

Maintenance Schedule: Fairoak Road

- 1. Shrubs for hedging**
- 2. Trees**
- 3. Pruning**
- 4. Weed Control**

Shrubs for hedging

Hedging whips are planted at close centres (200-300mm centres) in order to achieve coverage of the ground in 1-2 years after planting. Any plants that die (leaving obvious gaps) within 2 years would look to be replaced. The ground around the plants is bark mulched to a depth of 75mm with a medium grade bark mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. This mulch would be retained for the first 3 years. Weed growth would be removed to avoid competition. All plants to be fitted with spiral rabbit guards secured to stakes.

In year 1, no pruning would occur for shrubs and hedging.

Year 2, remove excessive growth that radiates from the stem (long, thin stems/branches)

Year 3 and onwards, a gentle early summer tidy of the weight of growth – in hedges, there must be a videoed inspection to ensure no disturbance of nesting birds. In autumn/winter, cut hedging back tight to the framework of the hedge. Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.

Trees

Trees are planted at their mature spacing with a 1m diameter bark mulch and fitted with strimmer guards if planted in grass. Any necessary tree surgery, such as crown lifting or dead wood removal is to be carried out by a qualified professional.

The base of all trees is to be bark mulched for the retention of moisture and to reduce weed growth. Weeds to be cleared, to ensure minimal competition.

All trees double staked with cross brace and ties. Stakes/ties to be adjusted when necessary and stakes to be removed when the tree is firmly rooted into the ground.

During the first two years after planting trees should not be allowed to dry out. A monitored watering regime should commence around the end of March/early April and continue until the end of October.

Apply water slowly around the tree to avoid excessive run-off, or into the underground irrigation tube if fitted. Never put the hose on and leave.

The following rates should be used as a guide:

Year 1

35cm+ girth 109 litres once a week

20cm -35cm 54 litres once a week

14cm – 20cm 27 litres once a week

Apply these rates when there has been no appreciable rain for 7 days, or, when there has been drying winds or very high temperatures. Also during extended periods of very high temperatures, drying winds or, on very light soils, apply these rates twice a week.

The use of larger quantities of water at greater time intervals is not an adequate alternative and is not acceptable.

Years 2+3

Less watering will be required. Watering will be required in periods of prolonged hot weather, or drying winds, use application rates as year 1 but not on a continuous basis.

Pruning

A. Semi mature/extra heavy trees

At the time of planting prune any damaged branches back to a main junction or stem. At the end of the first season of growth any branches showing signs of dieback must be cut back to live wood. Pruning must take place during the dormant period of Winter with the exception of *Prunus avium* (Cherry) which is summer.

B. Shrubs

Prune as necessary to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches and to prevent overcrowding of plants, to maintain health of plants, to promote growth to bring out the natural form of the plant.

All species selected can be lightly pruned all year round but reductions or heavy pruning should only occur in the late autumn/winter months. Multi stem shrubs should have 15-20% of the oldest stems removed from the base to encourage new growth and allow air circulation which reduces the risk of diseases.

Regular pruning of up to 10-20% of the plants overall volume is essential to keeping a healthy plant and encouraging new growth.

Weed Control

All hard and newly planted landscaped areas should be monitored and weeding carried out in areas that are failing to establish.

Shrubs/Trees

Hand weed to base area. Tree pits shall be kept clear of weeds and trees planted in grass should have a bare circle of soil at least 1m diameter maintained around the trunk.

Any failure of tree or hedge planting to be replaced with matching species in the first planting season following failure.