

British Columbia Landscape Standard

Published by:

**British Columbia Society
of Landscape Architects**

**British Columbia Landscape
and Nursery Association**

The British Columbia Landscape Standard

Published jointly by:

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PREVIEW ONLY

Preface

The British Columbia Landscape Standard

The BC Landscape Standard has been prepared by a joint committee of the BC Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA), and the BC Landscape & Nursery Association (BCLNA). This is the 2012 Edition of this Standard and this edition supersedes all previous editions. Since its initial publication in 1982, the BC Landscape Standard has evolved and expanded with the voluntary efforts of a wide range of individuals and organizations. The committee wishes to thank everyone who has contributed their time to offer comments and criticisms, and help with the research and organization of the 2012 edition as well as previous editions of this Standard.

The purpose of this Standard is to document minimum acceptable landscape construction practices for the Province of British Columbia as agreed upon by the BCSLA and the BCLNA. This Standard sets minimum guidelines and makes recommendations for major aspects of the landscape industry. It is intended that Landscape Architects, Parks Departments, and all other specifiers of landscape work in the province will refer to this Standard as the basis for their specifications. Acceptance of this Standard has grown with each past edition allowing for more uniform adherence to minimum performance levels.

Some of the highlights of the 2012 edition are:

- Reformatting for ease of reading.
- Revision of 7 sections- 2,4,5,6,7,8,9.
- Addition of Section 17, Hard Landscape.

Comments, criticisms, and suggestions for improvements to this Standard are welcomed and can be forwarded to the Landscape Standard Committee, in care of either:

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Endorsements

The 2012 edition of the BC Landscape Standard is endorsed by the BC Society of Landscape Architects and the BC Landscape & Nursery Association.

Introduction

Standards and Specifications

This document is not a Specification. The Webster dictionary defines a "Specification" in part as a "...detailed, precise statement of legal particulars..." related to a particular item; and defines a "Standard" in part as "...constituting or conforming to a Standard established by custom or law...widely recognized as acceptable..."

This Standard

This Standard has adopted existing trade standards wherever possible and has, in addition, documented existing successful practices. It has therefore become a widely accepted reference for minimum acceptable performance in the landscape industry of British Columbia. But as it is a Standard, it has not necessarily been written with detailed and precise wording. Therefore the use or representation of this document as a Specification for landscape work is not recommended.

As with many published standards, this Standard results from the effort of a group of manufacturers, producers, and trades professionals seeking simplification and efficiency or the assurance of a minimum level of quality. This Standard has two basic objectives:

1. To establish minimum levels of quality that may be recognized by the Owner, User, Consultant for material, product, plant, design, system or installation procedure, and
2. To standardize, or simplify such variables as dimensions, varieties or other characteristics of specific products or plants in order to minimize variation in manufacture, production and/or use.

Living Material

In contrast with most construction and product standards, this Standard deals primarily with living materials and products.

First, many of the materials and products utilized are not manufactured, rather they are organic elements present on sites where the Work will take place or they are produced by the management of organic components. These materials and products are therefore more widely varied in structure and not as easily quantified as manufactured products. This Standard strives to standardize, as far as possible, definitions of materials and products and their acceptable, recognizable levels of quality.

Second, and most important, handling of these living materials and products must be done with a full understanding of their vital nature. Mishandling can destroy the structure of a soil built up over centuries of natural processes; a lapse in providing for the needs of plants can cause irreparable damage. Recognition of these factors is integral to this Standard.

A Flexible Document

This Standard is designed to be capable of change and expansion. It will be reviewed regularly in the light of changes in trade practices, emerging scientific findings, evolving techniques, new products, municipal bylaws, and industry user comments. Amendments, supplements, and new sections will be published to keep this Standard as current and effective as possible.

PREVIEW ONLY

A Guide to the Use of This Standard

Administration Recommendations

This Standard does not attempt to distribute responsibility for enforcement of its provisions, or to predetermine methods of use by Specifiers, municipalities or other Users. This Standard can be readily applied by a variety of Users through the referencing of, or the adoption of, appropriate sections. If necessary, procedures based on Section 1, General, and Section 2, General Requirements, may also be adopted. Determining the suitability of this Standard for each User's purposes remains the responsibility of that User.

A written Standard cannot cover the specific requirements of all projects. This Standard is therefore intended to set a level of quality that shall be equal to or bettered in the construction documents for each project. Where specifications set out in the Contract Documents conflict with this Standard in order to meet unique site conditions or requirements, or where they exceed those set out by this Standard, the Contract Documents shall govern the Work.

Format

For ease of cross-referencing by construction Specifiers, individual sections are in the universal three-part format: General, Products, and Execution.

The Standard is formatted using a decimal numbering system, the components of which are described as followed:

6	Section
6.1.	Part
6.1.1.	Subsection
6.1.1.1.	Article
6.1.1.1.a.	Sentence
6.1.1.1.a.i.	Clause

1 General

1.1. Scope of This Standard

1.1.1. Purpose Statement and Intent

This Standard addresses work that is conventionally termed as landscaping. 'Landscaping' for this Standard has been outlined as work described by but not limited to the following sections:

1. General.
2. General Requirements.
3. Site Preparation and Protection of Existing Site Elements.
4. Grading and Drainage.
5. Irrigation Systems.
6. Growing Media.
7. Lawns and Grass.
8. Turfgrass Sod.
9. Plants and Planting.
10. Mulching.
11. Landscaping Over Structures.
12. Container Grown Plants.
13. Establishment Maintenance.
14. Landscape Maintenance.
15. Interior Plantscapes.
16. Integrated Pest Management and Plant Health Care.
17. Hard Landscape.

- 1.1.2.** This Standard also applies to the areas of administration, planning, design, and review that affect the above sections.

1.2. Definition of Terms

“Acceptance” – The date agreed between the Owner and Contractor, upon which the Contractor is deemed to have completed the Work and the Work is turned over to the Owner for use and subsequent maintenance. See also General Requirements and Conditions for Acceptance in Sections 7, 8, and 9.

“Administration” – The adoption, interpretation and enforcement of this Standard by an Authority, and any procedures undertaken by the Authority, as they relate to this Standard. Administration shall also include procedures by the Contractor and required by the Authority regarding this Standard. (e.g. reporting, calling for field reviews)

“Authority Having Jurisdiction” – As applied to work described in this standard, an Authority Having Jurisdiction is any governmental body having regulatory powers with regard to such work and its locations.

“Consultant” – A person or entity with an area of expertise, training, or accreditation who is contracted to render professional services to the Owner. For the purposes of this Standard, the term Consultant may include multiple persons or entities providing services to the Owner either directly or as members of a team under the direction of a prime consultant.

“Contract” – The agreement between the Owner and Contractor containing all the conditions of their respective duties, obligations and responsibilities concerning the work to be done, as set out in the Contract Documents.

“Contractor” or “Prime Contractor” – Person(s), firm, partnership, company, or corporation entering into a written agreement with the Owner of the designated site to carry out the Work and may include, if applicable, the Owner(s), their agents, or government departments carrying out the Work.

“Contract Documents” – The Contract Documents usually consist of the written agreement between Owner and Contractor and supporting documents such as bidding documents and addenda, Specification, drawings, schedules, change orders, and any other relevant written instructions and agreements listed or referenced in the written agreement.

“Owner” – Person(s) or corporation for whom the Work is being carried out, or on whose property the Work is located or being carried out. The Owner may designate an individual or organization to act on his or her behalf with regard to the Work. The term Owner in this Standard shall include the duly authorized Owner’s Representative.

“Owner’s Representative” – Any individual or organization designated by the Owner to act on his/her behalf with regard to the Work.

“Shall” - Signifies that the sentence in which the word is contained is a mandatory requirement of this Standard.

“Should” - Signifies that the sentence in which the word is contained is recommendation of this Standard. (such recommendations may be adopted as mandatory by the Authority or by a Specifier before the Work begins)

“Specification” – A detailed and precise statement of particulars for the Work of a project, usually prepared by the Consultant as a complement to the drawings. The Specification is usually in a standard format using specification sections for each aspect of the work. Each specification section is usually set out in three parts: General, Products, and Execution. The Specification forms a component part of the Contract Documents.

“Specifier” – The person who states a condition that will be contained within the Contract Documents.

“User” – Any individual utilizing this Standard to establish or judge the quality of the Work.

“Work” – Landscape work conducted in British Columbia; in regard to administration and enforcement by an Authority that has adopted this Standard, the Work means the particular project or portion of a project to which this Standard is being applied.

1.3. Administration Recommendations

1.3.1. Use by Authority Having Jurisdiction

It is recommended that the provisions of this Standard be formally adopted by municipalities, towns, cities, and other Authorities and agencies having an interest in establishing, maintaining, administering, and enforcing measurable base standards for quality for landscape practices and work.

1.3.2. Use by the Owner/Contractor

1. This Standard does not stipulate or formulate contractual arrangements between Owners, Contractors, Consultants and other working parties. This Standard can, however, be used as a guide to pertinent contractual issues and to the various responsibilities involved in ensuring quality landscape work.
2. Any contract between the Owner and Contractor should provide for performance and completion equal to or better than that set out in this Standard.
3. The contract and project related documents should clearly state who is responsible for compliance with each provision of this Standard.
4. Projects that are covered in a development permit and/or building permit may be subject to review by a municipal Authority. The Reviewer appointed by a municipality or other Authority will be acting in the best interest of the Authority, not that of the Owner. It is recommended that a Landscape Architect or other suitably qualified person be appointed to administer the contract in the interest of the Owner.
5. Recommended procedures by the Owner or Owner’s Representative include:
 - a. Provision of all pertinent Contract Documents to Contractor.