

LANDSCAPE QUALITY STANDARDS

2017

Staff Guidance



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Introduction

Landscape Quality Standards focus on the result not the process. They are a means of defining levels of measurable quality. It is not the purpose of the standards to indicate how a job or task should be performed.

The following tables provide a standard for specific landscape features within a park or greenspace. Each landscape feature is measured against the tolerance as indicated for specific characteristics (e.g. litter, grass length).

It is worthwhile clarifying what is meant by the characteristic 'Litter / Debris' as it applies to all features. Litter is anything small that is deposited and left that causes defacement in a public place. Debris is simply everything else that should not be present in the greenspace i.e. a pile of rubble etc. Habitat piles and dead wood deliberately left should not be considered as litter / debris.

Visual representations of the standards being met and not met have been included where available.

Standard Amenity Grass

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Grass Length	April – October > 25-60mm November – March > 25-80mm
Litter / Debris	No more than 2%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 10cm or more	No more than 5%
Edges	Within 8cm of turf in clean and even manner
Acceptable vegetative cover	No less than 90%
Animal Fouling	No more than one instance
Overall Appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

Standard Amenity Grass cont.



Low maintenance Grass

also including:

Biodiversity / Meadow Grass

Naturalised Bulbs in Grass

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Litter / Debris	No more than 2%
Unwanted species found in area e.g. nettles, dock leaves	No more than 5%
Surrounding grass length	1.5m strip around low maintenance grass – maintained to adjacent standard
Vegetative ground cover	No less than 85%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 10cm or more	No more than 5%
Animal fouling	No more than one instance
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner



Plant Beds – including Shrub, Rose, Annual, Herbaceous & Mixed

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Weed Cover	Cover – no more than 5% Height – no more than 7.5cm
Litter / Debris	No more than 2%
Planting Density	As per recommended m2 planting density for species
Evidence of Pruning	Plant material shows evidence of required pruning for species
Mulch Depth & Distribution or Tilth Grade	Mulch – no less than 5cm in a clean & even distribution Tilth - Medium
Edges	As defined in the specification for adjacent grass
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner



Hedge Formal

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Encroachment	No more than 25cm
Foreign Growth	No more than 5%
Gaps	No more than 20cm
Litter / Debris	No more than 2% within base of hedge
Underlying Vegetation	No more than 5% within base of hedge
Evidence of Pruning	Plant material shows evidence of required pruning for species
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner



Hedge Informal

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Encroachment	No more than 40cm
Foreign Growth	No more than 10%
Gaps	No more than 40cm
Litter / Debris	No more than 2% within base of hedge
Underlying Vegetation	No more than 5% within base of hedge
Evidence of Pruning	Plant material shows evidence of required pruning for species
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

Woodland & Copse Areas

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Litter / Debris	No more than 2%
Invasive Weeds	No untreated infestations
Tree Damage	No more than 1%
Encroachment	No more than 40cm
Margin Vegetation	Graduated cut to adjacent feature
Animal Fouling	No more than one instance
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner



Single Standard Tree

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Weeds	Weed free within 1m diameter of base
Mulch or Tilth	Sufficient depth and coverage or a medium tilth
Stake & Tie	Secure and causing no damage
Tree Guard	Slight movement and base gap
Damage	No recent damage
Litter / Debris	No more than 2%
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner



Pitch – Football & Rugby – also incl. Athletics/Sports markings

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Grass Length	25mm – 70mm
Litter / Debris	No more than 1%
Grass Cover	No less than 85%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 10cm or more	No more than 1%
Line Marking	In a straight & clean manner – visible from 30m
Animal Fouling	Nil
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

Cricket Square / Wicket

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Grass Length	2mm – 8mm
Litter / Debris	No more than 1%
Grass Cover	No less than 85%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 10cm or more	No more than 1%
Line Marking	In a straight & clean manner – visible from 30m
Animal Fouling	Nil
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

Cricket Outfield

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Grass Length	8mm – 30mm
Litter / Debris	Nil
Grass Cover	No less than 85%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 10cm or more	No more than 1%
Weed Cover	No more than 3%
Animal Fouling	Nil
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

Bowling Green

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Grass Length	2mm – 14mm
Litter / Debris	Nil
Grass Cover	No less than 95%
Evenness of Surface	2m straight edge – no more than 10mm drop
Weed Cover	nil
Animal Fouling	Nil
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

Short Hole Golf

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Grass Length	2mm – 14mm
Litter / Debris	Nil
Grass Cover	No less than 95%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 10cm or more	No more than 1%
Weed Cover	nil
Animal Fouling	Nil
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

Synthetic Surface

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
Synthetic Cover	100%
Litter / Debris	Nil
Drainage	No standing water
Line Marking	In a straight & clean manner – visible from 30m
Weed Cover	nil
Animal Fouling	Nil
Overall appearance	Most of the aspects of the feature being maintained in a coordinated & appropriate manner

