

# Specification for preparation for topsoil and turfing.

Project /Location

M446 TOWN LAWN, TAVISTOCK, DEVON

Client

La Page Architects

Date

10-10-19

## SURFACE PREPARATION

### General:

- Break out and remove any hard surface, kerb or similar structure together with footings within the area to receive seeding/ turfing.
- Eliminate perennial weeds such as couch grass or bindweed well before beginning to prepare the soil. Use weedkiller, or hand weed. Do not use residual weedkiller, as it can remain in the soil and will prevent the grass from establishing.
- Grub out and remove all roots and waste organic material from site.
- If the site has a primarily topsoil surface, the site should be dug or rotovated to a depth of 20-25cm
- Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels with existing or imported topsoil (as specified)

### Loosening of subsoils:

- When ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 150-200 mm.
- Immediately before spreading topsoil, remove stones larger than 50 mm.
- Remove from site arisings, contaminants and debris and builders rubble.

## SOIL SYSTEM FOR GRASS SWARDS FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS

### Composition:

- Soil: Imported topsoil to BS 3882.
- Ameliorants: Horticultural grit/ sharp sand (2-6mm). Suggested suppliers Compostdirect.com <https://www.compostdirect.com/horticultural-grit/p22>,

### Purity: Free of pests and disease.

- Foreign matter: On visual inspection, free of fragments and roots of aggressive weeds, sticks, straw, subsoil, pieces of brick, concrete, glass, wire, large lumps of clay or vegetation, and the like.

### Contamination: Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are:

- Corrosive, explosive or flammable.
- Hazardous to human or animal life.
- Detrimental to healthy plant growth.
- Subsoil: In areas to receive topsoil or planting media, do not use subsoil contaminated with the above materials.
- There should be no objectionable odour
- Give notice: If any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site or in topsoil or planting media to be imported.

## PERMITTED MATERIALS

- Materials: Horticultural grit/ sharp sand.
- Declaration of compliance in accordance with BS EN 13650: Required.

## MATERIALS NOT PERMITTED

- Materials: Peat.

## EXECUTION

### TOPSOIL ANALYSIS

- All imported topsoil to be analysed by contractor, in accordance with BS 3882.

Submit:

- Declaration of analysis;
- Chemical analysis;
- Nutrient content, pH value and textural classification; and
- pH value and textural classification.
- Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.

### MECHANICAL TOOLS

- Restrictions: Do not use within 1000 mm of tree and plant stems.

### GRADING OF TOPSOIL

- Topsoil condition: Reasonably dry and workable.
- Contours: Smooth and flowing, with falls for adequate drainage.
- Hollows and ridges: Not permitted.
- Finished levels after settlement: 25 mm above adjoining paving, kerbs, manholes etc.
- Give notice: If required levels cannot be achieved by movement of existing soil.

### HANDLING TOPSOIL

- Aggressive weeds: Give notice and obtain instructions before moving topsoil.
- Plant: Select and use plant to minimise disturbance, trafficking and compaction.
- Contamination: Do not mix topsoil with:
  - Subsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work.
  - Other grades of topsoil.
- Multiple handling: Keep to a minimum. Use or stockpile topsoil immediately after stripping.
- Wet conditions: Handle topsoil in the driest condition possible. Do not handle during or after heavy rainfall or when it is wetter than the plastic limit less 3%, to BS 1377-2.

### LOOSE TIPPING OF TOPSOIL

- General: Do not firm, consolidate or compact topsoil when laying. Tip and grade to approximate levels in one operation with minimum of trafficking by plant.

### FINAL CULTIVATION FOR TURFING

- Compacted topsoil: Break up to full depth.
- Tilth: Loosen, aerate and break up topsoil to a tilth suitable for blade grading.
- Depth: 100-150 mm.
- Particle size (maximum): 5 mm.
- Timing: Within a few days before turfing.
- Weather and ground conditions: Suitably dry.
- Surface: Leave regular and even.
- Levels: 25 mm above adjoining paving or kerbs and 50 mm above adjoining lawns.

- Undesirable material brought to the surface:
  - Remove visible weeds.
  - Remove roots and large stones with any dimension exceeding 30 mm.

#### AMELIORANT INCORPORATION

- Ameliorants: Horticultural grit/ sharp sand (2-6mm). Suggested suppliers Compostdirect.com <https://www.compostdirect.com/horticultural-grit/p22>,
- Spreading/ rate of application: spread a 50mm deep layer of the ameliorate across the prepared topsoil tilth, as described above
- Incorporation Method: use landscape rake to incorporate the grit into the top 75mm of topsoil profile before turfing operations proceed.

#### FINISHED LEVELS OF TOPSOIL AFTER SETTLEMENT

- Seeded areas: Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.
  - From levels or gradients shown on drawings:  $\pm 75$  mm.
  - From line between boning rods 30 m apart:  $\pm 25$  mm.
- Within root spread of existing trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.
- Thickness of turf or mulch: Included.

## Turfing

### GENERAL INFORMATION/REQUIREMENTS

#### TURFED AREAS

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

#### CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

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

#### WATERING

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

#### WATERING

- Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
- Application: Even and without displacing seed, seedlings or soil.
- Frequency: Every second day and When instructed.

#### WATER RESTRICTIONS

- 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.

#### NOTICE TO PROJECT MANAGER/ CLIENT REPRESENTATIVE

- Give notice before:
  - Setting out.
  - Applying herbicide.
  - Applying fertiliser.
  - Preparing seed bed.
  - Seeding or turfing.
  - Visiting site during maintenance period.
- Period of notice: 1 week.

#### SETTING OUT

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

## CULTIVATED TURF FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS

- Supplier recommendations: Fine Turf (Devon ) Ltd. (<https://www.turfdevon.co.uk/devon-turf/>), South Devon Turf (<http://www.southdevonturf.co.uk/index.php?p=home>), Devon Turf (<https://www.devon-turf.co.uk/>)
- Properties of soil used for turf production: Peat-free, well drained sandy loam.

## DELIVERY AND STORAGE

- Timing: Lay turf with minimum possible delay after lifting. If delay occurs, lay turf out on topsoil and keep moist.
- Frosty weather or waterlogged ground: Do not lift turf.
- Stacking height (maximum): 1 m.
- Dried out or deteriorated turf: Do not use.
- Certification: Standard: To BS 3969. Declaration: Species mix, including percentage of specified species.

## TURFING GENERALLY

- Weather conditions: Do not lay turf when persistent cold or drying winds are likely to occur or soil is frost bound, waterlogged or excessively dry.
- Working access: Planks laid on previously laid turf. Do not walk on prepared bed or newly laid turf.
- Jointing: Laid with broken joints, butted up. Do not stretch turf.
- Edges: Whole turfs, trimmed to a true line.
- Adjusting levels: Remove high spots and fill hollows with fine soil.
- Consolidating: Lightly and evenly firm as laying proceeds to ensure full contact with substrate. Do not use rollers.
- Dressing, brushed well in to completely fill all joints: None.
- Watering: Thoroughly water completed turf immediately after laying. Check that water has penetrated into the soil below.

## PROTECTIVE FENCING

- Fence off turf areas for completion of seeding/ turfing.
- Removal: After grass is well established. Fencing will remain the property of the Contractor.

## TOP DRESSING AMELIORANT INCORPORATION

- Ameliorants: Horticultural grit/ sharp sand (2-6mm). Suggested suppliers Compostdirect.com <https://www.compostdirect.com/horticultural-grit/p22>,
- Spreading/ rate of application: spread a 25mm deep layer of the ameliorate across the laid turf, as described above
- Incorporation Method: use Springbok type rake to incorporate the grit into the newly laid turf growth before watering operations proceed.

## FIRST CUT OF GRASSED AREAS

Timing: When grass is reasonably dry. Height of initial growth: 75 mm.

Preparation: remove debris and litter

Remove stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension.

- Height of first cut: 50 mm.
- Arisings: Remove from site.

## CLEANLINESS

- Remove from hard surfaces soil and arisings
- Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at Completion and after any maintenance operations.

## MAINTENANCE

### FAILURES OF SEEDING/TURFING

- Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period.
- Defective materials or workmanship: Areas that have failed to thrive.
- Method of making good: Re-cultivation and reseeding/ re-turfing.
- Timing of making good: Submit proposals.

### MAINTAINING GENERAL GRASSED AREAS

- Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period.
- Maximum height of growth at any time: 50 mm.
- Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
- Cutting: As and when necessary to a height of 50 mm. Arisings: Remove.
- Bulb planting areas: Do not cut until bulb foliage has died down.
- Trimming: All edges. Arisings: Remove.
- Weed control: Substantially free of broad leaved weeds. Method: Application of a suitable selective herbicide.
- Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly. Size: Exceeding 25 mm in any dimension.
- Areas of settlement: Make good.
- Watering: As required.

### MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

- General: Before end of the maintenance period, submit printed instructions recommending procedures to be established by the Employer for maintenance of the planting work for one full year: Provide a schedule of any ongoing maintenance problems experienced during the rectification period.

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