Preparation and Aftercare

Weed Control

Prior to planting and when trees are first establishing, the roots of grass and other weeds would be at a similar level of that of the newly planted and establishing trees and are far more efficient at taking up water and thus depriving the trees of water.

- It is vital that prior to planting and for 3 years after planting that the trees have a 1m wide circle completely free from grass and weeds. Eliminating grass and weeds from within the 1m circle in order of effectiveness:
- 1. Remove the turf layer (approx. 25mm deep); within RPAs of existing trees this option is not ideal and either should not be considered or is to be undertaken under direct on-site arboricultural supervision;
- Spray off the grass and weeds with a gyphosate based weed killer. This is best undertaken a minimum of 1 week ahead of planting (manufactures instructions are to be adhered to). For maintenance of grass and weeds post planting glyphosate is best applied when the tree is dormant.
- Mowing and or strimming is NOT the answer to the problem and invariably leads to damage to the tree trunks.

Staking and ties

If trees are not correctly secured they will rock within their planting pits; roots not firmly in contact with the soil are unable to take up moisture and nutrients, resulting in die back or death of the tree.

Tree stakes (total of 2. one on either side of the rootball) are to be installed prior to back filling of the planting pit and situated so to make sure that they avoid the rootball; the purpose of a stakes is to anchor the tree and its root system.

The stakes are to be a round stake and are to be driven into the base of the planting pit, these should have a diameter of c.75mm and be long enough to secure firmly into the base of the planting pit and extend to a minimum of 50mm above the top of the tree ties.

- The trees are to be secured to the stakes by the means of rubber tree ties and spacer blocks. There are multiple types of tie but the main two are:
- Fixed, these are a solid (normally reinforced) rubber strap that is passed around the tree and one stake and through a spacer block with the tails nailed to the stake (repeated for both stakes);
 Adjustable, these are normally a flexible or solid (normally reinforced) rubber straps
- that have a buckle or some other form of adjustment. The tree ties are to be situated no higher than 1/3 of the height of the clear stem of the tree (e.g. the ties would be situated no higher than c.330mm above ground level on a tree with a

clear stem of 1m). The stakes and tree ties are to be inspected every 6 months to see if any adjustment is required, particular after heavy winds or rain and are to be removed completely at the

beginning of the 3rd growing season (2 years) after planting.

Mulching

Mulch is valuable for your trees health and care as it insulates the soil and provides a buffer from hot and cold temperate's; it helps to retain moisture; it helps with weed prevention, soil compaction and mower & strimmer damage.

The mulch is to be laid around the base of the tree to a minimum of a 1m radius from the trunk of the tree(s) and is to be laid and maintained at a depth of 75mm to 100mm deep. Biodegradable mulches gradually break down and release nutrients into the soil and help improve soil structure. Due to the natural process the mulch reduces over time and should be checked and topped up annually for at least the first 5 years after planting.

<u>Watering</u> The main reason is trees die during the establishment period is due to lack of water; it is essential that especially during the spring and summer months to give a heavy enough watering to enable the water to penetrate right down to the deepest roots of the.

During the spring and summer months (March / April through to September) it is suggested that the tress are to receive c.20L (liters) of water every other week. Depending upon weather conditions (extended periods of rain, frost or heat) during these

core periods, the suggested quantities of water and the frequency of watering may need to be adjusted to make allowances so not to cause over watering or drought conditions.



Planting Schedule

Name	Planting location	Quantity	Height (MM)	Girth (CM)	Form	Root system
Hybrid cherry <i>Prunus</i> "Accolade"	A	1	250-300	8-10 (Max.)	Std	Root ball / Container
Plant material shall comply with British Standard BS3936:Part 1: 1992, Nursery Stock, Part 1. "Specification for trees and shrubs". Planting shall be undertaken in accordance with British Standard BS8545:2014 "Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations".						

