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INSTALLING LIVING SCREENS IN GRP/FIBREGLASS AND LARCH PLANTERS

- The planters are delivered full constructed and the posts simply need to be dropped into the support sleeves in both GRP/Fibreglass and Larch planters, as shown in the photo below

Planter showing corner post sleeves to hold the posts
GRP/Fibreglass planters have a similar support sleeve

- If you have ordered the optional capping beam, place it in position on top of the posts and screw it into each post from above

- Planting the screens is easily carried out by any client with gardening experience, or local gardener / handyman / builder.

Requirements : One bag of drainage gravel or clay hydroponic pebbles (any 10+mm local garden centre gravel); 3* bags 60 litre of multipurpose compost per living screen planter; Slow release fertilizer; Heavy duty cable ties or Velcro tree ties or galvanised staples. (see below, including Amazon links in appendix)

* Some composts are looser packed than others, so our landscapers always take 4 x 60Kg bags per planter and take back those not required for other projects)

- Spread the drainage gravel or clay hydroponic clay pebbles* over the base of the planter, followed by a compost layer spread over the gravel to leave enough room for the screen basket (20cm depth) to bring the planted screen about 1 to 2 cm below the top of the planter.

- Mix a slow release granular fertilizer into the compost, as recommended on the pack. Available from a local garden centre or Amazon (See Amazon link below). Professional compost and clay pebbles can be obtained on line from Green-Tec (See links below in appendix)
- Apply Mycorrhizal Root grow (Empathy) to the outer surface of the root system.

- Place the screen top of the compost, close against the 2 posts.

- Ensure that the basket, with root system is in good contact all round with the compost.

- Back fill all the spaces around the basket, firming the compost as you add it.

- Bring the level of the compost around the screen basket up to a level between 1.5 to 2 cm below the top of the planter. (To leave sufficient depth below the top of the planter for stone dressing if desired, and watering the screens without it overflowing.

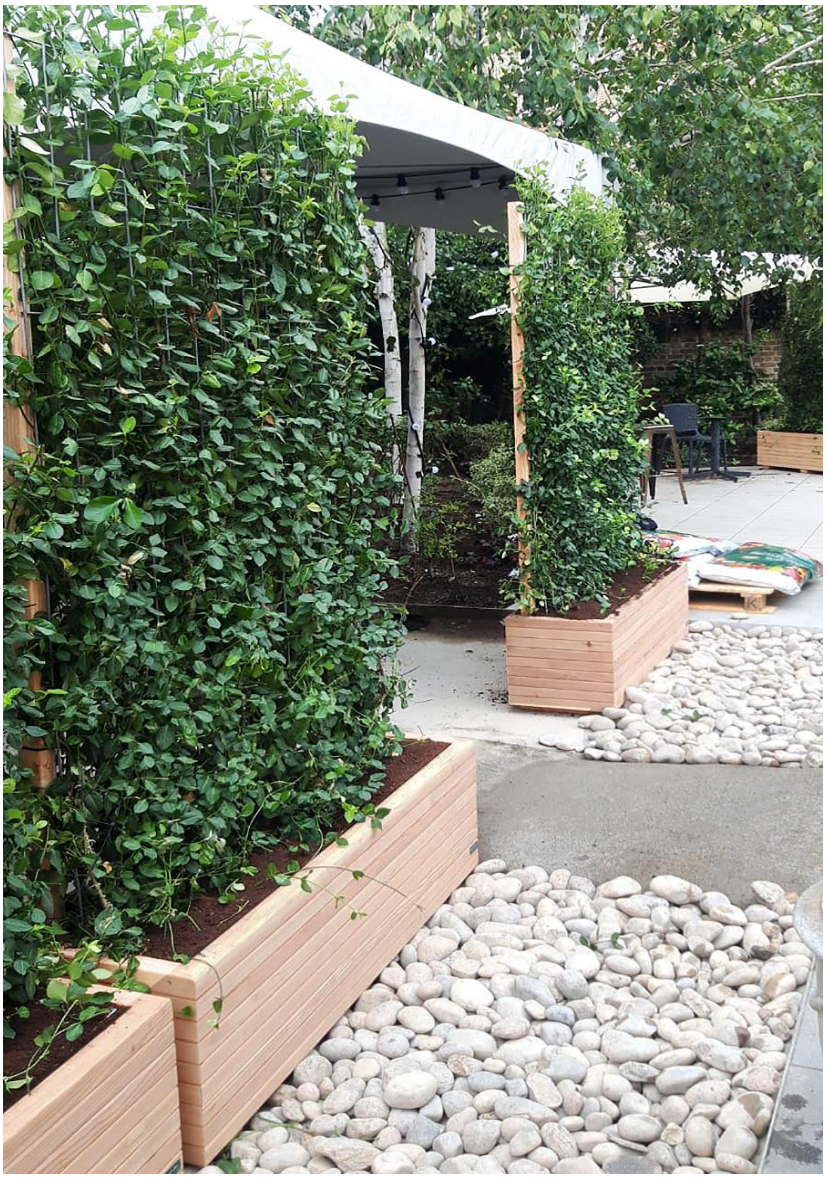
- Finally the screens can be attached to the posts or if they are going against a wall or fence with our specialist galvanised brackets, as shown below

- Alternatively use either 3 heavy duty cable ties, or velcro tree ties per post or galvanised staples. All available from garden centres or from Amazon. (See Amazon links below)

- Water thoroughly, and, as with most plants, ensure that the compost doesn't dry out. If possible, an inexpensive dripper irrigation linked to an outside tap and timer is the most effective way of avoiding the screens drying out.

- Replenish slow release fertilizer every 6 months.

- Trim back excess growth to and re-shape in September, or earlier if required.



Appendix

Customise the size of your living screens

Suitable for screens planted in the ground or in our specialist troughs

As the mesh dimensions are 10 x 25cm, they can reduced in height and width by multiples of 10 and 25cm respectively, and still retain a closed grid at the top and ends without any sharp edges. It is essential to use bolt cutters* Prior to cutting, trim back the plants to a few cm's above the desired height and width.

Example: To create final total height of 170cm in a specialist screen trough.
Using bolt cutters* reduce screen height to 125cm
Planted in 45cm high planter + cut screen125cm =170cm total height

Click HERE for a guide to customise the size of your green screen

Web supplier links

Velcro tree ties – click HERE

Or 30 mm heavy duty cable ties – click HERE

Or Galvanised staples – click HERE

Slow release granular fertilizer – click HERE

Rootgrow (Empathy)- 1 Kg pack with Gel (Click HERE)

Hydroponic clay pebbles **–** click HERE or HERE
or
Golden gravel for drainage – click HERE

Westland New Horizon **peat free** compost 60L -click HERE

(100% sustainable, natural & peat-free compost)

MAINTENANCE – SEE NEXT PAGE

MAINTENANCE 'GREEN SCREEN' IN TROUGHS

Watering
The Green Screen needs to be adequately watered at least three times per week and more in warm or windy weather. This must be done even if there has been rain as the planter will not get sufficient moisture in the planting medium from rain. In the winter months the plants will still need moisture so weekly watering is essential. Failure to provide the screens with sufficient water will result in the plants failing. It is recommended that watering is done in the evening or morning to reduce the possibility of scorching.

As above, we recommend a timer irrigation system.

Fertilisers

As recommended above when first plated, apply mycorrhizal Rootgrow.
(See website for more information)

After a month the mycorrhiza will have started to develop within the plant root system, so now fertilisers will be essential for the welfare of the screens. The planting medium does not contain any nutrients so these must be introduced. A good quality slow release fertilizer, such as Osmacote is the most effective way of feeding your living screens. Most provide 3 to 6 month supply, so re-apply as appropriate. Alternatively a liquid fertilizer, such as Miracle Gro can be applied once a week as part of the watering regime.(Note that the type to be used depends on soil type and nutrient levels of the soil.) An application of slow release fertiliser in September is recommended for the winter months. Failure to provide the screens with sufficient food will result in the plants failing.

Pruning
In the year of planting, pruning is not advisable. Thereafter pruning should be carried out once or twice a year in order to keep a compact hedge. Best months for pruning are April / May and September / October.

Pests and diseases
Symptoms of presence of a pest or disease should be diagnosed by an expert. He/she can determine the type of organism involved and judge the need for a treatment.
As the 'Green Screen' is a nesting place for bird life, chemical applications should be avoided as much as possible

YEARLY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

- **FIRST QUARTER**

General check of irrigation system.

Ensure all plants are in a healthy condition and treat where necessary

Refill the irrigation system if fitted and confirm all areas are operational.

Check and fill feed water tanks if fitted

- **SECOND QUARTER**

Full check of the irrigation system including drip hoses and flow rates.

Feed plants.

Ensure all plants are in a healthy condition and treat where necessary.

Prune plants when required.
Wind in and train new growth where required.

- **THIRD QUARTER**

Check irrigation system.
Ensure all plants are in a healthy condition and treat where necessary.
Prune plants when required.
Wind in and train new growth where required.

- **FOURTH QUARTER**

Full check of the irrigation system including drip hoses and flow rates.
Ensure all plants are in a healthy condition and treat where necessary
Drain the irrigation system if installed to prevent freezing.
Ensure the irrigation system is safe guarded against winter conditions

NB

During the first 6 months following installation visits will be required every 2 weeks.