

## **12. Landscaping Standards – Mulch**

### **PART I – DESIGN**

Not applicable.

### **PART II - GENERAL**

#### **12.1 Examination**

- 12.1.1 Report to the Town, in writing, any conditions or defects encountered on the site before or during any construction upon which the work of this section depends and which may adversely affect its performance.
- 12.1.2 Do not commence work until those conditions or defects have been investigated and corrected.
- 12.1.3 Commencement of work shall imply acceptance of existing surfaces and conditions and no claims for damages or extras resulting from such conditions or defects will be accepted later, except in cases where such conditions could not have been known prior to commencing work.

#### **12.2 Samples**

- 12.2.1 Samples of mulch may be requested for approval by the Town.
- 12.2.2 Retain approved samples on site until work has been inspected and approved.
- 12.2.3 All work shall conform to approved samples.

#### **12.3 Substitutions**

- 12.3.1 All requests for substitutions of mulch shall be vetted through the consultant responsible for preparing the contract drawings. Such requests shall be forwarded to the Town for approval prior to installation.

#### **12.4 Product Delivery, Storage, and Handling**

- 12.4.1 Supply mulch as specified on approved landscape drawings and specifications.
- 12.4.2 Protect mulch stockpile on site from contamination of airborne herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and other hazardous chemicals.
- 12.4.3 Avoid the placement of mulches in excessively wet conditions or when frozen.
- 12.4.4 All organic mulches shall be generally free of diseases, moulds, fungi and insect infestations.
- 12.4.5 All organic mulches shall be free of inorganic materials such as metal, glass, rock and other foreign materials.

#### **12.5 Inspection**

- 12.5.1 Give timely notice (minimum 48 hours), in writing, to the Town when materials are available for inspection.
- 12.5.2 Remove all rejected materials from site immediately.

## **PART III – PRODUCTS**

### **12.6 Organic Mulches**

- 12.6.1 Deciduous/coniferous wood chip mulch shall consist of chipped ash, elm, maple, poplar, birch, and other deciduous woods plants or coniferous wood containing bark, wood, and needles.
- 12.6.2 Mulch may contain bark, wood (and leaves in summer) and/or needles, and may contain seed.
- 12.6.3 Mulch shall be free of non-organic material, wood preservatives, and diseased wood.
- 12.6.4 Chip size shall be 50 to 75 mm.
- 12.6.5 Mulch shall contain no more than 5% by dry weight of soil, sawdust, and peat moss.

### **12.7 Inorganic Mulches**

- 12.7.1 Clean pea gravel, crushed clay brick, and crushed shale to a minimum sieve size of 25 mm. The Town may determine the maximum sieve size.
- 12.7.2 Inorganic mulches shall be free of organic material.

### **12.8 Prohibited Mulches**

- 12.8.1 The following mulches are prohibited: sawdust and shavings, peat moss, manures or raw composts, paper products, plastics, rubbers, aluminum foils, gelatinous sprays, plywood and other lumbers containing chemical adhesives or wood preservatives.

## **PART IV - EXECUTION**

### **12.9 Installation**

- 12.9.1 Plants must be watered before mulch is installed.
- 12.9.2 During application all mulches shall be kept at least 250 mm away from tree trunks and bases of shrubs.
- 12.9.3 Apply mulches in areas as per drawings and spread by hand rake to a settled depth of 100 mm.

### **12.10 Preparation**

- 12.10.1 Tree wells and planting beds shall be free of weeds prior to mulch installation.

### **12.11 Clean Up**

- 12.11.1 Immediately after installation, remove all mulches and other debris from the roadways, walkways and surrounding areas, leaving the area neat and tidy. Clean all areas, which are contaminated as a result of landscape construction operations.
- 12.11.2 Maintain all areas neat and tidy at all times until acceptance.

### **12.12 Maintenance**

- 12.12.1 During the maintenance and warranty period, the Developer shall maintain the mulch free of weeds, debris, mould, fungi, disease, or insect infestations.
- 12.12.2 Refer to Section 8.18.