

PLANTING 09C

MUNICIPAL **INFRASTRUCTURE** TECHNICAL **SPECIFICATION**

09 - LANDSCAPE

Transport Canberra and City Services

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Endorsed By:	Karl Cloos	Director, Infrastructure Planning
Approved By:	Ken Marshall	Executive Branch Manager, Roads ACT

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1 PLANTING

1.1 General

General: This Specification comprises of supply and planting of containerised trees and shrubs on natural ground.

Exclusions: This specification does not cover planting in structural soils, on podium or in planters, or environmental rehabilitation/revegetation, wetland and pond planting, super-advanced stock, or transplanting.

1.1.1 Cross references

General: The following documents are related to this Specification:

1.1.1.1 Legislation

Environmental Protection Act

Work Health and Safety Act

Waste Minimisation Act

1.1.1.2 Specifications

Requirement: Conform to the following:

MITS 00 Preliminaries

MITS 02 Bulk Earthworks

MITS 03 Subsurface Drainage

MITS 08 Incidental Works

MITS 09 Landscape

1.1.1.3 Design Standards

General: The following Design Standards are related to this Specification:

MIS 24 Soft Landscape Design

Attachment B Design acceptance requirements

1.1.1.4 TCCS Reference Documents

General: The following TCCS reference documents are related to this Specification:

Reference document 04 Protection of public landscape assets

Reference document 07 Operational acceptance submissions

Reference document 08 Works as executed quality records

Reference document 09 Final acceptance submissions

Reference document 10 Landscape consolidation

Reference document 11 Drafting Standard for Civil and Landscape works

1.1.2 Referenced documents

1.1.2.1 Standards

General: The following documents are incorporated into this Specification by reference:

AS 4454 Composts, soil conditioners and mulches

AS2303 Tree Stock for Landscape Use

1.1.2.2 Other publications

Proprietary products: To TCCS Products previously considered for use list

1.1.3 Interpretation

1.1.3.1 Abbreviations

General: For the purposes of this Specification the following abbreviations apply:

ITP: Inspection and Test plan.

TCCS: Transport Canberra and City Services

1.1.3.2 Definitions

General: For the purposes of this Specification the definitions given in *AS2303* and the following apply:

Consolidation Period: Term used to describe the Maintenance establishment period.

Destructive inspection (of trees): The washing away of all soil from a rootball to allow inspection of rootball development.

Investigative inspection: Any method of root inspection that involves the washing away of all or portions of the soil from the rootball to expose a section or all the roots.

Partial inspection (of trees): A method of exposing a section of a root system to enable inspection of root development by washing the soil away in a wedge-shaped section from the stem to the extremity of the rootball. This soil can be gently replaced so the tree is not damaged.

Large tree: A tree grown in a container not less than 20 L or ex-ground with a minimum rootball diameter of 400 mm.

Small trees: Tree grown in a container less than 20 L.

Shrub: A woody perennial plant smaller than a tree, usually having permanent stems branching from or near the ground.

Groundcover: Low growing plant that covers the ground.

Grasses/strap leafed plants: Plants consisting of large numbers close growing slender leaves.

Virocell/Virotube: small specialised container for growing plants, preventing root bound plants by training downward root growth into an open base allowing air pruning.

Spring ring container: Specialised container for growing trees that directs roots outwards into indentations where the roots are air pruned, preventing root spiralling, and encouraging dense outwardly pointing root systems.

Provenance stock: Plant stock that is grown from locally sourced seed collected from vegetation communities from similar conditions to the vicinity of the works (within 10's of kms of project site unless otherwise approved).

1.1.4 Hold points and witness points

1.1.4.1 Notice

General: Give notice so that the documented inspection and submissions may be made to the **Hold point table**, the **Witness point table**

Table 9C-1 Hold point table

Item	Clause title	Requirement	Notice for inspection	Release by
Execution				
9C.1	Plant provenance	Provide written certification to meet the specification requirements for provenance stock	A minimum of (4) weeks prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person
9C.2	Inspection of plant material	Notify that the stock is ready to be inspected for conformance.	A minimum of (3) three days prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person
9C.3	Plant Substitution	Notify requirement for substitution and provide evidence as required.	A minimum of eight (8) weeks prior to planting	Authorised Person
9C.4	Preparation of surface before spreading of topsoil	Notify that surface has been prepared and ready for inspection prior to spreading of topsoil	A minimum of (2) two days prior to spreading of topsoil	Authorised Person
9C.5	Setout of planting completed	Notify that the planting positions have been marked onsite.	A minimum of Three (3) days prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person
9C.6	Setout of root barrier completed	Notify that root barrier positions have been marked onsite	A minimum of Three (3) days prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person
9C.7	Placement on consolidation	Notify that the works are sufficiently established for Placement on Consolidation	A minimum of two (2) weeks prior to inspection	Authorised Person
9C.8	End of consolidation	Notify that the works are sufficiently established for Placement on Consolidation	A minimum of two (2) weeks prior to inspection	Authorised Person
9C.9	Mulch	Submit representative sample	A minimum of 2 weeks prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person
9C.10	Maintenance Manuals	Submit maintenance manual demonstrating the care and maintenance tasks during the consolidation (maintenance period)	One (1) week prior to Placement on Consolidation	Authorised Person

Table 9C-2 Witness point table

Item	Clause title	Requirement	Notice for inspection	Release by		
Execut	Execution					
9C.1	Planting – excavation and placing	Notify that plant positions have been excavated and planting operations are underway	A minimum of One (1) day prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person		
9C.2	Backfilling of planting holes	Notify when planting operations are underway	A minimum of One (1) day prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person		
9C.3	Backfilling above subsoil drains	Notify that the subsoil drainage installation is underway	A minimum of Two (2) days prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person		
9C.4	Root Control Barrier	Notify that root barrier installation works are underway.	A minimum of Three (3) days prior to commencement of works	Authorised Person		

1.2 Plants supply

1.2.1 General

1.2.1.1 General

Requirement: Supply plants to the requirements of *AS 2303*, and all other plants required to complete the Contract works, with the following properties:

- > Free from injury.
- > Self supporting.
- > With calliper at any given point on the stem greater than the calliper at any higher point on the stem.
- > Health: Foliage size, texture and colour at time of delivery, consistent with that of healthy specimens for the nominated species.
- > Vigour: Extension growth consistent with that exhibited in vigorous specimens of the species nominated.
- > Free from damage and free from restricted habit due to growth in Nursery rows.
- > Free from pests and diseases.
- > Free from stress resulting from inadequate watering, excessive shade or excessive sunlight experienced at any time during their development.
- > Grown and hardened off to suit site conditions at the time of delivery.
- > Clean stem height: < 40% of total tree height as appropriate for the species.
- > Trunk position: Variation in distance from the centre of the trunk to the extremity of the rootball <10%.
- > Root development: Grown in their final containers for the following periods:
 - Plants <25L: More than 6 weeks
 - Plants >25L: More than 12 weeks

> Root system that:

- Is well-proportioned in relation to the size of the plant material.
- Is conducive to successful transplantation.
- Is free of any indication of having been root bound, spiralled or damaged.
- Has a rootball occupancy and soil retention that on shaking or handling the unsupported rootball, at least 90% of the soil volume remains intact.
- > Hardened off to the local conditions at time of planting.

1.2.1.2 Plant Provenance

General: where specified that provenance stock is to be used provide written certification that all plant material:

- > Has been grown from a local source nominated in the design documentation.
- > Is true to the required species and type.

This is a **HOLD POINT**.

1.2.1.3 Labelling

General: Clearly label plants and batches of plants.

Label type: To withstand transit without erasure or misplacement.

1.2.1.4 Plant Substitution

General: In general substitutions will not be supported.

Requirement: In the event the plants nominated in the design documentation are not available, the Contractor must submit the following for review and approval:

- > List of Unavailable species with proposed substitute.
- > List of suppliers which have advised that the species are unavailable.

This is **HOLD POINT.**

1.2.2 Plants - inspection

1.2.2.1 **General**

General: All plants shall be made available for inspection at any reasonable time.

Requirement: Prior to planting, the stock shall be inspected for conformance with this specification

This is a **HOLD POINT**.

Rejection: Sample plants rendered unsuitable for use will be replaced at no additional cost to the Contract.

1.2.2.2 Root Inspection:

Trees: Root systems of trees shall comply with AS 2303 clause 2.3 and as described in Plant supply.

Shrubs, Groundcovers, Grasses and Strap Plants: Root system for plants shall comply with the requirements of **Plants – inspection**.

Inspection: If inspection is by the removal of soil test such as destructive inspection, sample as follows:

- > For > 100 plants of each species: Inspect 1%.
- > For < 100 plants of each species: Inspect 1 sample.

Sample plants: Replace plants used in inspection.

Defective samples: the entire line represented by the defective sample may be rejected and must then be replaced, or corrective treatments carried out before planting as directed by the Superintendent.

Rejection: Do not provide root bound or inadequately developed stock.

1.2.2.3 Top growth of Plants

Standard: AS2303 for Trees.

Top growth of plants (trees and shrubs): All plants shall exhibit good health for the time of year, location and stage of growth as demonstrated by:

- > Crown density (full and vigorous foliage).
- > Crown cover (full foliage over entire plant).
- > Crown form (shape is consistent with the type of plant).
- > Leaf colour and size (no signs of yellowing / browning off, full sized leaves).
- > Absence of dieback (no dead or dying branches).
- > Absence of epicormics shoots in trees.
- > Stem taper evident in trees.
- > Included bark shall not be present in trees.
- > Free from pests and diseases.

1.2.2.4 Transportation of Tree Stock

Requirement: All tree stock must be transported in a closed container / vehicle.

1.2.2.5 Onsite Storage

Requirement: Plant immediately upon delivery to site. If an onsite Nursery is required for holding plants prior to planting, it shall be a vermin proof compound of sufficient size with provision for watering of the plants. All plants shall be adequately protected from frost, wind and sun.

1.3 Execution

1.3.1 Preparation

1.3.1.1 Clearing and Grubbing

Clearing and Grubbing: to MITS 02A Clearing and grubbing.

Temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures: To MITS 00C Control of erosion and sedimentation.

1.3.1.2 Bulk Earthworks

Bulk Earthworks: To MITS 02B Bulk earthworks.

Trimming and Finishing of surfaces: To MITS 02B Bulk earthworks.

1.3.2 Detailed excavation, cultivation and drainage for planting beds

1.3.2.1 General

Existing Trees: Works around trees to comply with approved Tree Management Plan. If not stated otherwise do not cultivate around roots of trees to be retained.

1.3.2.2 Excavated beds

Excavation: Excavate to depth indicated on design drawings to achieve finished design levels. Shape to fall to subsoil drains where required.

1.3.2.3 Preparation (Pre Topsoil)

Cultivation: Cultivate to 200mm depth, the floor of the excavation, or the unexcavated area to break up the surface. Harrow to break up clods. Allow for clearing and removing stones, exceeding 25mm and any roots, rubble, deleterious material brought to the surface. Trim surfaces to specified shape.

Gypsum: After cultivation, incorporate 750g/m² or 7.5kg/m³ gypsum into the top 100mm of the surface.

Method: Apply gypsum and chisel plough to a minimum of 100mm depth.

Finish: Surface to remain keyed to accept topsoil.

This is a **HOLD POINT.**

1.3.2.4 Drainage within Planting Beds

Requirement: To MITS 031 Subsurface drainage.

General: Install drainage as shown on the design drawings.

Drainage pipes: – 60mm or 100mm dia corrugated and slotted (as per design) to *MITS 03I Subsurface drainage*, connected to uPVC solid walled pipe to *MITS 03B Pipe drainage*.

Requirement: Before commencement of work, the contractor shall verify that the drainage intent as documented on the design drawings can be achieved to ensure no ponding or holding of water in planting beds. The contractor shall revise the layout if required to achieve drainage and submit to authorised person prior for approval prior to commencement of work.

Installation: Pipes to be laid with minimum 1%fall and connected to SW outfall.

Backfill: Minimum 50mm depth Type E Filter material to MITS 03I Subsurface drainage

1.3.3 Topsoil type and application

Selection: As per design documents. Specification: Refer MITS 09A Topsoil.

1.3.4 Planting

1.3.4.1 Setout

Requirement: Setout plants for inspection prior to planting as follows:

- > Trees: Place stake in each individual planting position.
- > Shrubs/Groundcovers/Grasses: Setout a representative sample of the plants within a bed to demonstrate density and species arrangement to meet the design requirements.
- > Offset plants from paths and hard edges in accordance with the design documents.

This is a **HOLD POINT.**

General: Give notice if it appears necessary to vary plant location and/or spacing to avoid service lines or achieve clearances as required by the design.

1.3.4.2 Excavation and Placing of Plants

General: Excavate a hole to the size as detailed or a minimum of twice the diameter of the root ball and at least 100mm deeper than the root ball. Break up the base of the hole to a further depth of 100mm, and loosen compacted sides of the hole to prevent confinement of root growth.

Street trees: TCCS require a minimum excavation of 2,500mm wide and 2,000mm long for tree modules within verges, unless otherwise approved.

Requirement: Post hole borers must not be used to excavate planting holes.

Placing: Remove the plant from the container with minimum disturbance to the root ball. Tease outer nominal 10mm to allow visible roots to establish into surrounding soil. Place it in its final position, in the centre of the hole and plumb, with the top soil level of the plant, level with the finished surface of the surrounding soil. Compact lightly so as to minimise subsidence without compacting the backfill. Avoid mixing mulch with topsoil.

Requirement: Plant root systems must be moist at the time of removal from the containers and not allowed to dry out during planting operations.

Ambient conditions: Do not plant in unsuitable weather conditions such as extreme heat, cold, wind or rain. Suspend operations when soil is wet or during frost periods.

This is a WITNESS POINT.

1.3.4.3 Backfilling

Method: Backfill with topsoil mixture. Lightly tamp and progressively firm during backfilling to eliminate air pockets. Make sure that topsoil is not placed over the top of the root ball, so the plant stem remains the same height above ground as it was in the container.

Fertilising: In planting beds and individual plantings, place fertiliser at the time of planting, but no closer than 100mm to the stem or trunk, before mulching with an all purpose fertiliser suitable for the plants being installed.

- > Shrubs and small evergreen trees: 60g.
- > Large trees (2m+): 90g.

Additives: Where required by the design documents combine additives such as moisture retention gels with the backfill at the time of planting. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and application rates.

Requirement: Backfilling shall be free from perennial weeds, stones, clods of subsoil or other extraneous material.

This is a WITNESS POINT.

1.3.4.4 Watering Basins

General: Provide watering basins to spot planted trees and large shrubs in grassed areas where detailed. Plants in irrigated grass that do not have a basin, shall have a weed free surround of minimum 500mm dia

Method: Form a raised compacted soil ring of minimum one (1) metre diameter and 150mm height, capable of holding a minimum of 20L of water around the base of each tree.

Requirement: Soil used to form basin shall be free from rocks, weeds and debris.

Mulch: Install minimum 75mm depth mulch within the basin. Mulch to be kept away from tree stem.

Requirement: Mulch shall be minimum 75mm depth at end of Consolidation period.

1.3.4.5 Watering

Requirement: Water plants immediately after planting to ensure thorough wetting of the root ball and settling of disturbed soil.

Establishment: Continue to water plants throughout the contract period as required to maintain growth free of water stress.

1.3.4.6 Staking

General: Stakes shall be provided to those trees as per design details.

Minimum staking requirements:

- > Deciduous trees ≥ 2.5m height Tie tree to two (2) number stakes, 50 x 50mm x 2.4m height, driven 600mm into the ground.
- > Deciduous trees 1.5-2.5m height— Tie tree to two (2) number stakes, 50 x 50mm x 2.4m height, driven 600mm into the ground.
- > Native trees Mark with One (1) number stake, 25 x 25mm x 1.2m height, driven 600mm into the ground. Do not tie tree unless detailed in design documents.

Minimum clearance of stake to tree trunk: 300mm.

Minimum tying requirements: Use Proprietary brand, purpose made, broad flat webbing. Fix ties securely to stakes, positioned to support the tree, one tie at half the height of the main stem, and the other as necessary to stabilise the plant. Tension of the ties shall be such that the trunk can move to and fro at least 25mm at the point of support.

1.3.4.7 **Pruning**

Requirement: All pruning to be carried out by qualified horticulturalist. Cuts to be clean, avoiding long stubs and flush cuts to remove broken, bruised or dead branches.

1.3.5 Root control barrier

Requirement: Install root barrier as per the contract requirements.

Setout: Mark each root barrier location centred on each tree

This is a **HOLD POINT**

Material: HDPE roll, minimum 450mm wide, minimum 6m continuous length, centred on the tree trunk. Do not join shorter sections to achieve full length.

Installation: Excavate narrow trench 75-150mm wide, (ditch witch or similar endless chain excavator). Insert barrier, vertically with the top edge level with the finished ground surface. Backfill with excavated material compacting to eliminate subsidence. Remove sharp/ pointy backfill which may puncture barrier. Cut/ notch the barrier to fit around services.

Finish: Root barrier shall finish flush or maximum 50mm below topsoil.

This is a WITNESS POINT.

1.3.6 Mulching

1.3.6.1 Organic Mulch Materials

Certified Playground Softfall Mulch: Refer to MITS08B Play equipment and organic surfacing.

Requirement: Must be free of stones, soil and other extraneous material such as building materials/rubbish and other such contaminants.

Specification: AS4454.

Selection: As per design documents.

Pine bark: Premium mulch (equal to playground softfall grade mulch) from mature trees, graded in size and free from wood slivers.

Pine flake: Pinus species sapwood slivers graded in size, including fragments of pine bark.

Pine chip: From mature trees, graded in size.

Eucalyptus chip: From mature trees graded in size.

Tree Surgery Loppings: Tree surgery loppings including bark, sap wood, heart wood, leaves from trunks, large limbs, branches and twigs. This excludes recycled green waste

Recycled Green Waste: Use of this material will be subject to approval.

Sample: Submit sample of specified mulch prior to delivery. Label sample with name of supplier, name of mulch and grading of material.

This is a **HOLD POINT**.

1.3.6.2 Inorganic mulch types

Requirement: Must be free of stones, soil and other extraneous material such as building material / waste.

Specification: AS4454.

Selection: As per design documents.

River stones/pebble mulch: Uniform size or graded material.

Decomposed granite gravel: Uniform size or graded material in the size range 5 – 10mm, of uniform colour and low plasticity.

Shale/Crushed Rock: Uniform size or graded material from rock or rock like material which readily splits, but does not disintegrate with further handling and / or exposure to weather.

Sample: Submit sample of specified mulch prior to delivery. Label sample with name of supplier, name of mulch and grading of material.

This is a **HOLD POINT**.

1.3.6.3 Spreading

Depth: As indicated on drawings and raked smooth to finish flush with surrounding finished levels. After settling, mulch shall average the nominated design depth.

Requirement: at completion of consolidation period, mulch shall average the nominated design depth.

1.3.7 Ripline planting

Method: Rip the row to a minimum depth of 450mm in the direction of the contour, minimum 3m apart.

Excavation: Excavate a plant hole for each plant large enough to accept the root ball plus 0.1m³ of backfilling with topsoil. Clear weeds and other vegetative material within 300mm radius of the plants. If planting holes are excavated by mechanical means increase the hole size by 100mm and loosen compacted sides to prevent confinement of root growth.

Completion: After ripping and planting, site shall be left in a mowable condition, free of stones larger than 25mm, clods or earth larger than 50mm.

1.4 Consolidation

1.4.1 General

Duration: The duration of the Consolidation period shall be a minimum of twenty-six (26) weeks from date of issue of certificate for Placement on Consolidation until date of issue of certificate for Final Acceptance or as otherwise nominated in the design documents.

1.4.2 Requirements for placement on consolidation

Work as Executed Records: To MITS 00B Quality Requirements.

Requirement: At time of Placement on Consolidation trees shall demonstrate the following:

- > Be healthy and vigorous foliage, branches and trunk.
- > Be free from pests and diseases.
- > Have watering basins that are fully formed and intact, mulched and weed free.
- > Have stakes and ties correctly placed and securely fixed where required.
- > Soil moisture level within watering basin at field capacity.
- > Plants pruned if required to proper form.

Requirement: At time of Placement on Consolidation planting beds shall demonstrate the following:

- > Healthy and vigorous plants, with the correct number and density of plants in accordance with the design.
- > Plants Free from pests and diseases.
- > Mulch areas to the depth nominated in the design documents.

Weeds: No weeds present or show evidence that weeds have been sprayed.

This is a **HOLD POINT**.

Rectification: Following inspection, all defects or deficiencies shall be rectified within seven (7) days of date of inspection.

1.4.3 Works during consolidation

Requirement: Provide continuous care and maintenance of the contract area utilising best practice horticultural standards in accordance with the submitted consolidation program.

Minimum Works during consolidation:

- > Watering to maintain plants free from stress.
- > Maintenance of stakes and ties and watering basins.
- > Weeding.
- > Fertilising.
- > Plant replacements.

1.4.4 Completion of consolidation period

Document submission requirements: To meet TCCS Reference Documents.

Requirement: the minimum requirements shall be displayed at the end of the consolidation period:

- > Plants and trees shall be healthy with the prospect of ongoing good health and survival.
- > Planting beds and watering basins shall be free of weeds or show evidence that weeds have been sprayed.
- > Mulch in watering basins and in planting beds shall at the minimum depth specified on the design drawings. Top up of mulch shall be undertaken prior to inspection if necessary.
- > Trees true to form.

This is a **HOLD POINT**.

Rectification: Following inspection, all defects or deficiencies shall be rectified within seven (7) days of date of inspection.

2 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

2.1 Measurement

2.1.1 General

Payments made to the Bill of Quantities: To MITS 00A General requirements, this Specification, the drawings and **Pay items**.

2.1.1.1 Methodology

The following methodology will be applied for measurement and payment

- > Allow for all work, materials, testing and quality assurance requirements in each Pay Item.
- > Temporary erosion and sedimentation control: To MITS 00C Control of erosion and sedimentation.
- > Bulk Earthworks and Trimming and Finishing of Surfaces: To MITS 02B Bulk earthworks.
- > Removal of unsuitable material: to MITS 02B Bulk earthworks.
- > Detailed excavation for planting beds: To this specification .
- > Drainage: To MITS 031 Subsurface drainage.
- > Topsoil supply and placement: To MITS 09A Topsoil.
- > Excavation for planting in rock: No additional payment will be made for overbreak.

2.2 Pay items

Table 9C-3 Pay items table

Item No	Pay Item	Unit of measurement	Schedule of rates scope
9C.1	Preparation - Excavated Planting bed	m ² of planting bed	All activities associated with detailed excavation to the specified depth in all materials encountered, cultivation, trimming and shaping, prior to topsoil placement
9C.2	Preparation - Unexcavated Planting bed	m ² of planting bed	All activities associated with cultivation, trimming and shaping, prior to topsoil placement
9C.3	Planting	Per plant	All activities associated with the supply of plants, spot excavation, backfilling with soil as detailed including fertiliser and additives, staking, pruning, formation of watering basin, mulch, watering in. This pay item shall include all ongoing care required to maintain planting until the works are accepted for placement on consolidation.

Item No	Pay Item	Unit of measurement	Schedule of rates scope
9C.4	Excavation for planting in rock	m ³ of designed planting hole excavation size	Excavation for plants in rock which cannot be loosened by a CASE loader / backhoe 580L. All activities associated with the excavation of planting holes in rock extra over Planting.
9C.5	Root control barrier	Linear metre of root control barrier	All activities associated with the excavation, supply and installation of root barrier as specified.
9C.6	Mulching	m ³ The volume is determined by the area of work as measured by survey and specified on the drawings or as directed by the Authorised Person multiplied by the relevant design thickness shown on the drawings.	All activities associated with the construction of mulched areas including the provision of samples, trimming and boxing out of edges, supply and spreading to the specified depth, tidying up of spillage. This pay item shall include topping up of mulch beds to the specified settled depth at the end of the Consolidation period.
9C.7	Consolidation	Per week	All activities associated with continual care and maintenance in accordance with submitted consolidation plan and to meet requirements of this specification.



Transport Canberra and City Services

July 2019