



Coastal Plain Conservation Nursery, Inc.

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Sample specifications for stormwater wetlands

All herbaceous plants within the shallow water zones shall be installed between April 1 and July 31 of _____. Installation of herbaceous shallow water plants after this date entails an increased risk of failure and may only be performed upon mutual agreement between the installation contractor and owner or owner's representative.

The installer must take great care to ensure that plants awaiting installation are kept moist and shaded at all times. Under no circumstances shall plant roots be allowed to dry out during transport, storage or installation.

Each planting area (shallow land and shallow water) shall be clearly identified and marked prior to installing plants. Vertical distance from normal pool (permanent pool) shall be the primary means of locating the planting areas.

All plants within the wetland proper (shallow water and shallow land zones) shall be installed as large drifts of a single plant species, unless otherwise specified.

Planting holes or slits of herbaceous species shall be deep enough to allow the crown of the plant to be at grade level, while roots extend vertically into the substrate without kinking. Soil should not be loosened more than necessary.

When installing containerized trees and shrubs in loose soils, planting holes should equal the width of the container. When installing containerized trees and shrubs on tight or compacted soils, an area of soil twice the width of the container should be loosened before the planting hole is dug in the center of the loosened area. In no case should the sides of the planting hole be round, slick and compacted. Planting holes for shrubs shall be 2/3 the height of the root ball. Root flare shall be set slightly above grade level. After placement in the hole, loose soil shall be added to form a mound twice the diameter and slightly higher than the top of the root ball, completely covering it. Once plants are set in place, soil must be pressed gently but firmly against the entire root mass, working in a deep to shallow direction, so that water can move via capillary action from the soil to the plant roots.

Approximately 5 grams of a balanced slow release fertilizer shall be installed next to each herbaceous large plug within the wetland. Approximately 20 grams of a balanced slow release fertilizer shall be installed next to each woody gallon shrub within the wetland. Fertilizer may be omitted if 6 inches of fertile topsoil has been applied throughout the wetland.

It is the responsibility of _____ to ensure that the soil in each planting area is moist or wet when plants are installed and for 45 days after installation. It is the responsibility of _____ to ensure that the wetland draw down orifice does not clog, causing water levels to remain high and killing the plants.

Planting densities and sizes shall be as follows

At least 50 herbaceous plants of at least 4 cubic-inch container shall be installed per 200 ft² of shallow water area.

At least 50 herbaceous plants of at least 4 cubic-inch container OR 8 shrubs of at least 1-gallon container OR 1 tree of at least 3 gallon container and 40 grass-like herbaceous plants of at least 4 cubic-inch container shall be installed per 200 ft² of shallow land area.

At least 5 species shall be utilized in the shallow water zones, and 5 for shallow land, with no more than 30% of a single species. The genetic origin ("provenance") of the plants shall be as close as feasible to the wetland site. Except for provenance, genetic diversity is encouraged and cultivars should not be utilized.