DEWLANDS
GARDEN DESIGN

22-24 RICHMOND ROAD
WORTHING, BN11 1PN

Maintenance Plan

VERSION 2, 3RD MAY 2023

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Weed control in planting beds and around hedges - every 2-4 weeks

- The maintenance contractor shall keep the planting beds in a clean and weed free condition using manual methods with the use of herbicides discouraged.
- Manual control of weeds shall be undertaken with care to avoid disturbance to plants. Weeds shall be removed entire, including roots and disposed of off-site at contractor's tip. New growths on plants are to be carefully preserved.
- All areas shall be left in a neat, raked and clean condition, with mulch re-spread evenly upon completion of weeding operations. Any plants damaged during weed control operations shall be made good to the satisfaction of the client.

Other operations in planting beds and around hedges – every 2-4 weeks

- Stakes, ties and all above ground fixings are to be checked on each inspection visit. Any items that are found to be loose, damaged or missing shall be re-fixed or replaced at the time of inspection. All other repairs shall be undertaken no later than the next maintenance visit.

- All stakes are to be removed after they have been in place for two growing seasons, ensuring that the trees are suitably well-established to withstand this.
- After periods of high wind or severe frost, the ground around all trees and shrubs is to be firmed by treading.
- Approved 7:7:7 (NPK)fertiliser shall be spread evenly at the manufacturer's recommended rate around the base of ornamental shrubs only and lightly raked into the soil surface. Fertiliser should only be applied 1st April – 31st May.
- Dead foliage of herbaceous plants shall be removed at the end of the growing season, taking care not to damage growing tips of plants.
- The contractor shall remove litter from shrub beds as a routine part of the maintenance operation.

Watering – in summer and drought periods

- After planting regular watering will be required for a period, especially during summer months and periods of drought, to ensure successful establishment of plants.
- There after watering in planting areas is only to be considered in drought conditions, and then, where possible, using secondary water.
- Great care shall be taken to avoid damage to plants and soil when moving equipment around planting beds and during watering itself. The contractor shall properly gauge the supply of water to individual plants so as to supply the correct quantity. Particular care should be taken to prevent topsoil from washing out through excessive watering causing local ponding.

Shrub Pruning - timing see guidance notes.

- All pruning is to be carried out by means of approved mechanical hedge-cutters, secateurs and hand-saws only. Pruning is to be carried out to the highest horticultural standard. Dead foliage, stems and branches are to be removed by cutting back above a node. Suckers are to be removed by cutting back to their source on the roots of the affected plant.
- Shrubs, whips and transplants shall be pruned to encourage vigorous growth, flower and fruit. Remove any growth encroaching onto paths, roads, sightlines and lights. Thinning, trimming and shaping shall be carried out according to species, variety, season, stage of growth and desired visual effect.
- Newly planted hedgerows shall be lightly trimmed to encourage dense growth and well-furnished stems.
- Timing: This is species specific and should be checked, however as a general guide.
    a. Deciduous shrubs that flower July-Oct prune in spring.
    b. Deciduous shrubs that flower Nov-June prune immediately after flowering
    c. Evergreen shrubs, prune immediately after flowering.
    d. Deciduous trees, prune in the dormant period Nov-March

Tree Base Maintenance - every 2-4 weeks, fert. April-May

- Keep the base around trees free from any weed infestation at all times throughout the maintenance period. Approved 7:7:7 NPK fertiliser shall be spread evenly at the manufacturer's recommended rate around the base of trees and lightly raked into the soil surface. Fertiliser should only be applied 1st April – 31st May.

Tree Mulching - Winter

- Maintain mulch to base of all trees planted at a minimum depth of 50mm, topping up as necessary for two years after planting.

Tree Pruning - Nov-Mar

- Check each tree is growing healthily and remove all dead wood, damaged or diseased branches. Carry out formative pruning and remove any suckering shoots growing from the clear stem. All prunings are to be removed to a suitable location on site,otherwise contractor to cart away.

Tree Wounds – every 1-2 months

- Any wounds shall be neatly pared back to sound wood in accordance with BS3998: 1989 Recommendations for tree work.

Re-firming – every 1-2 months

- Re-firm trees which have been loosened by the wind or frost.