

Carry out post-planting tree protection and maintenance

Overview

This standard is about carrying out post-planting tree protection and maintenance, in line with the specification. This includes protection of the tree from a range of damaging agents such as insects, mammals and the weather as well as maintenance of support systems and plants. It is not about the managing or controlling of pest populations.

Post-planting protection and maintenance may take many forms, depending on the tree type, size and the nature of the planting scheme.

When working with machinery or chemicals you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use tools and equipment that are appropriate to the work, safely and effectively
5. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
6. check that all materials are those detailed in the specification
7. check that the materials are in good condition and match the requirements of the specification, and report any defects or deficiencies in materials to the relevant person
8. carry out post-planting tree protection in line with the specification, avoiding damage to the planted trees and to the environment
9. carry out post-planting tree maintenance in line with the specification, avoiding damage to the planted trees and to the environment
10. follow relevant environmental good practice set by your organisation and the industry, and minimise environmental damage
11. remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them as specified
12. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the types of tools and equipment required and how to maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with the manufacturer's recommendations
5. the legal requirements for checking equipment
6. how to check that the condition of materials is satisfactory
7. why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and vehicles on site
8. damaging agents and how to protect against them
9. the methods of post-planting tree protection and when to use them
10. the methods of post-planting tree maintenance and how they are applied
11. the correct methods for disposing of surplus materials and waste
12. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how it can be minimised
13. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range

Carry out two of the following types of post-planting tree maintenance:

- soil amelioration
- watering
- repair/replacement of protection
- maintenance of support systems

Use four from the following range of post-planting tree protection:

- tree guards
- mulching
- fencing
- netting
- staking
- guards and quills
- “street furniture” in ornamental plantings
- underground systems
- population control

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Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding	<p>Know how to choose post-planting tree protection against the following range of damaging agents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• insects• deer• voles• rabbits/hares• vandals• weather
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