

Public Realm

Master Specification

Part PR-LS-M1 Maintenance of Plants

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PR-LS-M1 Maintenance of Plants

1 General

- 1.1 This Part specifies the requirements for maintenance of tubestock, general nursery stock, aquatic plants, and advanced trees. This includes replacement of defective, damaged or dead plants, watering of plants, weed control, pest / disease control, follow-up fertiliser, pruning of plants, maintenance of marker stakes, tree guards, weed mats, mulch, and the removal of marker stakes and tree guards.
- 1.2 The Contractor is responsible for maintenance for the period stated in the Contract. The following Clauses describe maintenance work appropriate for normal conditions. The Contractor shall perform various operations to suit seasonal and / or other conditions affecting the condition of the Extent of Works area indicated on the Drawings or in the Design Report.
- 1.3 All clauses of this Part apply unless otherwise specified in the Contract Scope or Requirements.
- 1.4 Where a specification differs between the Drawing and the Design Report, the Drawing shall take precedence.
- 1.5 If not specified in the Drawings or Design Report, the clauses in this Part shall be followed.
- 1.6 Where required under the Controlled Substances Act 1984, and the Controlled Substances (Pesticides) Regulations 2017, employees undertaking pest control work shall hold a current Pest Management Technician's License.

2 Replacement of Defective, Damaged or Dead Plants

- 2.1 Replacement of plants shall be carried out in accordance with Part PR-LS-C2 "Planting".
- 2.2 Where plants within the Contract area have become damaged, defective or have died as a result of the Contractors operations, they shall be removed and replaced within 7 days with the plants of the same species and provenance and shall be established to healthy vigorous growth, at the Contractor's expense.
- 2.3 Where the plants have become damaged, defective or have died as a result of vandalism, they shall be removed and replaced within 7 days with plants of the same species and provenance and shall be established to healthy vigorous growth, at the Principal's expense, and subject to approval by the Principal. If the same species and provenance is not available, the Contractor shall seek prior approval from the Principal to replace the plant with an alternative species.
- 2.4 Approval for replacement of plants due to vandalism shall constitute a **Hold Point**.

3 Watering of Plants

- 3.1 The Contractor shall ensure that all plants maintain growth and are free from water stress at all times. Water stress may include the lack of appropriate available water or an over-supply of water.
- 3.2 Water shall be of adequate quality for plant survival.
- 3.3 The Principal shall be advised at least one day prior to the commencement of a hand watering event.
- 3.4 The watering bowl shall be kept intact at all times, unless otherwise directed by the Principal.
- 3.5 If an irrigation system has been installed as part of the Contract, the Contractor shall use the system to water the plants to maintain good health and growth.
- 3.6 The Contractor shall ensure that the irrigation system is fully operational at all times and that all plants are receiving the correct amount of water.

4 Weed Control

- 4.1 Weeds shall be controlled by the Contractor before they reach maturity and are able to reproduce, or the weed mass is greater than 5 % of the vegetative cover, whichever occurs first.
- 4.2 Weeds growing inside a tree guard or within the plant structure shall be hand-pulled. Disturbance to the soil shall be minimised.
- 4.3 For tubestock, general nursery stock and advanced trees and palms, an area of 1,200 mm diameter around all plants shall be kept free of weeds and planted mulched beds shall be kept free of weeds. If herbicides are used a herbicide marker dye shall be incorporated. The herbicide shall be used according to the manufacturer's recommended rates. Any off-target damage shall be rectified by the Contractor.
- 4.4 Selective herbicides shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and shall be approved by the Principal. Any off-target damage shall be rectified by the Contractor.
- 4.5 The Contractor shall complete Appendix 1: Maintenance of Plants Schedule recommending preferred methods of weed control for the project and provide details of the chemicals and application rates to be used and provide a copy of this Schedule to the Principal. Appendix 1: Maintenance of Plants Schedule shall be updated by the Contractor as required during the contract period.

5 Pest / Disease Control

- 5.1 Insect pests, fungus and disease shall be controlled by means of appropriate treatment.
- 5.2 The Contractor is responsible for ensuring insect pests, fungus and diseases are controlled by means of appropriate treatments during the maintenance period.
- 5.3 All chemicals shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and shall be approved by the Principal. Any off-target damage shall be made good by the Contractor at the Contractor's expense.
- 5.4 The Contractor shall complete Appendix 1: Maintenance of Plants Schedule recommending preferred methods of pest/disease control for the project, and chemicals and application rates to be used and provide a copy of this Schedule to the Principal. Appendix 1: Maintenance of Plants Schedule shall be updated by the Contractor as required during the contract period.

6 Maintenance of Marker Stakes, Tree Guards, Tree Stakes, Tree Ties and Weed Mats

- 6.1 Where marker stakes, tree guards, tree stakes, tree ties or weed mats within the Extent of Works area indicated on the Drawings or in the Design Report have become damaged or defective, they shall be replaced immediately by the Contractor with the same product which shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

7 Maintenance of Mulch

- 7.1 Mulch shall be maintained to the original specified type, extent and depth for the duration of the maintenance period in the contract. The mulch shall be topped up annually to meet the original specified type, extent and depth at final handover.

8 Formative Pruning

- 8.1 The Contractor shall selectively remove specific branches to enhance form and improve structure, and to directionally shape the young tree. With smaller diameter branches it may be necessary to reduce the branch to a dormant bud. Formative pruning shall aim to reduce the development of structural weaknesses and to accommodate site constraints and reduce encroachment on utilities, buildings or pathways as the tree grows. Pruning of trees shall be undertaken in accordance with AS4373 by a person with appropriate qualifications in horticulture or arboriculture.

9 Pruning of Plants

- 9.1 Plants shall be pruned to ensure they do not encroach onto pathways, concrete spoon drains, drainage inlet and outlet structures, gates or maintenance access facilities.

10 Follow-up Fertiliser

- 10.1 The Contractor shall apply follow-up application(s) of fertiliser annually or as required and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

11 Removal of Tree Stakes, Marker Stakes and Tree Guards

- 11.1 Tree stakes, marker stakes and tree guards shall be removed at the end of the Maintenance Period unless an alternative has been approved by the Principal.

12 Hold Points

- 12.1 The following is a summary of Hold Points referenced in this Part:

Table PR-LS-M1 12-1 Hold Points

Ref.	Hold Point	Response Time
2.4	Approval for replacement of plants due to vandalism	5 working days

Appendix 1: Maintenance of Plants Schedule

METHOD:

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HERBICIDE DETAILS:

DESCRIPTION	APPLICATION RATE	
Chemicals to be used for Broadleaf Weeds	Rate per litre	
Chemicals to be used for Foliar Spray	Rate per litre	
Chemicals to be used for herbaceous weed control, if applicable	Rate per litre water	Litres per hectare

PESTICIDE DETAILS:

DESCRIPTION (Chemicals to be used for Pest/Disease Control)	APPLICATION RATE per litre

.....
Contractor's signature

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Date