

Treehouse Manchester

Exterior MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Treehouse Exterior Maintenance Schedule (In accordance with BS 8545:2014)

Any live green infrastructure is constantly growing and evolving so regular, attentive aftercare is key to ensure it remains in good health. Adequate aftercare is required in terms of protection, watering, mulching, and formative pruning, as described in BS 8545:2014 Trees from Nursery to Independence. These best practice guidelines shall be incorporated into our Maintenance Strategy below.

I. Irrigation

- **Frequency:** All of the troughs are connected to our 24/7 remote monitored irrigation system, troughs will be watered at least two times a week during the first three growing periods.
- **Volume:**
 - 0.8L per trough per day during growing periods, all troughs have drainage holes to ensure no planting is water logged.
- **Irrigation Plan:**
 - Adhere to BS 8545:2014 (Section G2)
 - Include reporting system (e.g., weekly logs) to confirm irrigation operations to the property management.
 - Reduce irrigation frequency as roots establish, based on monitoring soil moisture levels.

II. Formative Pruning

- **Purpose:** Develop strong branch structure and crown form for all shrubs and planting.
- **Guidelines:** Follow BS 8545:2014 (Section G3) recommendations, considering species-specific needs (e.g., central leader for shade trees, multi-stem for ornamental shrubs).



III. Routine Maintenance

- **Annual Assessment:** Formal assessment of tree health and development each spring.
 - Assess foliar health (color, density), extension growth, and girth.
 - Compare to previous years' records and species-specific expectations.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** Weekly inspection by grounds crew to identify issues early.
- **Stakes & Ties:**
 - Inspect monthly for the first year, then biannually.
 - Remove stakes after two growing seasons (or sooner if stable).
 - Remove underground guying wires once trees are self-supporting.
- **Weed Control:**
 - Hand-weed or apply approved herbicides within tree pits and mulched areas.
 - Prioritize organic methods where possible (e.g., mulching, manual weeding).
- **Mulching:**
 - Maintain 25mm depth of wood chip mulch in all troughs.
 - Replenish mulch annually in spring.
- **Soil Inspection:**
 - Visually inspect soil for compaction or capping during routine maintenance.
 - Aerate compacted soil as needed using hand tools or air spade.
- **Pest and Disease Control:**
 - Monitor for common pests (e.g., aphids, scale insects) and diseases (e.g., leaf spot).
 - Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, prioritizing non-chemical controls.
- **Damage Inspection:**
 - Report any signs of vandalism, animal damage, or construction impacts immediately.
 - Repair damage promptly to minimize tree stress and promote healing.
- **Fertilization:**
 - Conduct soil tests annually to assess nutrient levels.
 - Apply slow-release fertilizer in spring only if deficiencies are identified.



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