



PLOT F, Great Jackson Street, Manchester

Trees in Planters - Establishment and Maintenance

1. Timing of planting for best establishment

Planting trees will usually be undertaken during winter months (November to March) while it is dormant and allows the tree to establish in its new environment. Planting outside of this time can increase the stress on a tree when it is in leaf and the tree may struggle to become successfully established.

2. Planting of the trees in planters

To assist with establishment the trees will be planted with irrigation rings that are wrapped around the root ball allowing each tree to be individually watered through the inlet pipe ensure water gets directly to the root ball.

The trees will be planted with British Standard compliant subsoil and topsoil and secured within the planter with proprietary anchoring system which allows the roots to become established and prevents the tree from rocking. The proposed trees in planters typically have a shared soil volume to assist with establishment and long-term health, vigor with the shared water and nutrient resource.

On completion of the planting a layer of 75mm decorative bark mulch will be applied to the surface layer to help prevent water loss and control weed growth.

It is proposed that Tree Gator irrigation bags are installed on each tree after planting to offer additional slow-release watering.

3. Establishment and ongoing maintenance of the trees in planters

Trees should be watered weekly (between April – October) for the first three years at a rate of 40-50litres per individual tree, both through the irrigation ring and at surface level. Caps on the irrigation ring should be reaffixed after each watering session to prevent blockages. Pipes should be checked for blockages as operatives may consider the ring to be full of water and stop the watering process; rather than eliminate a blockage that prevents water accessing the root ball.

Trees in planters should continue to be watered for their remaining years due to them not being able to access ground water. The landscape contractor should review their establishment / needs after 3 years. With particular attention to seasonal climatic conditions and review the amount of watering required monthly after the initial 3 year establishment period. A record of watering should be kept to monitor the needs of the varying tree types so that future planning can be made for the trees in planters maintenance year by year.

Climatic conditions should be reviewed for the trees in planters and in periods of hot, dry or windy spells watering should be adjusted to suit. The site is known to be windy which can lead to evaporation and moisture loss which may require additional watering. Most of the trees in raised

planters are in combined trenches where they occupy a shared soil volume and the roots will knit together after several years.

Bark mulch should be kept to a depth of 75mm to assist with water retention and to top the top layer of soil getting dried out. This depth should be retained until all the ornamental planting in the planters is tightly knitted together and the soil is not visible.

Tree gator bags should be removed after 2 growing seasons.

Tree guys should be checked every 6months or after strong winds to ensure the trees remain vertical. Guys will require adjusting as it is likely to take 3 to 5 years for the trees to establish dependent on stability, wind conditions and growing conditions.

If the trees show signs of poor growth or reduced vigor an application of the appropriate fertiliser can be applied. If the trees do not respond to a treatment of fertiliser, further investigations should be carried out, including the ground conditions for signs of compaction, contamination, poor quality topsoil. Remediate any problems uncovered within the soil. Should the remediation works not resolve the problem a replacement tree may need to be planted within the next planting season.

4. Tree Replacement

Should tree replacement be required an assessment to why the tree has failed should be undertaken. Should the tree species be the concern then any deviation from the original specification should be approved by the client / landscape architect / LPA.

It is considered that trees in planters have a reduced life span compared to trees grown in ground-based conditions and a replacement strategy will be required when the trees have reached their life cycle.

5. Responsibility

Maintenance works to trees in planters will always be the sole responsibility of the landscape contractor and trees should be maintained in good health and in safe condition.

A record of maintenance and watering visits should be documented throughout the project.

6. Maintenance Table

One operation per year - **1**

One operation every 6 months – **2**

One operation per week in April -October – **S**

Maintenance Objectives	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5 +
Visual inspection of trees – replant if necessary	2	2	2	2	2
Inspect trees after strong winds (as required)	a/r	a/r	a/r	a/r	a/r
Water in periods of dry weather / or extreme microclimate areas	S	S	S	S	S
Replace dead and dying trees to original specification during the next planting season	1	1	1	1	1
Remove and dispose of accumulations of winter leaves	1	1	1	1	1
Weed control. Depth of bark mulch to 75mm	2	2	2	a/r	a/r
Pruning	1	1	1	1	1
Inspect tree guying, repair and adjustment	2	2	2	a/r	a/r
Apply low release fertiliser	1	1	1	1	1

Telephone: 0161 943 6053 Web: www.squareyard.infor Email: studio@yd2.co.uk

SQR YRD LTD Trading as Squareyard - 10 RUSHBED COTTAGES CRAWSHAWBOOTH ROSSENDALE BB4 8LX