

Building Construction**LANDSCAPING****INTRODUCTION**

Landscape works particularly those dealing with grading, soil handling, cultivation, seeding and planting, have exacting requirements. Unlike normal building works using inert bricks, blocks and steel, landscape works use living materials entirely dependent upon season and day to day climate conditions.

It is for these reasons that expert advice should be sought from a landscaping professional at the earliest opportunity in the development of a project, preferably at feasibility stage. This will ensure that the greatest use is made of each season during the course of the building works and especially relevant where a new playing field has to be constructed.

HORTICULTURAL SUPPLIES

Suppliers of horticultural products:-

- a) Shall obtain peat from non-English sites and only from renewable sources.
- b) Shall operate an irrigation system (where applicable) which maximizes the use of rainwater runoff.
- c) Shall recycle compost and growing pots.
- d) Shall bulk up peat based composts where appropriate with suitable non-peat material.
- e) Are actively investigating cultural methods of pest control for the protection of their nursery stock.

TOPSOIL HANDLING

More often than not topsoil remains the single most important landscape resource. Steps to ensure its conservation should include:

- a) Soil analysis.
- b) Good stripping, storage and placement practice.
- c) Measures to maintain or improve soil quality.

GRASS - SEEDING AND TURFING

- a) Seeding - when programming for adoption or handover of grassed areas sufficient time should be allowed for soil conditions to recover and good sward development to occur. This particularly applies to sports pitches or any areas of heavy intended use. A grassed area will not be ready for play until the root system develops sufficiently to bind and anchor the soil, which will normally take up to a year or so.
- b) Turfing - more rapid establishment can be achieved through turfing (within six months in certain situations) but is at least six times the price of seeding.
- c) Maintenance including cutting and watering must be considered as part of the seeding or turfing operation.

PLANTING OF TREES AND SHRUBS

- a) Time for planting - best month for planting bare rootstock is November but can be put in from November to March subject to soil conditions. Container grown material ideally should be planted during the same period, as this will reduce aftercare visits for watering and weeding. Use natural species wherever possible.
- b) Staking - small trees in protected areas to have single stake and one tie. Small trees in more vandal prone areas to have single stake and two ties. Large trees, over 3m to have two stakes with a cross bar and tie.

All trees in grassed areas to have their trunks protected by strimmer proof guards.

- c) Poisonous Plants - may vary from those which are lethal in very small quantities to those which are only mildly toxic. The latter include many common garden and wayside plants, without which the choice of plants would be very limited. Plants also vary greatly in their attractiveness to children, berries being the most likely to be eaten, although some plants cause rashes when touched. Plants should be selected to avoid those, which are likely to cause ill effects, using professional advice in the choice of species.

AQUATIC PLANTING

Aquatic planting differs from other planting in that the best time of year is in the late spring to early summer when the water is warming up and the light levels are improving. Avoid invasive species.

End of Section

<< Previous Page

Contents Page >>

