mix

Mixture reference: Utility Seed Mix

Supplier: Burry Hill Landscape Supplies

Web: www.buryhilltopsoilandlogs.co.uk/grass-seed-mixtures

Application rate: 35 g/m²

Wildflower Grassland (Meadow) Mix

Mixture reference: Luxury Wildflower Seed Mixture for Chalk or Limestone Soils

Supplier: Wild Flower Lawns and Meadows

Web: https://www.wildflowerlawnsandmeadows.com

Application rate: 4 g/m²

6.4 Time of Sowing

Generally, period from April to October is suitable, and ideally spring (April to June) or late summer/ early autumn (August to September), when soil temperature is relatively high and there is adequate rainfall. Refer to Seed Supplier's recommendations for specialist advice.

6.5 Conditions for Sowing

Generally, do not undertake sowing in unfavourable conditions which is likely to hamper successful establishment.

Weather:

Not freezing cold, scorching hot, rainy or very windy. Still and cloudy weather is optimal.

Soil:

Soil should be friable, reasonably dry or slightly moist – not waterlogged or frozen.

6.6 Site Preparation

For Amenity Lawn

Cultivation:

If the existing soil is degraded, the top 450 mm of soil profile will require replacement and a new soil profile created in accordance with Table 1.

In preparation for sowing, cultivate the surface to remove compaction and contour to true running levels. Cultivation should be planned in such a way as to prevent bringing the subsoil to the surface. Areas to be seeded should be ploughed or disc harrowed to a depth of 100-150 mm. Soil should be cultivated to produce a fine tilth suitable for seeding and firmed by rolling lightly.

Application of a pre-seed fast-release fertiliser high in phosphorus is recommended at this stage. The dose should be determined based on soil analysis. The fertiliser should be raked into the topsoil prior to sowing the seed.

For Wildflower Grassland

Cultivation:

The existing subsoil will require to be ripped or rotovated to 30-50 cm to improve drainage and aeration.

Do not bring in any nutrient-rich topsoil. Do not use any fertiliser or soil ameliorant to keep the nutrient levels low.

Preparation of seed bed:

All weeds, rubbish, roots and stones larger than 50 mm should be removed from the areas to be seeded.

It is of upmost importance to eradicate any existing weeds. If there is potential for substantial seed bank present in the soil, more than one eradication round may be required, a couple of weeks apart, in order to give the dormant seed bank the time to germinate.

If chemical/ herbicide treatment is chosen as the preferred eradication measure, the weedkiller must be of non-residual type and easily degradable in the soil without leaving any harmful substances.

Areas to be seeded should be cultivated with a disc or chain harrow or by hand with rakes to produce a fine tilth suitable for seeding.

6.7 Sowing Technique

The aim is to achieve good seed contact with the soil, but not to bury it. For most lawn seed mixtures 10 mm coverage is appropriate. Refer to Seed Supplier's recommendations for specialist advice.

Seed should be broadcasted in two equal sowings at right angles to each other, with half the seed used in each direction. For application rate, refer to the seed mix specification above.

The entire seeded area should be raked lightly until the majority of seed is covered with soil, then lightly treaded or rolled (subject to weather conditions, which should not be wet).

6.8 Watering after Sowing

To facilitate germination, regular watering in the first month is necessary.

Watering after sowing should be little but often. Water at least once (twice if it’s very dry) per day for long enough to dampen the full depth of topsoil of the seed bed and avoid creating waterlogged conditions. Water until soil particles stick to the hand when pressed against the soil. Continue watering that way for 3-4 weeks, unless the weather is damp.

Watering should be even and considerate – avoiding the displacement of seed, seedlings or soil.

Best time for watering is early in the morning

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