
MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

- **AFTERCARE**

The operations are grouped under the following headings;

- Grassland
- Newly planted trees
- Shrub beds
- Groundcover
- General litter

GRASS AREAS

General

Amenity grassland describes grassland used for amenity purposes as distinct from that used for productive agriculture. It forms the major part of the landscape setting for this site.

The grasses which form the turf are specially selected for the requirements and conditions under which they are grown and used; inputs such as controlled mowing and fertilising and occasionally herbicide and fungicide treatments will be carried out with the correct timing to maintain the necessary balance and produce a quality sward.

The range of machines used to maintain grassland may vary from powered trimmers, flails, rotary mowers to gang-mowers.

Apart from mowing there are a number of common operations required for the maintenance of intensively used turf such as the playing pitch, i.e. spiking, scarifying, top dressing, herbicide and pesticide treatment, fertilising, etc., the frequency and intensity of which will vary according to the use of these areas, therefore, these type of operations will be carried out once a year.

Amenity Grass Areas

Maintenance Objective

To provide an even stand of vegetation of uniform height and colour comprising predominantly grass species, although a small percentage of dicotyledenous plants are inevitable.

Maintenance Operations

- a) Mowing shall be carried out using a rotary mower to maintain the vegetation length of approximately of 30 mm to 90 mm during March to November inclusive, however, periods of exceptions may occur as a result of weather conditions. This will involve grass cutting every two weeks on average, resulting in a total of 18-20 cuts per year. Additionally the football pitch shall be cut once a week during the period May to September inclusive.
- b) The arisings shall be let fly and distributed evenly over the surface .
- c) All edges of grass areas, against buildings, footpaths, roadways, trees, posts and any other obstruction shall be kept neat, trimmed and tidy of grass growth approximately 3 to 4 times per year.

Care of Newly Planted Trees - General

Young trees will need regular attention to ensure establishment and to ensure secure and correct staking.

Maintenance Objective

Establish a stable and healthily growing tree with a well-shaped framework for future growth.

Maintenance Operations

- a) Allow for herbicide treatment three times per year.
 - b) Cut back any tall vegetation that is threatening to shade or smother the young tree (i.e. taller vegetation growing from outside the 1 m weed free area). Allow for cutting back as necessary.
 - c) Due to the nature of the development, watering is not included within the scope of this proposal.
 - d) Check stakes and ties for firmness and support and adjust as necessary. Allow for checking twice a year, preferably in late spring and late summer.
 - e) Firm the soil around the roots to ensure that the plant is securely planted in the ground and upright. Allow for firming once in the spring after planting.
 - f) Prune to remove any dead, diseased or damaged shoots and create a balanced form for future growth. Included for pruning once in the season after planting.
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Shrub Beds - General

The borders will be kept reasonably weed free, particularly of perennial weeds, to allow planting to give early cover. However, the plants may be required to be thinned so that the shrubs that are retained are able to achieve an attractive form. This may involve removing the intermediate plants soon after shoots are touching.

Maintenance Objective

Maintain shrub growth to cover as much as possible of the bed area and allowing the individual plants to achieve as nearly as possible their natural form. Maintain the borders free of visible weeds and shape and prune the shrubs to avoid serious obstructing of pathways.

Maintenance Operations

- a) After planting, if appropriate and in season for the species involved, prune shrubs to develop their desirable characteristics. At the same time remove intermediate plants that are restricting the natural and attractive development of their neighbours.
- b) Lightly cultivate the surface soil, to a depth of approximately 50 mm, remove or bury all annual weed and break any surface capping. Leave the surface with a fine and even tilth with soil crumbs of less than 50 mm in diameter. Once a year operation in early winter.

Ground Cover - General

Described as dense, low-growing plants, which cover the ground and smother any weeds. Ground-cover needs to gain establishment, the objective is to try to eliminate perennial weeds.

Maintenance Objective

Maintain a dense, weed free cover of healthy growth, clipped or pruned as necessary to give a neat and tidy finish and contained within the planted area.

Maintenance Operations

- a) After planting, if appropriate and in season for the species involved, prune shrubs to
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develop their desirable characteristics. At the same time remove intermediate plants that are restricting the natural and attractive development of their neighbours.

- b) Lightly cultivate the surface soil, remove or bury all annual weed or natural litter and break any surface capping. Leave the surface with a fine and even tilth. Once a year operation in early winter.

Note: This operation is only essential where the soil is compacted.

- c) Maintain the soil surface substantially free of weeds (less than 10 per cent weed cover) by hand removal and spot treating with Glyphosate, or approved equivalent. Spot treatment at approximately four-weekly intervals in the main growing season, to a total of five times per season.

Note: As an alternative the beds can be regularly hand-hoed at up to two-weekly intervals in the main growing season, to 6 times per year. This procedure is recommended for the first year after planting when the plants may be more sensitive to contact herbicide damage and residual herbicides may not be used.

Litter Clearance

Litter clearance or picking is not included within the scope of this proposal. We would suggest the provision of such a service would possibly require the engagement by Kildare Co Co of a Park Warden or Superintendent.

Opening / Lockup

As with litter clearance the opening of the park and locking again for members of the public is not included within the scope of this proposal. We would suggest the provision of such a service would possibly require the engagement by Kildare Co Co of a Park Warden or Superintendent.
