

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

MTCBC Engineers

Maestaf Bridge

Soft Landscape Treatment

11-10-2022

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Q30 Seeding/ turfing

General information/requirements

115 Seeded and turfed areas

1. **Growth and development:** Healthy, vigorous grass sward, free from the visible effects of pests, weeds and disease.
2. **Appearance:** A closely knit, continuous ground cover of even density, height and colour.

120 Climatic conditions

1. **General:** Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.

145 Watering

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. **Application:** Even and without displacing seed, seedlings or soil.
3. **Frequency:** As necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all seeding/turfing.

146 Watering

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. **Application:** Even and without displacing seed, seedlings or soil.
3. **Frequency:**

150 Water restrictions

1. **Timing:** If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation do not carry out seeding/turfing until instructed. If seeding/turfing has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

160 Notice

1. **Give notice before**
 - 1.1. Setting out.
 - 1.2. Preparing seed bed.
 - 1.3. Seeding or turfing.
 - 1.4. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. **Period of notice:**

170 Setting out

1. **Boundaries:** Mark clearly.
2. **Delineation:** In straight lines or smoothly flowing curves as shown on drawings.

Seeding

311 Grass seed

Description: Flowering Lawn Mixture EL1

General Purpose Brush Harvested Meadow Mixture EM34

Supplier:

EMORSGATE SEEDS

Limes Farm

Tilney All Saints

King's Lynn

Norfolk

PE34 4RT

Ring: (01553) 829028

E-mail: enquiries@emorsgateseeds.com

Mixture reference: Flowering Lawn Mixture EL1

Application rate: 50gms per m2

319 Quality of seed

1. Description:
2. Freshness: Produced for the current growing season.
3. Certification: Blue label certified varieties.
 - 3.1. Standard: EC purity and germination regulations.
 - 3.2. Official Seed Testing Station certificate of germination, purity and composition: Submit when requested.
4. Samples of mixtures: Submit when requested.

330 Sowing

1. General: Establish good seed contact with the root zone.
2. Method:
 - 2.1. Distribution:

335 Grass sowing season

1. Grass seed generally:

Maintenance

610 Failures of seeding/ turfing

1. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until:
2. Defective materials or workmanship: Areas that have failed to thrive.
 - 2.1. Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage.
3. Method of making good: Recultivation and reseeding/ returfing.
4. Timing of making good:

620 Maintenance and subsequent establishment of seeded areas

Flowering Lawn Mixture EL1

Ground preparation

Endeavour to select ground that is not highly fertile and does not have a problem with perennial weeds. Good preparation is essential to success so aim to control weeds and produce a good quality seed bed before sowing.

To prepare a seed bed first remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Then plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth, and roll or tread to produce a level firm surface.

Sowing

Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution and avoid running out, divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed, but firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

First year management

The wild flower and grass species in this mix are perennial; they will be slow to germinate and grow and will not usually flower in their first growing season. There will often be a flush of annual weeds from the soil in the first growing season. This annual weed growth is easily controlled by repeated mowing.

Mow newly sown flowering lawns regularly (every 7 -10 days during growing season) throughout the first year of establishment. Cut to a height of 40-60mm, removing cuttings if dense. This will gradually develop a good sward structure, help maintain balance between faster growing grasses and slower developing wild flowers, and control annual weeds.

Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.

Management once established

Mow regularly as a lawn but not too short (25-40mm). To permit flowering, mowing can be relaxed from late June. Cut again when the sward gets untidy (after 4-8 weeks). Mowing may be suspended earlier in the year to allow cowslips to flower. Heavy quantities of cuttings should be collected and removed from site.

General Purpose Brush Harvested Meadow Mixture EM34

Ground preparation

Endeavour to select ground that is not highly fertile and does not have a problem with perennial weeds. The lime loving species in this mixture will thrive on shallow soils with a high limestone or chalk content.

Good preparation is essential to success so aim to control weeds and produce a good quality seed bed before sowing.

To prepare a seed bed first remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Then plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth, and roll, or tread, to produce a firm surface.

Sowing

Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution and avoid running out divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed, but firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

First year management

Most of the sown meadow species are perennial and are slow to establish. Soon after sowing there will be a flush of annual weeds, arising from the soil seed bank. These weeds can look unsightly, but they will offer shelter to the sown seedlings, are great for bugs, and they will die before the year is out. So resist cutting the annual weeds until mid to late summer, especially if the mixture contains Yellow Rattle, or has been sown with a nurse of cornfield annuals. Then cut, remove and compost. Early August is a good time. This will reveal the young meadow, which can then be kept short by grazing or mowing through to the end of March of the following year.

Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.

Management once established

In the second and subsequent years EM35 sowings can be managed in a number of ways which, in association with soil fertility, will determine the character of the grassland.

On poor shallow soils one or two cuts at the end of the summer, or occasional light grazing, may be all that is required to maintain diversity and interest.

On deeper soils best results are usually obtained by traditional meadow management based around a main summer hay cut in combination with autumn and possibly spring mowing or grazing. Meadow grassland is not cut or grazed from spring through to late July/August to give the sown species an opportunity to flower.

After flowering in July or August take a 'hay cut': cut back with a scythe, petrol strimmer or tractor mower to c 50mm. Leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from site.

Mow or graze the re-growth through to late autumn/winter to c 50mm and again in spring if needed.

NB: Wild meadow mixtures are harvested directly from wild sites and are therefore more variable than our other mixtures. Based on several years of analysis we present the main composition by seed number of species present in a typical harvest. The actual composition of each harvest will in fact vary and will include small amounts of a wide range of species that do not appear in the analysis.

Weed control: Substantially free of broad leaved weeds.

Method: hand weeding

Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly.

Size: Exceeding 25 mm in any dimension.

Areas of settlement: Make good.

Watering

Q31

External planting

General information/ requirements

112 Site clearance generally

1. **General:** Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
2. **Stones:** Remove those with any dimension exceeding
3. **Contamination:** Remove material containing toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.
4. **Vegetation:**
5. **Large roots:** Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.
6. **Additional requirements:**

118 Soil conditions

1. **Soil for cultivating and planting:** Moist, friable and (except in aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged.
2. **Frozen or snow covered soil:** Give notice before planting. Provide additional root protection. Prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

120 Climatic conditions

1. **General:** Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.
 - 1.1. **Strong winds:** Do not plant.

125 Times of year for planting

1. **Deciduous trees and shrubs:** Late October to late March.
2. **Conifers and evergreens:** September/ October or April/ May.
3. **Herbaceous plants (including marginal):** September/ October or March/ April.

4. Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.
 - 4.1. Watering and weed control: Provide as necessary.
5. Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.
6. Colchicum (crocus): July/ August.
7. Green bulbs: After flowering in spring.
8. Wildflower plugs: Late August to mid November or March/ April.
9. Aquatic plants: May/ June or September/ October.

130 Mechanical tools

1. Restrictions: Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems.

145 Watering

1. Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. Application: Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
3. Frequency: As necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting.

146 Watering

1. Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. Application: Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
3. Frequency:

150 Water restrictions

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

200 Plants/ Trees – general

1. Condition: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
2. Appearance: Of good shape and without elongated shoots.
3. Hardiness: Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
4. Health: Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
5. Budded or grafted plants: Bottom worked.
6. Root system and condition: Balanced with branch system.
 - 6.1. Standard:
7. Species: True to name.
8. Origin/ Provenance:
9. Definition: Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

215 Plants/ Trees – specification criteria

1. Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria: As scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification (available on CS Design Software Limited's website).

216 Plants/ Trees – specification criteria

1. Name, forms, dimensions and other criteria: To the relevant part of BS 3936.

255 Plants/ Trees reserved at supplier's premises

1. Types/ Species:
2. Predelivery inspection: Give notice.
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3. **Labelling:** Identify inspected plants/ trees as reserved for use on this project.

260 Plant/ Tree substitution

1. **Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering:** Submit alternatives, stating:
 - 1.1. Price.
 - 1.2. Difference from specified plants/ trees.
2. **Approval:** Obtain before making any substitution.

265 Plant handling, storage transport and planting

1. **Standard:** To CPSE 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'.
2. **Frost:** Protect plants from frost.
3. **Handling:** Handle plants with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.
4. **Plant packaging:**
5. **Packaging of bulk quantities:**
6. **Planting:** Upright or well balanced with best side to front.

285 Protection of existing grass

1. **General:** Protect areas affected by planting operations using boards/ tarpaulins.
 - 1.1. **Excavated or imported material:** Do not place directly on grass.
 - 1.2. **Duration:** Minimum period.

290 Surplus material

1. Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings: Remove.

435 Climbing plants used as ground cover

1. **Planting**
 - 1.1. **Canes or other supports:** Remove.
 - 1.2. **Arrangement:** Spread stems.
2. **Fixing:** Pinned to ground to ensure good contact.

480 After planting

1. **Watering:** Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
2. **Firming:** Lightly firm soil around plants and fork and/ or rake soil, without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with gentle cambers and no hollows.
3. **Top dressing:**
 - 3.1. **Depth:**

635 Notch planting in uncultivated ground

1. **Notching:** Make a vertical 'I', 'L', 'T' or 'H' notch.
 - 1.1. **Depth:** To accommodate full depth of roots.
2. **Planting:** Plant tree, close notch with root collar at ground level and firm the soil.

Protecting/ maintaining/ making good defects

710 Maintenance

1. Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting until the end of the rectification period.
2. Frequency of maintenance visits: Monthly during growing season

720 Failures of planting

1. Defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract: Plants/ trees/ shrubs that have failed to thrive.
 - 1.1. Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage after completion.
 - 1.2. Rectification: Replace with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs.
2. Replacements: To match size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater.
3. Timing of making good:

740 Cleanliness

1. Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces and grassed areas.
2. General: Leave the works in a clean tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

750 Planting maintenance generally

1. Weed control: Maintain weed free area around each tree and shrub.
 - 1.1. Diameter (minimum): The larger of 1 m or the surface of original planting pit.
 - 1.2. Keep planting beds clear of weeds:
2. Planted areas: Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Take care not to reduce depth or effect of mulch.
3. Precautions: Ensure that trees and shrubs are not damaged by use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools.
4. Firming up: Gently firm loosened soil around trees/ shrubs. Straighten leaning trees/ shrubs.
5. Trees: Spray crown when in leaf during warm weather.
 - 5.1. Timing: After dusk.
6. Tree accessories: Check condition of stakes, ties, guys, guards and irrigation and ventilation systems.
 - 6.1. Broken or missing items: Replace.
 - 6.2. Loose stakes: Re-firm in the ground or replace as necessary to provide support to the tree.
 - 6.3. Loose guys: Re-firm anchor points and adjust as necessary to provide support to the tree.
 - 6.4. Ties: Adjust to accommodate growth and prevent constriction or abrasion.
 - 6.5. Damage to bark: Cut back neatly with sharp knife. Prevent further damage.
 - 6.6. Frequency of checks:
7. Watering:

790 Final mulching

1. Timing: At end of the maintenance period.
2. Watering: Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to remulching, applying water where necessary.
3. Planting beds: Remulch.

4. Depth (minimum):
5. Trees: Remulch.
6. Depth (minimum):

Ω End of Section



Specification created using NBS Chorus