

## 32 9300 Planting

### DISCLAIMER AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USER

**Use of this document:** The following specification has been prepared by the Urban Tree Foundation and is copyrighted 2014. Permission is granted for use of this material for individual use or use by your organization to prepare specifications. It may not be reproduced in part or in its entirety for sale or profit; however it can be used as part of a package of services you provide for specific landscape projects. This document, when used as the basis of a specification, has significant legal and financial ramifications on the outcome of a construction project. By adopting this specification, in part or in its entirety, the user accepts all liability related to its use.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION WRITER:

*The following document is intended as a general specification to guide the writing of a project-specific specification. Each project is unique and it is required that the specification be developed accordingly. DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATION WITHOUT MAKING IMPORTANT ADJUSTMENTS to reflect local conditions, regulations, market standards, project schedules and local and regional practices. The following are specific items that need to be addressed.*

**1. General instructions for using this specification:** *These instructions are intended to guide the specification writer (the specifier) through the process of editing this document into a planting specification. Be sure to delete these instructions (i.e. all the text in red displayed above the paragraph) before issuing the specifications. Note that there is a watermark on each page identifying this as a draft specification. Be sure to delete this watermark before issuing this document. The watermark is found in Mac versions under the "Insert" pull down in the tool bar and in PC versions under page layout.*

**2. General Requirements - Division 01 (Construction Specification Institute) specifications and other contract elements:** *This specification is designed to be used in conjunction with standard Division 01 specifications, which cover project general conditions and project-wide contract elements. THIS IS NOT A STAND-ALONE SPECIFICATION and should not be used as a contract for the purchase of and installation of plants. Important issues of project ownership, liability, insurance, contract language, project controls, instructions to bidders, change orders and review and approval of the work are normally in the Division 01 specifications.*

**3. The construction team:** *A construction project is a team effort where the Owner, in effect, creates a partnership with all the Contractors to build a project. As with any good contract there are protections for all parties; that the Owner will get the quality of project that they desire within the time limits and budget available; and the Contractor will be paid for the work satisfactorily completed. In between the initial bidding and the final completion there will be many places where parts of the construction do not work out as originally intended. This is normal and a good contract should allow for these changes in a manner that is equitable to both the Owner and the Contractor. To get there, a team approach and spirit must prevail. All parties must assume that each is operating in the best interest of the project goals. The clearer the goals and description of the project, the smoother the flow of a successful project. **The more each of the team members can trust the other members, the better the project.** This should be a critical principle in approaching interpretation of the specification.*

**4. Other project documents:** *This specification is intended to be used in conjunction with other project documents including the bid forms, the construction contract, Division 1 specifications, other specifications directly related to this section; other specifications that are not directly related to this work and most critically the project construction drawings. It is very critical that all these documents be prepared with consistent terminology and that they be coordinated. The terms used for the parts of trees and other plants, different soil types, drainage features, irrigation features and structures such as paving, walls and planters must be consistent across disciplines. A very common mistake is the use of different terms and details for soil and the extent of soil work. The terms and details for planting soil, subsoil and other materials must be well coordinated.*

**5. Related specification sections:** *This specification requires an additional specification section to describe several important related parts of the planting process.*

**Tree Protection:** *This specification assumes that there is a separate specification section and construction drawings and details for tree protection; remove this section if there are no existing trees to be protected on the project.*

**Planting Soil:** This specification assumes that there is a separate specification section and construction drawings and details for installation of planting soils.

**Irrigation:** This specification assumes that there might be a separate specification section for irrigation associated with the project planting.

**6. Reviewing and approval authority:** Each specification identifies a certain entity as responsible for the review and approval of the work, project submittals, changes to the work, and acceptance of the work. The entity is normally identified in Division 1. For the purposes of this specification, the term the “Owner’s Representative” has been used as a placeholder for this entity. Once the proper term is defined (for example Contracting Officer, The Architect, The Landscape Architect, The Engineer etc); this term should replace the words “Owner’s Representative” wherever it appears in this specification.

**7. Header and footer requirements:** Change the header/footer language to meet the project requirements.

**8. Notes to specifiers:** Before issuing the document, be sure to remove all “Notes to specifiers” incorporated into this document in red text after you have read them and responded to the recommendations.

**9. Submittals:** Submittals are a critical part of any construction contract. This is where all products and materials are reviewed and approved in advance of the work. Planting soil quality control is in this section. Including very specific requirements for approval of submittals while a good practice assumes that the reviewing authority has the skills needed to make these reviews and interpret the results. A common practice is to make very specific requirements but not have the time or expertise to enforce them. Lack of review of submittals does not automatically transfer quality control to the Contractor. In fact, lack of review or inappropriate review can make the reviewing authority responsible for having accepted the submittal even if it was not acceptable. **Do not put into the specification submittal requirements that you do not have the time, resources or knowledge, which you knew or should have known, to enforce.**

**10. Specification modifications:** There are locations in this specification where additional information is required to reflect project region or contract conditions. Please insert the requested information.

#### **11. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SPECIFICATION:**

**Plant observations:** The area of plant observations is one of the most critical points in the planting process. Ideally this should take place at the growing nursery prior to digging and or shipping the plant. This is very time consuming but its importance cannot be over stated. This is the only time where meaningful alterations can be made to find and correct many of the most common root quality issues found in nurseries. If you cannot make these observations do not require them. Failure of the Owner or their representative to make observations where they are required can result in the Contractor being able to defend the use of poor quality plants. Once a plant is shipped from the nursery, it is very difficult to reject. The defects must be very severe and visible. Often root defects and buried root collars are quite difficult to identify within the root ball package.

Many plants are purchased from re-wholesale yards. These plants are more difficult to observe than in the field but if observed prior to purchase by the Contractor there is a better chance of rejecting them. Re-wholesale plants may have other problems such as having been held too long without adequate water, and loss of the ability to make corrections in root collar depth in the root ball package.

**Root ball package options:** There are many root ball packages available in the industry in certain regions. That is, the methods used to contain the roots and the type of system used to grow or manage the roots of the plant. It is critical that the specifications herein be amended to reflect allowable root ball packages. All projects do not have to accept all types of root ball packages. Since this can have a huge impact on the ultimate success of the plant, careful consideration must be made in selecting the type of packages permitted. Do not leave in references to root ball packages you do not want to use on the project in the specification (i.e. B&B, container, bare root, etc.).

**Warranty:** This specification assumes or implies a 1-year warranty. Modify the warranty to meet the project requirements.

**Maintenance:** This specification includes an option for no maintenance during the warranty period and optional language for maintenance during the warranty period.

SECTION 32 9300  
PLANTING

**PART 1 – GENERAL**

1.1 SUMMARY

**Note to specifier: Remove parts of this work description that do not apply. This specification section is only for the planting and maintenance of trees, shrubs and ground covers. If construction and maintenance of lawn areas are included in the project, the provisions for construction and maintenance of lawns must be covered under a separate specification section.**

- A. The scope of work includes all labor, materials, appliances, tools, equipment, facilities, transportation and services necessary for, and incidental to performing all operations in connection with furnishing, delivery, and installation of plant (also known as "landscaping") complete as shown on the drawings and as specified herein.
- B. The scope of work in this section includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Locate, purchase, deliver and install all specified plants.
  - 2. Water all specified plants.
  - 3. Mulch, fertilize, stake, and prune all specified plants.
  - 4. Maintenance of all specified plants until the beginning of the warranty period.
  - 5. Plant warranty.
  - 6. Clean up and disposal of all excess and surplus material.
  - 7. Maintenance of all specified plants during the warranty period.

1.2 CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

- A. Shall consist of specifications and general conditions and the construction drawings. The intent of these documents is to include all labor, materials, and services necessary for the proper execution of the work. The documents are to be considered as one. Whatever is called for by any parts shall be as binding as if called for in all parts.

1.3 RELATED DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

- A. Related Documents:

**Note to specifier: Coordinate this list with the other related specification sections. Add, delete or modify sections as appropriate.**

- 1. Drawings and general provisions of contract including general and supplementary conditions and Division I specifications apply to work of this section
- 2. Related Specification Sections
  - a. Section - Planting Soil
  - b. Section - Irrigation
  - c. Section - Lawn
  - d. Section - Tree Protection and Plant Protection
- B. References: The following specifications and standards of the organizations and documents listed in this paragraph form a part of the specification to the extent required by the references thereto. In the event that the requirements of the following referenced standards and specification conflict with this specification section the requirements of this specification shall prevail. In the event that the requirements of any of the following referenced standards and specifications conflict with each other the more stringent requirement shall prevail or as determined by the Owners Representative.

**Note to specifier: Remove any references that do not apply in the project region.**

1. State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture, Regulations for Nursery Inspections, Rules and Grading.
2. ANSI Z60.1 American Standard for Nursery Stock, most current edition.
3. ANSI A 300 – Standard Practices for Tree, Shrub and other Woody Plant Maintenance, most current edition and parts.
4. Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Stock, current edition (Florida Department of Agriculture, Tallahassee FL).
5. Interpretation of plant names and descriptions shall reference the following documents. Where the names or plant descriptions disagree between the several documents, the most current document shall prevail.
  - a. USDA - The Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) <http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/searchgrin.html>
  - b. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants; Michael Dirr; Stipes Publishing, Champaign, Illinois; Most Current Edition.
  - c. The New Sunset Western Garden Book, Oxmoor House, most current edition.
6. Pruning practices shall conform to recommendations “Structural Pruning: A Guide For The Green Industry” most current edition; published by Urban Tree Foundation, Visalia, California.
7. Glossary of Arboricultural Terms, International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign IL, most current edition.

#### 1.4 VERIFICATION

- A. All scaled dimensions on the drawings are approximate. Before proceeding with any work, the Contractor shall carefully check and verify all dimensions and quantities, and shall immediately inform the Owner's Representative of any discrepancies between the information on the drawings and the actual conditions, refraining from doing any work in said areas until given approval to do so by the Owner's Representative.
- B. In the case of a discrepancy in the plant quantities between the plan drawings and the plant call outs, list or plant schedule, the number of plants or square footage of the planting bed actually drawn on the plan drawings shall be deemed correct and prevail.

#### 1.5 PERMITS AND REGULATIONS

- A. The Contractor shall obtain and pay for all permits related to this section of the work unless previously excluded under provision of the contract or general conditions. The Contractor shall comply with all laws and ordinances bearing on the operation or conduct of the work as drawn and specified. If the Contractor observes that a conflict exists between permit requirements and the work outlined in the contract documents, the Contractor shall promptly notify the Owner's Representative in writing including a description of any necessary changes and changes to the contract price resulting from changes in the work.
- B. Wherever references are made to standards or codes in accordance with which work is to be performed or tested, the edition or revision of the standards and codes current on the effective date of this contract shall apply, unless otherwise expressly set forth.
- C. In case of conflict among any referenced standards or codes or between any referenced standards and codes and the specifications, the more restrictive standard shall apply or Owner's Representative shall determine which shall govern.

#### 1.6 PROTECTION OF WORK, PROPERTY AND PERSON

- A. The Contractor shall adequately protect the work, adjacent property, and the public, and shall be responsible for any damages or injury due to his/her actions.

#### 1.7 CHANGES IN THE WORK

- A. The Owner's Representative may order changes in the work, and the contract sum should be

adjusted accordingly. All such orders and adjustments plus claims by the Contractor for extra compensation must be made and approved in writing before executing the work involved.

- B. All changes in the work, notifications and contractor's request for information (RFI) shall conform to the contract general condition requirements.

## 1.8 CORRECTION OF WORK

- A. The Contractor, at their own cost, shall re-execute any work that fails to conform to the requirements of the contract and shall remedy defects due to faulty materials or workmanship upon written notice from the Owner's Representative, at the soonest as possible time that can be coordinated with other work and seasonal weather demands.

## 1.9 DEFINITIONS

**Note to specifier:** *Delete any words below that are not used in the final specification.*

All terms in this specification shall be as defined in the "Glossary of Arboricultural Terms" or as modified below.

- A. Boxed trees: A container root ball package made of wood in the shape of a four-sided box.
- B. Container plant: Plants that are grown in and/or are currently in a container including boxed trees.
- C. Defective plant: Any plant that fails to meet the plant quality requirement of this specification.
- D. End of Warranty Final Acceptance: The date when the Owner's Representative accepts that the plants and work in this section meet all the requirements of the warranty. It is intended that the materials and workmanship warranty for Planting, Planting Soil, and Irrigation work run concurrent with each other.
- E. Field grown trees (B&B): Trees growing in field soil for at least 12 months prior to harvest.
- F. Healthy: Plants that are growing in a condition that expresses leaf size, crown density, color; and with annual growth rates typical of the species and cultivar's horticultural description, adjusted for the planting site soil, drainage and weather conditions.
- G. Kinked root: A root within the root package that bends more than 90 degrees.
- H. Maintenance: Actions that preserve the health of plants after installation and as defined in this specification.
- I. Maintenance period: The time period, as defined in this specification, which the Contractor is to provide maintenance.
- J. Normal: the prevailing protocol of industry standard(s).
- K. Owner's Representative: The person appointed by the Owner to represent their interest in the review and approval of the work and to serve as the contracting authority with the Contractor. The Owner's Representative may appoint other persons to review and approve any aspects of the work.
- L. Reasonable and reasonably: When used in this specification relative to plant quality, it is intended to mean that the conditions cited will not affect the establishment or long term stability, health or growth of the plant. This specification recognizes that it is not possible to produce plants free of all defects, but that some accepted industry protocols and standards result in plants unacceptable to this project.  
  
When reasonable or reasonably is used in relation to other issues such as weeds, diseased, insects, it shall mean at levels low enough that no treatment would be required when applying recognized Integrated Plant Management practices.  
  
This specification recognizes that some decisions cannot be totally based on measured findings and that professional judgment is required. In cases of differing opinion, the Owner's Representative's expert shall determine when conditions are judged as reasonable.
- M. Root ball: The mass of roots including any soil or substrate that is shipped with the tree within the root ball package.

- N. Root ball package. The material that surrounds the root ball during shipping. The root package may include the material in which the plant was grown, or new packaging placed around the root ball for shipping.
- O. Root collar (root crown, root flare, trunk flare, flare): The region at the base of the trunk where the majority of the structural roots join the plant stem, usually at or near ground level.
- P. Shrub: Woody plants with mature height approximately less than 15 feet.
- Q. Spade harvested and transplanted: Field grown trees that are mechanically harvested and immediately transplanted to the final growing site without being removed from the digging machine.
- R. Stem: The trunk of the tree.
- S. Substantial Completion Acceptance: The date at the end of the Planting, Planting Soil, and Irrigation installation where the Owner's Representative accepts that all work in these sections is complete and the Warranty period has begun. This date may be different than the date of substantial completion for the other sections of the project.
- T. Stem girdling root: Any root more than ¼ inch diameter currently touching the trunk, or with the potential to touch the trunk, above the root collar approximately tangent to the trunk circumference or circling the trunk. Roots shall be considered as Stem Girdling that have, or are likely to have in the future, root to trunk bark contact.  
*Note to specifier regarding the Stem Girdling Root specification: 1/4 inch min. root diameter is in debate. Check most recent opinions from trusted researchers and practitioners. Insert the diameter standard that may be attainable from regional or selected growers.*
- U. Structural root: One of the largest roots emerging from the root collar.
- V. Tree: Single and multi-stemmed plants with mature height approximately greater than 15 feet.

#### 1.10 SUBMITTALS

- A. See contract general conditions for policy and procedure related to submittals.
- B. Submit all product submittals 8 weeks prior to installation of plantings.  
*Note to specifier: Confirm submittal time above is appropriate for project schedule.*
- C. Product data: Submit manufacturer product data and literature describing all products required by this section to the Owner's Representative for approval. Provide submittal eight weeks before the installation of plants.
- D. Plant growers' certificates: Submit plant growers' certificates for all plants indicating that each meets the requirements of the specification, including the requirements of tree quality, to the Owner's Representative for approval. Provide submittal eight weeks before the installation of plants.
- E. Samples: Submit samples of each product and material where required by the specification to the Owner's Representative for approval. Label samples to indicate product, characteristics, and locations in the work. Samples will be reviewed for appearance only. Compliance with all other requirements is the exclusive responsibility of the Contractor.
- F. Plant sources: Submit sources of all plants as required by Article – "Selection of Plants" to the Owner's Representative for approval.
- G. Close out submittals: Submit to the Owner's Representative for approval.
  - 1. Plant maintenance data and requirements.
- H. Warranty period site visit record: If there is no maintenance during the warranty period, after each site visit during the warranty period, by the Contractor, as required by this specification, submit a written record of the visit, including any problems, potential problems, and any recommended corrective action to the Owner's Representative for approval.

*Note to specifier: The paragraph above is only required if maintenance during the warranty period is*

*not required.*

- I. Installation plan submitted a minimum of 14 days prior to the scheduled installation. Plan should describe the methods, activities, materials and schedule to achieve installation of plants.

**Note to specifier:** *The paragraph above is only required if a contractor submitted Plant Installation Plan is required.*

#### 1.11 OBSERVATION OF THE WORK

- A. The Owner's Representative may observe the work at any time. They may remove samples of materials for conformity to specifications. Rejected materials shall be immediately removed from the site and replaced at the Contractor's expense. The cost of testing materials not meeting specifications shall be paid by the Contractor.
- B. The Owner's Representative shall be informed of the progress of the work so the work may be observed at the following key times in the construction process. The Owner's Representative shall be afforded sufficient time to schedule visit to the site. Failure of the Owner's Representative to make field observations shall not relieve the Contractor from meeting all the requirements of this specification.
  1. SITE CONDITIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF PLANTING: review the soil and drainage conditions.
  2. COMPLETION OF THE PLANT LAYOUT STAKING: Review of the plant layout.
  3. PLANT QUALITY: Review of plant quality at the time of delivery and prior to installation. Review tree quality prior to unloading where possible, but in all cases prior to planting.
  4. COMPLETION OF THE PLANTING: Review the completed planting.

#### 1.12 PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

- A. Schedule a pre-construction meeting with the Owner's Representative at least seven (7) days before beginning work to review any questions the Contractor may have regarding the work, administrative procedures during construction and project work schedule.

**Note to specifier:** *Confirm time frame above is appropriate for project schedule.*

#### 1.13 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Substantial Completion Acceptance - Acceptance of the work prior to the start of the warranty period:
  1. Once the Contractor completes the installation of all items in this section, the Owner's Representative will observe all work for Substantial Completion Acceptance upon written request of the Contractor. The request shall be received at least ten calendar days before the anticipated date of the observation.
  2. Substantial Completion Acceptance by the Owner's Representative shall be for general conformance to specified size, character and quality and not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for full conformance to the contract documents, including correct species.
  3. Any plants that are deemed defective as defined under the provisions below shall not be accepted.
- B. The Owner's Representative will provide the Contractor with written acknowledgment of the date of Substantial Completion Acceptance and the beginning of the warranty period and plant maintenance period (if plant maintenance is included).
- C. Contractor's Quality Assurance Responsibilities: The Contractor is solely responsible for quality control of the work.
- D. Installer Qualifications: The installer shall be a firm having at least 5 years of successful experience of

a scope similar to that required for the work, including the handling and planting of large specimen trees in urban areas. The same firm shall install planting soil (where applicable) and plant material.

1. The bidders list for work under this section shall be approved by the Owner's Representative.
2. Installer Field Supervision: When any planting work is in progress, installer shall maintain, on site, a full-time supervisor who can communicate in English with the Owner's Representative.
3. Installer's field supervisor shall have a minimum of five years experience as a field supervisor installing plants and trees of the quality and scale of the proposed project, and can communicate in English with the Owner's Representative.
4. The installer's crew shall have a minimum of 3 years experienced in the installation of Planting Soil, Plantings, and Irrigation (where applicable) and interpretation of soil plans, planting plans and irrigation plans.
5. Submit references of past projects, employee training certifications that support that the Contractor meets all of the above installer qualifications and applicable licensures.

#### 1.14 PLANT WARRANTY

##### A. Plant Warranty:

1. The Contractor agrees to replace defective work and defective plants. The Owner's Representative shall make the final determination if plants meet these specifications or that plants are defective.

Plants warranty shall begin on the date of Substantial Completion Acceptance and continue for the following periods, classed by plant type:

**Note to specifier: Modify below to state the number of years of the warranty.**

- a. Trees – XX Year(s).
  - b. Shrubs – XX Year(s).
  - c. Ground cover and perennial flower plants – XX Year(s).
  - d. Bulbs, annual flower and seasonal color plants – for the period of expected bloom or primary display.
2. When the work is accepted in parts, the warranty periods shall extend from each of the partial Substantial Completion Acceptances to the terminal date of the last warranty period. Thus, all warranty periods for each class of plant warranty, shall terminate at one time.
  3. All plants shall be warrantied to meet all the requirements for plant quality at installation in this specification. Defective plants shall be defined as plants not meeting these requirements. The Owner's representative shall make the final determination that plants are defective.
  4. Plants determined to be defective shall be removed immediately upon notification by the Owner's Representative and replaced without cost to the Owner, as soon as weather conditions permit and within the specified planting period.
  5. Any work required by this specification or the Owner's Representative during the progress of the work, to correct plant defects including the removal of roots or branches, or planting plants that have been bare rooted during installation to observe for or correct root defects shall not be considered as grounds to void any conditions of the warranty. In the event that the Contractor decides that such remediation work may compromise the future health of the plant, the plant or plants in question shall be rejected and replaced with plants that do not contain defects that require remediation or correction.
  6. The Contractor is exempt from replacing plants, after Substantial Completion Acceptance and during the warranty period, that are removed by others, lost or damaged due to occupancy of project, lost or damaged by a third party, vandalism, or any natural disaster.
  7. Replacements shall closely match adjacent specimens of the same species. Replacements shall be subject to all requirements stated in this specification. Make all necessary repairs due to plant



replacements. Such repairs shall be done at no extra cost to the Owner.

8. The warranty of all replacement plants shall extend for an additional one-year period from the date of their acceptance after replacement. In the event that a replacement plant is not acceptable during or at the end of the said extended warranty period, the Owner's Representative may elect one more replacement items or credit for each item. These tertiary replacement items are not protected under a warranty period.
  9. During and by the end of the warranty period, remove all tree wrap, ties, and guying unless agreed to by the Owner's Representative to remain in place. All trees that do not have sufficient caliper to remain upright, or those requiring additional anchorage in windy locations, shall be staked or remain staked, if required by the Owner's Representative.
- B. End of Warranty Final Acceptance - Acceptance of plants at the end of the warranty period.
1. At the end of the warranty period, the Owner's Representative shall observe all warranted work, upon written request of the Contractor. The request shall be received at least ten calendar days before the anticipated date for final observation.
  2. End of Warranty Final Acceptance will be given only when all the requirements of the work under this specification and in specification sections Planting Soil and Irrigation have been met.

#### 1.15 SELECTION AND OBSERVATION OF PLANTS

- A. The Owner's Representative may review all plants subject to approval of size, health, quality, character, etc. Review or approval of any plant during the process of selection, delivery, installation and establishment period shall not prevent that plant from later rejection in the event that the plant quality changes or previously existing defects become apparent that were not observed.
- B. Plant Selection: The Owner's Representative reserves the right to select and observe all plants at the nursery prior to delivery and to reject plants that do not meet specifications as set forth in this specification. If a particular defect or substandard element can be corrected at the nursery, as determined by the Owner's Representative, the agreed upon remedy may be applied by the nursery or the Contractor provided that the correction allows the plant to meet the requirements set forth in this specification. Any work to correct plant defects shall be at the contractor's expense.
  1. The Owner's Representative may make invasive observation of the plant's root system in the area of the root collar and the top of the root ball in general in order to determine that the plant meets the quality requirements for depth of the root collar and presence of roots above the root collar. Such observations will not harm the plant.
  2. Corrections are to be undertaken at the nursery prior to shipping.
- C. The Contractor shall bear all cost related to plant corrections.
- D. All plants that are rejected shall be immediately removed from the site and acceptable replacement plants provided at no cost to the Owner.
- E. Submit to the Owner's Representative, for approval, plant sources including the names and locations of nurseries proposed as sources of acceptable plants, and a list of the plants they will provide. The plant list shall include the botanical and common name and the size at the time of selection. Observe all nursery materials to determine that the materials meet the requirements of this section.
  1. The following nurseries are pre-approved to supply plants for this project:  
XXXXXX

*Note to specifier: Insert pre-approved growers. If pre-approved growers are not to be required, eliminate the above paragraph. If specific nurseries are going to be REQUIRED for specific plants this is the place to insert that language.*
- F. Trees shall be purchased from the growing nursery. Re-wholesale plant suppliers shall not be used as sources unless the Contractor can certify that the required trees are not directly available from a growing nursery. When Re-wholesale suppliers are utilized, the Contractor shall submit the name and

location of the growing nursery from where the trees were obtained by the re-wholesale seller. The re-wholesale nursery shall be responsible for any required plant quality certifications.

- G. The Contractor shall require the grower or re-wholesale supplier to permit the Owner's Representative to observe the root system of all plants at the nursery or job site prior to planting including random removal of soil or substrate around the base of the plant. Observation may be as frequent and as extensive as needed to verify that the plants meet the requirements of the specifications and conform to requirements.
- H. Each tree shall have a numbered seal applied by the Contractor. The seal shall be placed on a lateral branch on the north side of the tree. The seal shall be a tamper proof plastic seal bearing the Contractor's name and a unique seven-digit number embossed on the seal.
  - 1. Do not place seals on branches that are so large that there is not sufficient room for the branch growth over the period of the warranty.
- I. The Owner's Representative may choose to attach their seal to each plant, or a representative sample. Viewing and/or sealing of plants by the Owner's Representative at the nursery does not preclude the Owner's Representative's right to reject material while on site. The Contractor is responsible for paying any up charge for the Owner's Representative to attach their seal to specific plants.
- J. Where requested by the Owner's Representative, submit photographs of plants or representative samples of plants. Photographs shall be legible and clearly depict the plant specimen. Each submitted image shall contain a height reference, such as a measuring stick. The approval of plants by the Owner's Representative via photograph does not preclude the Owner's Representative's right to reject material while on site.

#### 1.16 PLANT SUBSTITUTIONS FOR PLANTS NOT AVAILABLE

- A. Submit all requests for substitutions of plant species, or size to the Owner's Representative, for approval, prior to purchasing the proposed substitution. Request for substitution shall be accompanied with a list of nurseries contacted in the search for the required plant and a record of other attempts to locate the required material. Requests shall also include sources of plants found that may be of a smaller or larger size, or a different shape or habit than specified, or plants of the same genus and species but different cultivar origin, or which may otherwise not meet the requirements of the specifications, but which may be available for substitution.

#### 1.17 SITE CONDITIONS

- A. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to be aware of all surface and sub-surface conditions, and to notify the Owner's Representative, in writing, of any circumstances that would negatively impact the health of plantings. Do not proceed with work until unsatisfactory conditions have been corrected.
  - 1. Should subsurface drainage or soil conditions be encountered which would be detrimental to growth or survival of plant material, the Contractor shall notify the Owner's Representative in writing, stating the conditions and submit a proposal covering cost of corrections. If the Contractor fails to notify the Owner's Representative of such conditions, he/she shall remain responsible for plant material under the warranty clause of the specifications.
- B. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to be familiar with the local growing conditions, and if any specified plants will be in conflict with these conditions. Report any potential conflicts, in writing, to the Owner's Representative.
- C. This specification requires that all Planting Soil and Irrigation (if applicable) work be completed and accepted prior to the installation of any plants.
  - 1. Planting operations shall not begin until such time that the irrigation system is completely operational for the area(s) to be planted, and the irrigation system for that area has been preliminarily observed and approved by the Owner's Representative.
- D. Actual planting shall be performed during those periods when weather and soil conditions are suitable

in accordance with locally accepted horticultural practices.

1. Do not install plants into saturated or frozen soils. Do not install plants during inclement weather, such as rain or snow or during extremely hot, cold or windy conditions.

#### 1.18 PLANTING AROUND UTILITIES

- A. Contractor shall carefully examine the civil, record, and survey drawings to become familiar with the existing underground conditions before digging.
- B. Determine location of underground utilities and perform work in a manner that will avoid possible damage. Hand excavate, as required. Maintain grade stakes set by others until parties concerned mutually agree upon removal.
- C. Notification of *Local Utility Locator Service*, *Insert PHONE NUMBER*, is required for all planting areas: The Contractor is responsible for knowing the location and avoiding utilities that are not covered by the *Local Utility Locator Service*.

**Note to specifier:** *Insert the telephone number and correct name of the Local Utility Locator Service if available.*

### PART 2 – PRODUCTS

#### 2.1 PLANTS: GENERAL

- A. Standards and measurement: Provide plants of quantity, size, genus, species, and variety or cultivars as shown and scheduled in contract documents.
  1. All plants including the root ball dimensions or container size to trunk caliper ratio shall conform to ANSI Z60.1 “American Standard for Nursery Stock” latest edition, unless modified by provisions in this specification. When there is a conflict between this specification and ANSI Z60.1, this specification section shall be considered correct.
  2. Plants larger than specified may be used if acceptable to the Owner’s Representative. Use of such plants shall not increase the contract price. If larger plants are accepted the root ball size shall be in accordance with ANSI Z-60.1. Larger plants may not be acceptable if the resulting root ball cannot be fit into the required planting space.
  3. If a range of size is given, no plant shall be less than the minimum size and not less than 50 percent of the plants shall be as large as the maximum size specified. The measurements specified are the minimum and maximum size acceptable and are the measurements after pruning, where pruning is required.
- B. Proper Identification: All trees shall be true to name as ordered or shown on planting plans and shall be labeled individually or in groups by genus, species, variety and cultivar.
- C. Compliance: All trees shall comply with federal and state laws and regulations requiring observation for plant disease, pests, and weeds. Observation certificates required by law shall accompany each shipment of plants.
  1. Clearance from the local county agricultural commissioner, if required, shall be obtained before planting trees originating outside the county in which they are to be planted.  
**Note to specifier:** *Confirm that the above sentence is applicable to the region of the project.*
- D. Plant Quality:  
**Note to specifier:** *The following paragraphs are necessary to assure that quality plant material is installed. With a few exceptions such as the Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants and the Guideline Specifications for Nursery Tree Quality, current nursery standards for root systems do not exist. It is critical that the purchaser of plants have sufficient resources to enforce these quality standards through observations and well-conceived plans, details, specifications, and contracts.*
  1. **General:** Provide healthy stock, grown in a nursery and reasonably free of die-back, disease, insects, eggs, bores, and larvae. At the time of planting all plants shall have a root system, stem,

and branch form that will not restrict normal growth, stability and health for the expected life of the plant

2. **Plant quality above the soil line:** *Note to specifier: Determining acceptability of crown quality is subjective. These specifications are designed to have the Crown Acceptance details included with the other planting details. An alternative is to use the Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants and specify tree grades as either Florida #1 or Florida Fancy Grades. If the project does not want to use the Florida Grades and Standards or does not include the Crown Acceptance details on the drawings delete these references in the following paragraph.*

- a. Plants shall be healthy with the color, shape, size and distribution of trunk, stems, branches, buds and leaves normal to the plant type specified. Tree quality above the soil line shall comply with the project Crown Acceptance details (or Florida Grades and Standards, tree grade Florida Fancy or Florida #1) and the following:
- 1.) Crown: The form and density of the crown shall be typical for a young specimen of the species or cultivar pruned to a central and dominant leader.
    - a.) Crown specifications do not apply to plants that have been specifically trained in the nursery as topiary, espalier, multi-stem, clump, or unique selections such as contorted or weeping cultivars.
  - 2.) Leaves: The size, color, and appearance of leaves shall be typical for the time of year and stage of growth of the species or cultivar. Trees shall not show signs of prolonged moisture stress or over watering as indicated by wilted, shriveled, or dead leaves.
  - 3.) Branches: Shoot growth (length and diameter) throughout the crown should be appropriate for the age and size of the species or cultivar. Trees shall not have dead, diseased, broken, distorted, or otherwise injured branches.
    - a.) Main branches shall be distributed along the central leader not clustered together. They shall form a balanced crown appropriate for the cultivar/species.
    - b.) Branch diameter shall be no larger than two-thirds (one-half is preferred) the diameter of the central leader measured 1 inch above the branch union.
    - c.) The attachment of the largest branches (scaffold branches) shall be free of included bark.
  - 4.) Trunk: The tree trunk shall be relatively straight, vertical, and free of wounds that penetrate to the wood (properly made pruning cuts, closed or not, are acceptable and are not considered wounds), sunburned areas, conks (fungal fruiting bodies), wood cracks, sap leakage, signs of boring insects, galls, cankers, girdling ties, or lesions (mechanical injury).
  - 5.) Temporary branches, unless otherwise specified, can be present along the lower trunk below the lowest main (scaffold) branch, particularly for trees less than 1 inch in caliper. These branches should be no greater than 3/8-inch diameter. Clear trunk should be no more than 40% of the total height of the tree.

*Note to specifier: Delete the last sentence above if more clearance is needed.*

- b. Trees shall have one central leader. If the leader was headed, a new leader (with a live terminal bud) at least one-half the diameter of the pruning cut shall be present.
  - 1.) All trees are assumed to have one central leader trees unless a different form is specified in the plant list or drawings.
- c. All graft unions, where applicable, shall be completely closed without visible sign of graft rejection. All grafts shall be visible above the soil line.
- d. Trunk caliper and taper shall be sufficient so that the lower five feet of the trunk remains vertical without a stake. Auxiliary stake may be used to maintain a straight leader in the upper half of the tree.

3. **Plant quality at or below the soil line:**

- a. Plant roots shall be normal to the plant type specified. Root observations shall take place without impacting tree health. Root quality at or below the soil line shall comply with the project Root Acceptance details and the following:

- 1.) The roots shall be reasonably free of scrapes, broken or split wood.
- 2.) The root system shall be reasonably free of injury from biotic (e.g., insects and pathogens) and abiotic (e.g., herbicide toxicity and salt injury) agents. Wounds resulting from root pruning used to produce a high quality root system are not considered injuries.
- 3.) A minimum of three structural roots reasonably distributed around the trunk (not clustered on one side) shall be found in each plant. Root distribution shall be uniform throughout the root ball, and growth shall be appropriate for the species.
  - a.) Plants with structural roots on only one side of the trunk (J roots) shall be rejected.
- 4.) The root collar shall be within the upper 2 inches of the substrate/soil. Two structural roots shall reach the side of the root ball near the top surface of the root ball. The grower may request a modification to this requirement for species with roots that rapidly descend, provided that the grower removes all stem girdling roots above the structural roots across the top of the root ball.
- 5.) The root system shall be reasonably free of stem girdling roots over the root collar or kinked roots from nursery production practices.
  - a.) Plant Grower Certification: The final plant grower shall be responsible to have determined that the plants have been root pruned at each step in the plant production process to remove stem girdling roots and kinked roots, or that the previous production system used practices that produce a root system throughout the root ball that meets these specifications. Regardless of the work of previous growers, the plant's root system shall be modified at the final production stage, if needed, to produce the required plant root quality. The final grower shall certify in writing that all plants are reasonably free of stem girdling and kinked roots as defined in this specification, and that the tree has been grown and harvested to produce a plant that meets these specifications.

**Note to specifier:** *The above certification requirement is not an industry standard and will require that the project team is willing to enforce the process.*

- 6.) At time of observations and delivery, the root ball shall be moist throughout. Roots shall not show signs of excess soil moisture conditions as indicated by stunted, discolored, distorted, or dead roots.

E. Submittals: Submit for approval the required plant quality certifications from the grower where plants are to be purchased, for each plant type. The certification must state that each plant meets all the above plant quality requirements.

1. The grower's certification of plant quality does not prohibit the Owner's Representative from observing any plant or rejecting the plant if it is found to not meet the specification requirements.

2.2 ROOT BALL PACKAGE OPTIONS: The following root ball packages are permitted. Specific root ball packages shall be required where indicated on the plant list or in this specification. Any type of root ball packages that is not specifically defined in this specification shall not be permitted.

**Note to specifier:** *It is critical to remove any of the following root ball package descriptions and requirement paragraphs that are not to be permitted for the project. Assure that the plants and root ball packages specified are available from regional growers as not all plant types are available in all root ball package types. Consider specifying preapproved growers to obtain higher quality root ball package types and overall tree quality.*

*Each of these final root ball package types has advantages and disadvantages. Not all root ball package types are available in every market region and for every tree species. Some species may only be available in a few root ball package types. To complicate the decision of which to specify, trees may be grown in more than one type of root ball system during the production phase and normally the final grower may have purchased seedlings or liners from another nursery. The methods used at the different stages in the nursery production process can affect the root system of a plant, leaving root problems and difficult root architecture that the plant may struggle with for many years after planting. These root system problems may cause premature decline and even kill the tree well after the end of the warranty period.*

*The quality control and root ball package type in the initial production nursery may not be known or apparent to the final grower. It can be quite difficult for the purchaser to determine the quality of the trees root system. The current American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) "American Standards for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1)" does not adequately address these issues, set acceptable standards for root architecture, or offer solutions to the problems. It is up to the purchaser to set their own quality standards, recommend solutions, and to enforce those standards with appropriate observations. Simply stating "Trees shall meet the ANSI Z60.1 standard" does NOT address nor guarantee quality.*

*It is NEVER REQUIRED for any specification to accept all products available from an industry or to use the ANLA "American Standards for Nursery Stock" as the only requirement that a grower must comply with. The specifier has a choice of what to accept as long as they can verify that the products that meet the specification are available. Until significant changes are made in the nursery industry, it may be difficult, in many regions and for many species, to specify large numbers of trees with an optimum root system. Check your local suppliers to specify the best quality root ball package prior to making specification edits in this section.*

*It is critical that the specifications be amended to reflect the root ball packages that will be allowable on the project. Since this has a huge impact on the ultimate success of the tree, careful consideration must be made in selecting the type of packages permitted. It is not required that a project accept all types of root ball packages. Some root ball package types can be strictly prohibited in the specification. Do not leave references to any of the root ball packages you do not want to permit for the project in the specification. Remove the paragraphs related to both the package option descriptions in Part 2 and the special planting requirements in Part 3 of all root ball packages that will not be permitted.*

#### A. BALLED AND BURLAPPED PLANTS

**Note to specifier:** *Remove this paragraph if Balled and Burlapped plants are not to be permitted.*

1. All Balled and Burlapped Plants shall be field grown, and the root ball packaged in a burlap and twine and/or burlap and wire basket package.
2. Plants shall be harvested with the following modifications to standard nursery practices.
  - a. Prior to digging any tree that fails to meet the requirement for maximum soil and roots above the root collar, carefully removed the soil from the top of the root ball of each plant, using hand tools, water or an air spade, to locate the root collar and attain the soil depth over the structural roots requirements. Remove all stem girdling roots above the root collar. Care must be exercised not to damage the surface of the root collar and the top of the structural roots.

**Note to specifier:** *Modify paragraph below to reflect climatic differences.*

- b. Trees shall be dug for a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 52 weeks prior to shipping. Trees dug 4 to 52 weeks prior to shipping are defined as hardened-off. Digging is defined as cutting all roots and lifting the tree out of the ground and either moving it to a new location in the nursery or placing it back into the same hole. Trees that are stored out of the ground shall be placed in a holding area protected from extremes of wind and sun with the root ball protected by covering with mulch or straw and irrigated sufficiently to keep moisture in the root ball above wilt point and below saturation
- c. If wire baskets are used to support the root ball, a "low profile" basket shall be used. A low profile basket is defined as having the top of the highest loops on the basket no less than 4 inches and no greater than 8 inches below the shoulder of the root ball package.
  - 1.) At nurseries where sandy soils prevent the use of "low profile baskets", baskets that support the entire root ball, including the top, are allowable.

**Note to specifier:** *Where removal of all or a portion of the wire basket is desirable, insert language to that effect in the above paragraph.*

- d. Twine and burlap used for wrapping the root ball package shall be natural, biodegradable material. If the burlap decomposes after digging the tree then the root ball shall be re-wrapped prior to shipping if roots have not yet grown to keep root ball intact during shipping.

3. The following tree species when harvested at a size greater than X inches in caliper shall be root-pruned a minimum of XX months before digging in the nursery. All root pruning and hardening off procedures shall be accomplished utilizing accepted horticultural practices.

**Note to specifier:** Remove the paragraph above if root pruning is not required. Add the minimum caliper size and time needed for root pruning and/or hardening off. Add required species as considered by local knowledge as benefitting from hardening off and/or root pruning.

B. SPADE HARVESTED AND TRANSPLANTED

**Note to specifier:** Remove the paragraph below if Spade Harvested and Transplanted plants are not to be permitted.

1. Spade Harvested and Transplanted Plants shall meet all the requirements for field grown trees. Root ball diameters shall be of similar size as the ANSI Z60.1 requirements for Balled and Burlapped plants.
2. Trees shall be harvested prior to leafing out (bud break) in the spring or during the fall planting period except for plants know to be considered as fall planting hazards. Plants that are fall planting hazards shall only be harvested prior to leafing out in the spring.
3. Trees shall be moved and planted within 48 hours of the initial harvesting and shall remain in the spade machine until planted.

C. CONTAINER (INCLUDING ABOVE-GROUND FABRIC CONTAINERS AND BOXES) PLANTS

**Note to specifier:** Remove the paragraph below if Container plants are not to be permitted.

1. Container plants may be permitted only when indicated on the drawing, in this specification, or approved by the Owner's Representative.
2. Provide plants shall be established and well rooted in removable containers.
3. Container class size shall conform to ANSI Z60.1 for container plants for each size and type of plant.

D. BARE ROOT PLANTS

**Note to specifier:** Remove the paragraph below if Bare Root plants are not to be permitted.

1. Harvest bare root plants while the plant is dormant and a minimum of 4 weeks prior to leaf out (bud break).
2. The root spread dimensions of the harvested plants shall conform to ANSI Z60.1 for nursery grown bare root plants for each size and type of plant. Just prior to shipping to the job site, dip the root system into a slurry of hydrogel (cross linked polyacrylamide) and water mixed at a rate of 15 oz. of hydrogel in 25 gallons of water. Do not shake off the excess hydrogel. Place the root system in a pleated black plastic bag and tie the bag snugly around the trunk. Bundle and tie the upper branches together.
3. Keep the trees in a cool dark space for storage and delivery. If daytime outside temperatures exceeds 70 degrees F, utilize a refrigerated storage area with temperature between 35 and 50 degrees.
4. Where possible, plan time of planting to be before bud break. For trees to be planted after bud break, place the trees before bud break in an irrigated bed of pea gravel.
  - a. The pea gravel bed shall be 18 inches deep over a sheet of plastic.
  - b. Space trees to allow the unbundled branches to grow without shading each other.
  - c. Once stored in pea gravel, allow the trees sufficient time for the new root system to flush and spring growth of leaves to fully develop before planting.
  - d. Pea gravel stored trees may be kept for up to one growing season.
  - e. Pea gravel stored trees shall be dipped, packaged and shipped similar to the requirements for freshly dug bare root trees above.

#### E. IN-GROUND FABRIC BAG-GROWN

**Note to specifier:** Remove this paragraph if trees grown in In-ground fabric containers are not to be permitted.

1. In-ground fabric container plants may be permitted only when indicated on the drawing, in this specification, or approved by the Owner's Representative.
2. Provide plants established and well rooted.

#### 2.3 ANNUAL FLOWERING AND SEASONAL COLOR PLANTS

**Note to specifier:** Annual and Seasonal color plants may require project specific requirements. Add special plant requirements here as needed.

- A. Container or flat-grown plants should be sized as noted in the planting plan. Plants shall be well-rooted and healthy.

#### 2.4 PALMS

**Note to specifier:** If palms are included in this planting add any special requirements for this classification of plant here. The following is a general product specification. If Palms are not to be included, delete this section.

- A. Except as modified below or where the requirements are not appropriate to the specification of palms, palms shall meet all the requirements of the plant quality section above.
- B. Defronding, tying, and hedging:
  1. In preparing palm trees for relocation, all dead fronds shall be removed.
  2. All remaining fronds above horizontal shall be lifted up and tied together around the crown in an upright position. Up to 2/3 of the oldest live fronds can be removed; all fronds can be removed on Sabal palms. Do not tie too tightly, bind or injure the bud. Jute binder twine shall be used in tying up the fronds; wire will not be permitted. Fronds shall be untied immediately after planting.
- C. Digging the root ball:
  1. When digging out the root ball, no excavation shall be done closer than XX Inches to the trunk at ground level and the excavation shall extend below the major root system to a minimum depth of 3.5 feet. The bottom of the root ball shall be cut off square and perpendicular to the trunk below the major root system.
- D. The Contractor shall not free-fall, drag, roll or abuse the tree or put a strain on the crown (bud area) at any time. A protective device shall be used around the trunk of the tree while lifting and relocating so as not to injure the bud, or scar or skin the trunk in any way.

#### 2.5 PLANTING SOIL

**Note to specifier:** It is critical to this planting specification that a separate specification section Planting Soil be included. If no such section is included the specifier MUST add in any needed soil requirements to the Planting specification; however, this alternative is NOT recommended.

- A. Planting Soil as used in this specification means the soil at the planting site, or imported as modified and defined in specification Section Planting Soil. If there is no Planting Soil specification, the term Planting Soil shall mean the soil at the planting site within the planting hole.

#### 2.6 MULCH

**Note to specifier:** Revise this paragraph to reflect regionally available mulch materials or project specific mulch quality or type requirements where appropriate. The coarse grade mulch specified here is considered superior for its water retention and soil building properties in areas of tree and shrub roots when irrigation is drip, bubblers or flood methods. The term "Walk on Mulch" is a California regional term. Use regional terminology.

**Add additional requirements as needed to more tightly define tree species source, % bark if desired**



*and size.*

- A. Mulch shall be "Walk on" grade, coarse, ground, from tree and woody brush sources. The size range shall be a minimum (less than 25% or less of volume) fine particles 3/8 inch or less in size, and a maximum size of individual pieces (largest 20% or less of volume) shall be approximately 1 to 1-1/2 inch in diameter and maximum length approximately 4 to 8". Pieces larger than 8 inch long that are visible on the surface of the mulch after installation shall be removed.
  - 1. It is understood that mulch quality will vary significantly from supplier to supplier and region to region. The above requirements may be modified to conform to the source material from locally reliable suppliers as approved by the Owner's Representative.
- B. Submit supplier's product specification data sheet and a one gallon sample for approval.

## 2.7 TREE STAKING AND GUYING MATERIAL

**Note to specifier:** *Do not leave references to any of the staking and guying types you do not want to permit for the project in the specification. Remove the paragraphs below of the types that will not be permitted. Add specifications for other types of staking and guying.*

- A. Tree guying to be flat woven polypropylene material, 3/4 inch wide, and 900 lb. break strength. Color to be Green. Product to be ArborTie manufactured by Deep Root Partners, L.P. or approved equal.
- B. Stakes shall be lodge pole stakes free of knots and of diameters and lengths appropriate to the size of plant as required to adequately support the plant.
- C. Below ground anchorage systems to be constructed of 2 x 2 dimensional untreated wood securing (using 3 inch long screws) horizontal portions to 4 feet long vertical stakes driven straight into the ground outside the root ball.
- D. Submit manufacturer's product data for approval.

## 2.8 TREE BARK PROTECTOR

**Note to specifier:** *This is a specialty application generally only used in locations such as streetscapes and parks where tree trunks may be subject to mechanical abuse. Remove these paragraphs if this is not applicable.*

- A. Tree Bark Protectors shall be black extruded resin mesh, 4 inches in diameter, 5 feet long. As manufactured by Industrial Netting, Minneapolis, MN, USA or approved equal.
- B. Fasten the split side of the Tree Bark Protector together in three places with black plastic tape.
- C. Submit manufacturers' product data for approval.

## 2.9 WATERING BAGS

**Note to specifier:** *Remove this paragraph if this is not applicable.*

- A. Plastic tree watering bags holding a minimum of 15 gallons of water and with a slow drip hole(s) water release system, specifically designed to water establishing trees. Water should release over a several day period, not within a few hours
- B. Watering bags shall be:
  - 1. Treegator Irrigation Bags sized to the appropriate model for the requirements of the plant, manufactured by Spectrum Products, Inc., Youngsville, NC 27596.
  - 2. Ooze Tube sized to the appropriate model for the requirements of the plant, manufactured by Engineered Water Solutions, Atlanta, GA.
  - 3. Or approved equal.
- C. Submit manufacturer's product data for approval.

## 2.10 CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL ADDITIVES

**Note to specifier:** *Insert additives, as desired for the specific project requirements.*

## PART 3 – EXECUTION

### 3.1 SITE EXAMINATION

- A. Examine the surface grades and soil conditions to confirm that the requirements of the Specification Section – Planting Soil - and the soil and drainage modifications indicated on the Planting Soil Plan and Details (if applicable) have been completed. Notify the Owner's Representative in writing of any unsatisfactory conditions.

### 3.2 DELIVERY, STORAGE AND HANDLING

- A. Protect materials from deterioration during delivery and storage. Adequately protect plants from drying out, exposure of roots to sun, wind or extremes of heat and cold temperatures. If planting is delayed more than 24 hours after delivery, set plants in a location protected from sun and wind. Provide adequate water to the root ball package during the shipping and storage period.
  - 1. All plant materials must be available for observation prior to planting.
  - 2. Using a soil moisture meter, periodically check the soil moisture in the root balls of all plants to assure that the plants are being adequately watered. Volumetric soil moisture shall be maintained above wilting point and below field capacity for the root ball substrate or soil.
- B. Do not deliver more plants to the site than there is space with adequate storage conditions. Provide a suitable remote staging area for plants and other supplies.
  - 1. The Owner's Representative or Contractor shall approve the duration, method and location of storage of plants.
- C. Provide protective covering over all plants during transporting.

### 3.3 PLANTING SEASON

- A. Planting shall only be performed when weather and soil conditions are suitable for planting the materials specified in accordance with locally accepted practice. Install plants during the planting time as described below unless otherwise approved in writing by the Owner's Representative. In the event that the Contractor request planting outside the dates of the planting season, approval of the request does not change the requirements of the warranty.

**Note to specifier:** *Insert required regional appropriate planting date limitations including limitations if any for fall planting hazard plants.*

- 1. **Deciduous trees and shrubs** XXX to XXX and YYY to YYY
- 2. **Evergreen trees and shrubs** XXX to XXX and YYY to YYY

### 3.4 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

- A. No planting shall take place during extremely hot, dry, windy or freezing weather.

### 3.5 COORDINATION WITH PROJECT WORK

- A. The Contractor shall coordinate with all other work that may impact the completion of the work.
- B. Prior to the start of work, prepare a detailed schedule of the work for coordination with other trades.
- C. Coordinate the relocation of any irrigation lines, heads or the conduits of other utility lines that are in conflict with tree locations. Root balls shall not be altered to fit around lines. Notify the Owner's Representative of any conflicts encountered.

### 3.6 LAYOUT AND PLANTING SEQUENCE

- A. Relative positions of all plants and trees are subject to approval of the Owner's Representative.
- B. Notify the Owner's Representative, one (1) week prior to layout. Layout all individual tree and shrub locations. Place plants above surface at planting location or place a labeled stake at planting location. Layout bed lines with paint for the Owner's Representative's approval. Secure the Owner's Representative's acceptance before digging and start of planting work.

- C. When applicable, plant trees before other plants are installed.
- D. It is understood that plants are not precise objects and that minor adjustments in the layout will be required as the planting plan is constructed. These adjustments may not be apparent until some or all of the plants are installed. Make adjustments as required by the Owner's Representative including relocating previously installed plants.

### 3.7 SOIL PROTECTION DURING PLANT DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION

- A. Protect soil from compaction during the delivery of plants to the planting locations, digging of planting holes and installing plants.
  - 1. Where possible deliver and plant trees that require the use of heavy mechanized equipment prior to final soil preparation and tilling. Where possible, restrict the driving lanes to one area instead of driving over and compacting a large area of soil.
  - 2. Till to a depth of 6 inches, all soil that has been driven over during the installation of plants.

### 3.8 SOIL MOISTURE

- A. Volumetric soil moisture level, in both the planting soil and the root balls of all plants, prior to, during and after planting shall be above permanent wilting point and below field capacity for each type of soil texture within the following ranges.

Soil type	Permanent wilting point	Field capacity
Sand, Loamy sand, Sandy loam	5-8%	12-18%
Loam, Sandy clay, Sandy clay loam	14-25%	27-36%
Clay loam, Silt loam	11-22%	31-36%
Silty clay, Silty clay loam	22-27%	38-41%

- 1. Volumetric soil moisture shall be measured with a digital moisture meter. The meter shall be the Digital Soil Moisture Meter, DSMM500 by General Specialty Tools and Instruments, or approved equivalent.
- B. The Contractor shall confirm the soil moisture levels with a moisture meter. If the moisture is too high, suspend planting operations until the soil moisture drains to below field capacity.

### 3.9 INSTALLATION OF PLANTS: GENERAL

- A. Installation plan shall be submitted a minimum of 14 days prior to the scheduled installation. Plan should describe the methods, activities, materials and schedule to achieve installation of plants.

**Note to specifier:** Remove the above paragraph if no Installation Plan is required. Also remove the submittal requirement in Part One – Submittals.

- B. Observe each plant after delivery and prior to installation for damage of other characteristics that may cause rejection of the plant. Notify the Owner's Representative of any condition observed.
- C. No more plants shall be distributed about the planting bed area than can be planted and watered on the same day.
- D. The root system of each plant, regardless of root ball package type, shall be observed by the Contractor, at the time of planting to confirm that the roots meet the requirements for plant root quality in Part 2 Products: Plants General: Plant Quality. The Contractor shall undertake at the time of planting, all modifications to the root system required by the Owner's Representative to meet these quality standards.
  - 1. Modifications, at the time of planting, to meet the specifications for the depth of the root collar and removal of stem girdling roots and circling roots may make the plant unstable or stress the plant to the point that the Owner's Representative may choose to reject the plant rather than permitting

the modification.

2. Any modifications required by the Owner's Representative to make the root system conform to the plant quality standards outlined in Part 2 Products: Plants General: Quality, or other requirements related to the permitted root ball package, shall not be considered as grounds to modify or void the plant warranty.
  3. The resulting root ball may need additional staking and water after planting. The Owner's Representative may reject the plant if the root modification process makes the tree unstable or if the tree is not healthy at the end of the warranty period. Such plants shall still be covered under the warranty
  4. The Contractor remains responsible to confirm that the grower has made all required root modifications noted during any nursery observations.
- E. Container and Boxed Root Ball Shaving: The outer surfaces of ALL plants in containers and boxes, including the top, sides and bottom of the root ball shall be shaved to remove all circling, descending, and matted roots. Shaving shall be performed using saws, knives, sharp shovels or other suitable equipment that is capable of making clean cuts on the roots. Shaving shall remove a minimum of one inch of root mat or up to 2 inches as required to remove all root segments that are not growing reasonably radial to the trunk.
- F. Exposed Stem Tissue after Modification: The required root ball modifications may result in stem tissue that has not formed trunk bark being exposed above the soil line. If such condition occurs, wrap the exposed portion of the stem in a protective wrapping with a white filter fabric. Secure the fabric with biodegradable masking tape. DO NOT USE string, twine, green nursery ties or any other material that may girdle the trunk if not removed.
- G. Excavation of the Planting Space: Using hand tools or tracked mini-excavator, excavate the planting hole into the Planting Soil to the depth of the root ball measured after any root ball modification to correct root problems, and wide enough for working room around the root ball or to the size indicated on the drawing or as noted below.
1. For trees and shrubs planted in soil areas that are NOT tilled or otherwise modified to a depth of at least 12 inches over a distance of more than 10 feet radius from each tree, or 5 feet radius from each shrub, the soil around the root ball shall be loosened as defined below or as indicated on the drawings.
    - a. The area of loosening shall be a minimum of 3 times the diameter of the root ball at the surface sloping to 2 times the diameter of the root ball at the depth of the root ball.
    - b. Loosening is defined as digging into the soil and turning the soil to reduce the compaction. The soil does not have to be removed from the hole, just dug, lifted and turned. Lifting and turning may be accomplished with a tracked mini excavator, or hand shovels.
  2. If an auger is used to dig the initial planting hole, the soil around the auger hole shall be loosened as defined above for trees and shrubs planted in soil areas that are NOT tilled or otherwise modified.
  3. The measuring point for root ball depth shall be the average height of the outer edge of the root ball after any required root ball modification.
  4. If motorized equipment is used to deliver plants to the planting area over exposed planting beds, or used to loosen the soil or dig the planting holes, all soil that has been driven over shall be tilled to a depth of 6 inches.

**Note to specifier:** Most other planting specifications set a minimum planting hole size, often 2 or 3 times the root ball diameter. This specification assumes that all soil preparation and the preparation of the planting hole is specified in the specification section Planting Soil and the Contractor needs to dig the hole in the already prepared soil only as large as is required to accomplish the planting process; the smaller the planting hole the better. Revise the paragraph Installation of Plants, above to reflect other project requirements if needed.

*In some circumstance (soil type or budget) it may be reasonable or necessary to allow the use of an auger to dig planting holes. While augers are not recommended, if they are allowed, the soil around the top and sides of the holes must be loosened as defined for holes that are dug with other equipment.*

*Motorized equipment used to dig planting holes or deliver plants to the planting location will compact the soil surface. Tilling of the surface soil that has been compacted, as noted in this specification, is critical to the health of the soil after planting.*

- H. For trees to be planted in prepared Planting Soil that is deeper than the root ball depth, compact the soil under the root ball using a mechanical tamper to assure a firm bedding for the root ball. If there is more than 12 inches of planting soil under the root ball excavate and tamp the planting soil in lifts not to exceed 12 inches.
- I. Set top outer edge of the root ball at the average elevation of the proposed finish. Set the plant plumb and upright in the center of the planting hole. The tree graft, if applicable, shall be visible above the grade. Do not place soil on top of the root ball.
- J. The Owner's Representative may request that plants orientation be rotated when planted based on the form of the plant.
- K. Backfill the space around the root ball with the same planting soil or existing soil that was excavated for the planting space. See Specification Section Planting Soil, for requirements to modify the soil within the planting bed.
- L. Brace root ball by tamping Planting Soil around the lower portion of the root ball. Place additional Planting Soil around base and sides of ball in six-inch (6") lifts. Lightly tamp each lift using foot pressure or hand tools to settle backfill, support the tree and eliminate voids. DO NOT over compact the backfill or use mechanical or pneumatic tamping equipment. Over compaction shall be defined as greater than 85% of maximum dry density, standard proctor or greater than 250 psi as measured by a cone penetrometer when the volumetric soil moisture is lower than field capacity.
  - 1. When the planting hole has been backfilled to three quarters of its depth, water shall be poured around the root ball and allowed to soak into the soil to settle the soil. Do not flood the planting space. If the soil is above field capacity, allow the soil to drain to below field capacity before finishing the planting. Air pockets shall be eliminated and backfill continued until the planting soil is brought to grade level.
- M. Where indicated on the drawings, build a 4 inch high, level berm of Planting Soil around the outside of the root ball to retain water. Tamp the berm to reduce leaking and erosion of the saucer.
- N. Thoroughly water the Planting Soil and root ball immediately after planting.
- O. Remove all nursery plant identification tags and ribbons as per Owner's Representative instructions. The Owner's Representative's seals are to remain on plants until the end of the warranty period.
- P. Remove corrugated cardboard trunk protection after planting.
- Q. Follow additional requirements for the permitted root ball packages.

### 3.10 PERMITTED ROOT BALL PACKAGES AND SPECIAL PLANTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. The following are permitted root ball packages and special planting requirements that shall be followed during the planting process in addition to the above General planting requirements.
- B. BALLED AND BURLAPPED PLANTS

***Note to specifier:** Remove this paragraph if BALLED AND BURLAPPED PLANTS are not permitted. Removing some or all of the wire of a wire basket after the plant is positioned in the planting hole is controversial. Despite the scientific evidence showing that roots grow to engulf the wire, and lack of documented cases of wire impacting tree health, some professionals insist that some or all wire be removed. Delete, accept, or modify sections B.1 and 2 below as you feel necessary.*

1. After the root ball has been backfilled, remove all twine and burlap from the top of the root ball. Cut the burlap away; do not fold down onto the Planting Soil.
  2. If the plant is shipped with a wire basket that does not meet the requirements of a “Low Rise” basket, remove the top 6 - 8 inches of the basket wires just before the final backfilling of the tree.
  3. Earth root balls shall be kept intact except for any modifications required by the Owner’s Representative to make root package comply with the requirement in Part 2 Products.
- C. SPADE HARVESTED AND TRANSPLANTED PLANTS
- Note to specifier:** *Remove this paragraph if Tree Spade Harvested and Transplanted Plants are not to be permitted.*
1. After installing the tree, loosen the soil along the seam between the root ball and the surrounding soil out to a radius from the root ball edge equal to the diameter of the root ball to a depth of 8 - 10 inches by hand digging to disturb the soil interface.
  2. Fill any gaps below this level with loose soil.
- D. CONTAINER (INCLUDES BOXED AND ABOVE-GROUND FABRIC CONTAINERS) PLANTS
- Note to specifier:** *Remove this paragraph if CONTAINER PLANTS are not permitted. All of the items below can be included if the following details are included in the contract: 1) root ball shaving, 2) root observations, 3) root correction. Remove sections below that will not be required.*
1. This specification assumes that most container plants have significant stem girdling and circling roots, and that the root collar is too low in the root ball.
  2. Remove the container.
  3. Perform root ball shaving as defined in Installation of Plants: General above.
  4. Remove all roots and substrate above the root collar and the main structural roots according to root correction details so root system conforms to root observations detail.
  5. Remove all substrate at the bottom of the root ball that does not contain roots.
  6. Using a hose, power washer or air excavation device, wash out the substrate from around the trunk and top of the remaining root ball and find and remove all stem girdling roots within the root ball above the top of the structural roots.
- E. BARE ROOT PLANTS
- Note to specifier:** *Remove this paragraph if BARE ROOT PLANTS are not permitted.*
1. Dig the planting hole to the diameter of the spread of the roots to a depth in the center that maintains the root collar at the elevation of the surrounding finished grade and slightly deeper along the edges of the hole.
  2. Spread all roots out radial to the trunk in the prepared hole making the hole wider where needed to accommodate long roots. Root tips shall be directed away from the trunk. Prune any broken roots removing the least amount of tissue possible.
  3. Maintain the trunk plumb while backfilling soil around the roots.
  4. Lightly tamp the soil around the roots to eliminate voids and reduce settlement.
- F. IN-GROUND FABRIC CONTAINERS
- Note to specifier:** *Remove this paragraph if FABRIC CONTAINERS are not permitted.*
1. Remove the fabric container from the root ball. Cut roots at the edge of the container as needed to extract the fabric from the roots. Make clean cuts with sharp tools; do not tear roots away from the fabric.
  2. Observe the root system after the container is removed to confirm that the root system meets the quality standards.

### 3.11 GROUND COVER, PERENNIAL AND ANNUAL PLANTS

- A. Assure that soil moisture is within the required levels prior to planting. Irrigation, if required, shall be applied at least 12 hours prior to planting to avoid planting in muddy soils.
- B. Assure that soil grades in the beds are smooth and as shown on the plans.
- C. Plants shall be planted in even, triangularly spaced rows, at the intervals called out for on the drawings, unless otherwise noted. The first row of Annual flower plants shall be 6 inches from the bed edge unless otherwise directed.
- D. Dig planting holes sufficiently large enough to insert the root system without deforming the roots. Set the top of the root system at the grade of the soil.
- E. Schedule the planting to occur prior to application of the mulch. If the bed is already mulched, pull the mulch from around the hole and plant into the soil. Do not plant the root system in the mulch. Pull mulch back so it is not on the root ball surface.
- F. Press soil to bring the root system in contact with the soil.
- G. Spread any excess soil around in the spaces between plants.
- H. Apply mulch to the bed being sure not to cover the tops of the plants with or the tops of the root ball with mulch.
- I. Water each planting area as soon as the planting is completed. Apply additional water to keep the soil moisture at the required levels. Do not over water.

### 3.12 PALM PLANTING

- A. Palm trees shall be placed at grade making sure not to plant the tree any deeper in the ground than the palm trees originally stood.
- B. The trees shall be placed with their vertical axis in a plumb position.
- C. All backfill shall be native soil except in cases where planting in rock. Water-settle the back fill.
- D. Do not cover root ball with mulch or topsoil.
- E. Provide a watering berm at each palm. Berms shall extend a minimum of 18 inches out from the trunk all around and shall be a minimum of (6) inches high.
- F. Remove twine which ties fronds together after placing palm in planting hole and securing it in the upright position.

### 3.13 STAKING AND GUYING

*Note to specifier: There are many staking systems available in the market. Special project requirements and regional or designer preferences may indicate different approach. Modify the following paragraphs to reflect project requirements.*

*If palms are include then add palm bracing detail.*

- A. Do not stake or guy trees unless specifically required by the Contract Documents, or in the event that the Contractor feels that staking is the only alternative way to keep particular trees plumb.
  - 1. The Owner's Representative shall have the authority to require that trees are staked or to reject staking as an alternative way to stabilize the tree.
  - 2. Trees that required heavily modified root balls to meet the root quality standards may become unstable. The Owner's Representative may choose to reject these trees rather than utilize staking to temporarily support the tree.
- B. Trees that are guyed shall have their guys and stakes removed after one full growing season or at other times as required by the Owner's Representative.
- C. Tree guying shall utilize the tree staking and guying materials specified. Guying to be tied in such a

manner as to create a minimum 12-inch loop to prevent girdling. Refer to manufacturer's recommendations and the planting detail for installation.

1. Plants shall stand plumb after staking or guying.
2. Stakes shall be driven to sufficient depth to hold the tree rigid.

- D. For trees planted in planting mix over waterproofed membrane, use dead men buried 24 inches to the top of the dead man, in the soil. Tie the guy to the dead man with a double wrap of line around the dead man followed by a double half hitch. When guys are removed, leave the dead men in place and cut the guy tape 12 inches above the ground, leaving the tape end covered in mulch.

### 3.14 TREE BARK PROTECTION

**Note to specifier:** *This is a specialty application generally only used in location such as streetscapes where tree trunks may be subject to mechanical abuse. Remove this paragraph if this is not applicable.*

- A. For all street trees in commercial areas where indicated on the drawings, apply a Tree Bark Protector to each tree.

### 3.15 STRAIGHTENING PLANTS

- A. Maintain all plants in a plumb position throughout the warranty period. Straighten all trees that move out of plumb including those not staked. Plants to be straightened shall be excavated and the root ball moved to a plumb position, and then re-backfilled.
- B. Do not straighten plants by pulling the trunk with guys.

### 3.16 INSTALLATION OF FERTILIZER AND OTHER CHEMICAL ADDITIVES

- A. Do not apply any soluble fertilizer to plantings during the first year after transplanting unless soil test determines that fertilizer or other chemical additives is required. Apply chemical additives only upon the approval of the Owner's Representative.
- B. Controlled release fertilizers shall be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions and standard horticultural practices.

### 3.17 PRUNING OF TREES AND SHRUBS

- A. Prune plants as directed by the Owner's Representative. Pruning trees shall be limited to addressing structural defects as shown in details; follow recommendations in "Structural Pruning: A Guide For The Green Industry" published by Urban Tree Foundation, Visalia CA.
- B. All pruning shall be performed by a person experienced in structural tree pruning.
- C. Except for plants specified as multi-stemmed or as otherwise instructed by the Owner's Representative, preserve or create a central leader.
- D. Pruning of large trees shall be done using pole pruners or if needed, from a ladder or hydraulic lift to gain access to the top of the tree. Do not climb in newly planted trees. Small trees can be structurally pruned by laying them over before planting. Pruning may also be performed at the nursery prior to shipping.
- E. Remove and replace excessively pruned or malformed stock resulting from improper pruning that occurred in the nursery or after.
- F. Pruning shall be done with clean, sharp tools.
- G. No tree paint or sealants shall be used.

### 3.18 MULCHING OF PLANTS

- A. Apply 4 inches of mulch before settlement, covering the entire planting bed area. Install no more than 1 inch of mulch over the top of the root balls of all plants. Taper to 2 inches when abutting pavement.
- Note to specifier:** *Mulch thickness varies by mulch type, project location, and project requirements. Four inches of coarse mulch is for dry climates. In wet climates 4 inches of shredded bark mulch would be far too much mulch and have detrimental effect to the plants. Adjust the mulch thickness in*



*both the specifications and details.*

- B. For trees planted in lawn areas the mulch shall extend to a 5 foot radius around the tree or to the extent indicated on the plans.
- C. Lift all leaves, low hanging stems and other green portions of small plants out of the mulch if covered.

### 3.19 PLANTING BED FINISHING

- A. After planting, smooth out all grades between plants before mulching.
- B. Separate the edges of planting beds and lawn areas with a smooth, formed edge cut into the turf with the bed mulch level slightly lower, 1 and 2 inches, than the adjacent turf sod or as directed by the Owner's Representative. Bed edge lines shall be as depicted on the drawings.

### 3.20 WATERING

- A. The Contractor shall be fully responsible to ensure that adequate water is provided to all plants from the point of installation until the date of Substantial Completion Acceptance. The Contractor shall adjust the automatic irrigation system, if available, and apply additional or adjust for less water using hoses as required.
- B. Hand water root balls of all plants to assure that the root balls have moisture above wilt point and below field capacity. Test the moisture content in each root ball and the soil outside the root ball to determine the water content.
- C. The Contractor shall install 25 gallon watering bag for each tree to be maintained and used for tree watering during the warranty period.

*Note to specifier: Watering bags come in various sizes from 15 to 25 gallons. Confirm bag size needed and adjust the above paragraph. Confirm if the watering bags are to be given to the Owner or remain the property of the Contractor. Adjust the below paragraph as required.*

- 1. The watering bags shall remain the property of the Owner at the completion of the work.

### 3.21 CLEAN-UP

- A. During installation, keep the site free of trash, pavements reasonably clean and work area in an orderly condition at the end of each day. Remove trash and debris in containers from the site no less than once a week.
  - 1. Immediately clean up any spilled or tracked soil, fuel, oil, trash or debris deposited by the Contractor from all surfaces within the project or on public right of ways and neighboring property.
- B. Once installation is complete, wash all soil from pavements and other structures. Ensure that mulch is confined to planting beds and that all tags and flagging tape are removed from the site. The Owner's Representative's seals are to remain on the trees and removed at the end of the warranty period.
- C. Make all repairs to grades, ruts, and damage by the plant installer to the work or other work at the site.
- D. Remove and dispose of all excess planting soil, subsoil, mulch, plants, packaging, and other material brought to the site by the Contractor.

### 3.22 PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

- A. The Contractor shall protect planting and related work and other site work from damage due to planting operations, operations by other Contractors or trespassers. Maintain protection during installation until Substantial Completion Acceptance. Treat, repair or replace damaged work immediately.
- B. Damage done by the Contractor, or any of their sub-contractors to existing or installed plants, or any other parts of the work or existing features to remain, including roots, trunk or branches of large existing trees, soil, paving, utilities, lighting, irrigation, other finished work and surfaces including those on adjacent property, shall be cleaned, repaired or replaced by the Contractor at no expense to

the Owner. The Owner's Representative shall determine when such cleaning, replacement or repair is satisfactory.

### 3.23 PLANT MAINTENANCE PRIOR TO SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION ACCEPTANCE

- A. During the project work period and prior to Substantial Completion Acceptance, the Contractor shall maintain all plants.
- B. Maintenance during the period prior to Substantial Completion Acceptance shall consist of pruning, watering, cultivating, weeding, mulching, removal of dead material, repairing and replacing of tree stakes, tightening and repairing of guys, repairing and replacing of damaged tree wrap material, resetting plants to proper grades and upright position, and furnishing and applying such sprays as are necessary to keep plantings reasonably free of damaging insects and disease, and in healthy condition. The threshold for applying insecticides and herbicide shall follow established Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures. Mulch areas shall be kept reasonably free of weeds, grass.

### 3.24 SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION ACCEPTANCE

- A. Upon written notice from the Contractor, the Owners Representative shall review the work and make a determination if the work is substantially complete.
  - 1. Notification shall be at least 7 days prior to the date the contractor is requesting the review.
- B. The date of substantial completion of the planting shall be the date when the Owner's Representative accepts that all work in Planting, Planting Soil, and Irrigation installation sections is complete.
- C. The Plant Warranty period begins at date of written notification of substantial completion from the Owner's Representative. The date of substantial completion may be different than the date of substantial completion for the other sections of the project.

**Note to specifier:** The following two sections are options for maintenance during the warranty period: "Maintenance During the Warranty Period by Others" and "Maintenance During the Warranty Period by the Plant Installer". Confirm the approach that is appropriate to the project and delete the other option. These options may also need to be modified to meet the project requirements.

Confirm that the lengths and timing of beginning and end of maintenance periods are suitable to the project owner's requirements. If the owner does not want to purchase plant maintenance during warranty period, use option one below. If plant maintenance is to be included the extent of the maintenance must be defined.

The maintenance specification assumes that maintenance of lawn grass areas, if required, would be covered under a separate specification for lawn installation.

### 3.25 MAINTENANCE DURING THE WARRANTY PERIOD BY OTHERS

- A. After Substantial Completion Acceptance, the Contractor shall make sufficient site visits to observe the Owner's maintenance and become aware of problems with the maintenance in time to request changes, until the date of End of Warranty Final Acceptance.
  - 1. Notify the Owner's Representative in writing if maintenance, including watering, is not sufficient to maintain plants in a healthy condition. Such notification must be made in a timely period so that the Owner's Representative may take corrective action.
    - a. Notification must define the maintenance needs and describe any corrective action required.
  - 2. In the event that the Contractor fails to visit the site and or notify, in writing, the Owner's Representative of maintenance needs, lack of maintenance shall not be used as grounds for voiding or modifying the provisions of the warranty.

### 3.26 MAINTENANCE DURING THE WARRANTY PERIOD BY THE PLANT INSTALLER

- A. During the warranty period, provide all maintenance for all plantings to keep the plants in a healthy state and the planting areas clean and neat.

- B. General requirements:
1. All work shall be undertaken by trained planting crews under the supervision of a foreman with a minimum of 5 years experience supervising commercial plant maintenance crews.
  2. All chemical and fertilizer applications shall be made by licensed applicators for the type of chemicals to be used. All work and chemical use shall comply with all applicable local, provincial and federal requirements.
  3. Assure that hoses and watering equipment and other maintenance equipment does not block paths or be placed in a manner that may create tripping hazards. Use standard safety warning barriers and other procedures to maintain the site in a safe manner for visitors at all times.
  4. All workers shall wear required safety equipment and apparel appropriate for the tasks being undertaken.
  5. The Contractor shall not store maintenance equipment at the site at times when they are not in use unless authorized in writing by the Owner's Representative.
  6. Maintenance vehicles shall not park on the site including walks and lawn areas at any time without the Owner's Representative's written permission.
  7. Maintain a detailed log of all maintenance activities including types of tasks, date of task, types and quantities of materials and products used, watering times and amounts, and number of each crew. Periodically review the logs with the Owner's Representative, and submit a copy of the logs at the end of each year of the maintenance agreement.
  8. Meet with the Owner's Representative a minimum of three times a year to review the progress and discuss any changes that are needed in the maintenance program. At the end of the warranty period attend a hand over meeting to formally transfer the responsibilities of maintenance to the Owner's Representative. Provide all information on past maintenance activities and provide a list of critical tasks that will be needed over the next 12 months. Provide all maintenance logs and soil test data. Make the Contractor's supervisor available for a minimum of one year after the end of the warranty period to answer questions about past maintenance.
- C. Provide the following maintenance tasks:
1. Watering; Provide all water required to keep soil within and around the root balls at optimum moisture content for plant growth.
    - a. Maintain all watering systems and equipment and keep them operational.
    - b. Monitor soil moisture to provide sufficient water. Check soil moisture and root ball moisture with a soil moisture meter on a regular basis and record moisture readings. Do not over water.
  2. Soil nutrient levels: Take a minimum of 4 soil samples from around the site in the spring and fall and have them tested by an accredited agricultural soil testing lab for chemical composition of plant required nutrients, pH, salt and % organic matter. Test results shall include laboratory recommendations for nutrient applications. Apply fertilizers at rates recommended by the soil test.
    - a. Make any other soil test and/or plant tissue test that may be indicated by plant conditions that may not be related to soil nutrient levels such as soil contaminated by other chemicals or lack of chemical uptake by the plant.
  3. Plant pruning: Remove cross over branching, shorten or remove developing co dominant leaders, dead wood and winter-damaged branches. Unless directed by the Owner's Representative, do not shear plants or make heading cuts.
  4. Restore plants: Reset any plants that have settled or are leaning as soon as the condition is noticed.
  5. Guying and staking: Maintain plant guys in a taught position. Remove tree guys and staking after the first full growing season unless directed by Owner's Representative.
  6. Weed control: Keep all beds free of weeds. Hand-remove all weeds and any plants that do not appear on the planting plan. Chemical weed control is permitted only with the approval of the Owner's Representative. Schedule weeding as needed but not less *12 times per year*.  
**Note to specifier: Insert the frequency of weed control above based on the project budget and need to keep the plantings weed free.**
  7. Trash removal: Remove all trash and debris from all planting beds and maintain the beds in a neat and tidy appearance. The number of trash and debris removal visits shall be no less than 12 times per year and may coincide with other maintenance visits.

**Note to specifier:** Insert the frequency of trash removal based on the project budget and need to keep the site trash free.

8. Plant pest control: Maintain disease, insects and other pests at manageable levels. Manageable levels shall be defined as damage to plants that may be noticeable to a professional but not to the average person. Use least invasive methods to control plant disease and insect outbreaks.
  - a. The Owner's Representative must approve in advance the use of all chemical pesticide applications.
9. Plant replacement: Replace all plants that are defective as defined in the warranty provisions, as soon as the plant decline is obvious and in suitable weather and season for planting as outlined in above sections. Plants that become defective during the maintenance period shall be covered and replaced under the warranty provisions.
10. Mulch: Refresh mulch once a year to maintain complete coverage but do not over mulch. At no time shall the overall mulch thickness be greater than 4 inches. Do not apply mulch within 6 inches of the trunks or stems of any plants. Replacement mulch shall meet the requirements of the original approved material. Mulch shall be no more than one inch on top of the root ball surface.

**Note to specifier:** Insert the maximum depth of mulch based on the project budget and need to keep the mulch in the beds. Often after bed foliage completely fills in, no or little additional mulch is needed.

11. Bed edging: Check and maintain edges between mulch and lawn areas in smooth neat lines as originally shown on the drawings.
12. Leaf, fruit and other plant debris removal: Remove fall leaf, spent flowers, fruit and plant part accumulations from beds and paved surfaces. Maintain all surface water drains free of debris. Debris removal shall be undertaken at each visit to weed or pick up trash in beds.
13. Damage from site use: Repair of damage by site visitors and events, beyond normal wear, are not part of this maintenance. The Owner's Representative may request that the Contractor repair damage beds or plantings for an additional cost. All additional work shall be approved in advance by the Owner's Representative.

### 3.27 END OF WARRANTY FINAL ACCEPTANCE / MAINTENANCE OBSERVATION

- A. At the end of the Warranty and Maintenance period the Owner's Representative shall observe the work and establish that all provisions of the contract are complete and the work is satisfactory.
  1. If the work is satisfactory, the maintenance period will end on the date of the final observation.
  2. If the work is deemed unsatisfactory, the maintenance period will continue at no additional expense to the Owner until the work has been completed, observed, and approved by the Owner's Representative.
- B. FAILURE TO PASS OBSERVATION: If the work fails to pass final observation, any subsequent observations must be rescheduled as per above. The cost to the Owner for additional observations will be charged to the Contractor at the prevailing hourly rate of the Owners Representative.

END OF SECTION 32 9300