

General Notes - Tree Specification

TREE HEALTH	All foliage should be free of significant leaf lesions or abnormal discolouration. The crown structure should be free from any dieback. Foliar density and size should be typical of the species and or cultivar. Extension growth should be compared with and comparable to the growth of the previous year where this is apparent. The main trunk/stem of the tree should be free of abnormal excessive adventitious bud development. The main trunk/stem should be free from any significant untypical flattening. There should be no epicormic growth emerging from the rootstock of the tree.																																											
TESTING	A statistically significant sample of all tree species on the nursery should have been independently tested for their physiological health, using leaf fluorescence, chlorophyll content and cell electrolyte leakage with results compared to the nursery benchmark to ensure that the trees are in optimum physiological condition and fit for purpose. The independent report of physiological health testing should be available for inspection																																											
BIOSECURITY	All imported trees for transplanting into the UK landscape should have spent at least one full growing season on a UK nursery and have been subjected to a full pest and disease programme. Evidence of this control programme, together with a comprehensive audit trail of when the imported trees were received and how long they have been on the nursery, should be available. This audit trail should extend beyond the nursery after despatch, allowing for a full recall in the event that any pest and or disease problems may subsequently manifest themselves in the landscape.																																											
TREE GROWTH 1	Growth between stock and scion wood should be equitable with no disproportionate growth apparent between the two. The supplying nursery should be able to indicate the understock used to produce any particular cultivar. At no time during the production process should the bud union have been below soil level. No epicormic growth should be apparent emerging from the stock wood.																																											
TREE GROWTH 2	All young trees should have a clearly defined strong leader. All lateral branches should be subordinated to the leader and should never be more than 25% of the diameter of the main stem at the branch union. All formative pruning wounds should exhibit healthy and continuous bark occlusion with all pruning cuts made leaving the branch collar clearly visible and intact on the main stem. All branches which are poorly attached, are inward growing or cross and rub other branches should be removed or subordinated to the central stem.																																											
TREE GROWTH 3	All young trees should exhibit a clearly defined stem taper appropriate to the species and evident from crown tip through to root flare. All young trees should have a proportionate and balanced height/stem girth ratio appropriate to the species. At the point of despatch all trees should be wholly self supporting and free from any extraneous canes or ties in the crown.																																											
BARE ROOT	All root systems should be typical for the species and should display a well-balanced radial root system comprising of at least four obvious and substantial lateral roots. Root systems should not be predominantly one directional. All bare root systems should meet the height size parameters below: <table><tr><td>Height (m)</td><td>Diameter of root spread (mm)</td></tr><tr><td>2.5-3</td><td>450</td></tr><tr><td>3-3.5</td><td>550</td></tr><tr><td>3.5+</td><td>700</td></tr></table> All bare root systems should have a significant amount of fibrous root commensurate with the species. Bare root trees on the nursery trees should have several lateral roots near the soil surface.		Height (m)	Diameter of root spread (mm)	2.5-3	450	3-3.5	550	3.5+	700																																		
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ROOTBALL	All rootballed trees should have been transplanted or undercut at least the minimum number of times and have the minimum rootball diameter as specified below: <table><tr><td>Girth</td><td>Rootball diam. (mm)</td><td>Undercut/transplanted</td></tr><tr><td>8-10</td><td>300</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>10-12</td><td>300</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>12-14</td><td>400</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>14-16</td><td>450</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>16-18</td><td>500</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>18-20</td><td>550</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>20-25</td><td>600</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>25-30</td><td>700</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>30-35</td><td>800</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>35-40</td><td>900</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>40-45</td><td>1000</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>45-50</td><td>1200</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>50-60</td><td>1300</td><td>6</td></tr></table> The root flare should be clearly visible at the surface of the rootball. The final root pruning cut should be at least 200-300mm from the exterior of the rootball. The soil ball should not move independently of the central stem.		Girth	Rootball diam. (mm)	Undercut/transplanted	8-10	300	-	10-12	300	-	12-14	400	3	14-16	450	3	16-18	500	3	18-20	550	3	20-25	600	4	25-30	700	4	30-35	800	4	35-40	900	5	40-45	1000	5	45-50	1200	5	50-60	1300	6
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CONTAINERISED	All containerised trees should be free of root circling or root girdling. All nurseries supplying containerised trees should be able to specify the 'shelflife' date of individual or batches of trees. The beginnings of the root flare of all containerised trees should be clearly visible on the surface of the container. Where trees are transferred from smaller to larger containers evidence should be provided to demonstrate that any root defects/circling roots have been shaved from the container ball prior to re-containerisation.																																											