



Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO)

What is MWELO?

The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance is a statewide water conservation law for new and renovated landscapes. The ordinance applies to any single-family or multi-family residential, public, institutional, or commercial project that requires a permit, plan check or design review from the local reviewing agency and meets one of the following size thresholds:

- **New construction projects** with a total landscape area greater than **500 sq ft**
- **Rehabilitations of existing landscape** with a total landscape area greater than **2,500 sq ft**

Submittal Requirements

Prescriptive Compliance Option

If your development proposes less than 2,500 square feet of total landscape area you can use the prescriptive compliance option. **Before construction**, submit the following documents to the local reviewing agency:

- Landscape Design Plan
- Project Information
- Prescriptive Path (Appendix D) Checklist

At the final inspection, submit the following document to the property owner:

- Certificate of Completion
- Certificate of Installation
- Irrigation Schedule
- Schedule of landscape and Irrigation Maintenance

Performance Compliance Option

Prior to landscape construction, submit a signed **Landscape Documentation Package** along with your building permit application.

This includes:

- Project Information
- Water Budget/Water Use Calculator
- Soil Management Report
- Landscape Design Plan, Plant Legend and Specifications
- Irrigation Plan
- Hydrozone Plan
- Grading Plan

After the permit is approved and the landscape installed, submit a **Certificate of Completion** which includes:

- Project Information
- Certification that landscape is built per plans
- As-built drawings (if necessary to show major changes)
- Irrigation diagram showing hydrozones
- Irrigation scheduling parameters
- Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance Schedule
- Irrigation Audit Report
- Soil Report (if not submitted during design)
- Verification of implementation of report recommendations



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
BUILDING DIVISION

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MWELO PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE

**APPLICATION SECTION FOR LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE
(REQUIRED FOR MWELO)**

SECTION IV
LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTATION

Currently, this project **does not** include irrigated landscaping. I am aware that future landscape installations may be required to comply with the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) requirements per California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7.

This project **does** incorporate irrigated landscaping. Please provide the information below specific to the landscape area which will be completed as part of this project and specify the compliance method to be used:

Total Landscape Area (sq. ft.)(Turf+Non-Turf+Special): _____

Turf Area (sq. ft.): _____

Non-Turf Plan Area (sq. ft.): _____

Special Landscape Area (sq. ft.): _____

Water Type (*potable, recycled, well*): _____

Name of water purveyor (*If not served by private well*): _____

Compliance Method

- Less than 500 square feet of irrigated landscaping (exempt from MWELO)
- No irrigation system proposed (exempt from MWELO)
- Prescriptive (500 - 2,500 square feet)
- Performance (2,500 square feet or greater)

Signature

I certify the above information is correct and agree to comply with the requirements of the MWELO.

Signature of property owner or authorized representative

Date



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Instruction

1. Complete "Prescriptive Path Appendix D Checklist (A - F)".
2. After permit issuance and during construction, keep this document on-site for inspection.
3. Complete the "Certificate of Completion (A - D)" once the work is complete.

Note: Use the "Applicant" checkbox on the left side of the checklist to certify compliance. Leave the "Reviewer" checkboxes at the right side of the checklist blank.



Prescriptive Path (Appendix D) Checklist

For projects with less than 2,500 sf of total landscape area.

A. Project Information

Submittal Date _____

Application Number _____

Project Address _____

Project Type* Residential Non-residential

Applicant Name _____

Applicant Email _____

Applicant Phone _____

Property Owner Name _____

Property Owner Email _____

Property Owner Phone _____

Water Supply Type _____

Water Supplier _____

Total Landscape Area (sf) * † _____

Total Turf Area (sf) _____

Total Non-turf Planting Area (sf) _____

* Information required in an annual report to the State Department of Water Resources from the permitting agency.

† Total landscape area equals all the irrigated planting areas, turf and water features and does not include the building footprint or hardscapes such as sidewalks, patios, parking lots or driveways.



B. Landscape Design Plan

APPLICANT	ITEM	REVIEWER		NOTES
		PASS	FAIL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Attach a landscape plan indicating the following:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Turf areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. High water use planting areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Moderate water use planting areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Low water use planting areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Water features including swimming pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Edible planting areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Areas irrigated with recycled water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

C. Soil

APPLICANT	ITEM	REVIEWER		NOTES
		PASS	FAIL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Incorporate compost at a rate of at least 4 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet to a depth of 6 inches into the landscape area (unless contra-indicated by a soil test). This project will apply _____ cubic yards of compost	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. A minimum 3-inch layer of recycled mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except turf areas, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



D. Plants

APPLICANT	ITEM	REVIEWER		NOTES
		PASS	FAIL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Plant material shall comply with the following:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Residential projects only:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I. 75% of landscape area shall consist of plants that use little or no summer water (WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3 or lower), excluding edibles or areas using recycled water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	II. No more than 25% of the landscape area will be planted with high water using plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Non-residential projects only (including multifamily residential):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I. 100% of the landscape area shall consist of plants that use little or no summer water (WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3 or lower), excluding edibles or areas using recycled water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. No invasive plants are planted. No plant species listed by the California Invasive Plant Council's "Don't Plant a Pest" brochure as invasive in the San Francisco Bay Area shall be planted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. The use of turf shall comply with all of the following:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. In nonresidential areas, turf is not used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. In residential areas:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Turf, high water use plants, and water features shall, combined, not exceed 25% of the landscape area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	II. Turf shall not be planted on slopes which exceed a slope of 1 foot vertical elevation change for every 4 feet or horizontal length	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	III. Turf is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide. Exception: Parkway is adjacent to a parking strip and used to exit and enter vehicles AND turf is irrigated with subsurface irrigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<p><i>WUCOLS plants database can be found online at: http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/</i></p> <p><i>"Don't Plant a Pest" brochure can be found at http://cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/</i></p>			



E. Irrigation

APPLICANT	ITEM	REVIEWER		NOTES
		PASS	FAIL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Automatic irrigation controllers are required and must use evapotranspiration or soil moisture data and utilize a rain sensor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Pressure regulators are installed on the irrigation system to ensure dynamic pressure of the components are within the manufacturer's recommended pressure range.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Manual-shut-off valves (such as gate, ball or butterfly valves) are installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. All irrigation emission devices must meet the requirements set in the ANSI standard ASABE/ICC 802-2014 "Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard." All sprinkler heads installed must have a distribution uniformity low quarter of 0.65 or higher using the protocol defined in ASABE/ICC 802-2014.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Areas less than 10 feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no runoff or overspray.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. For non-residential projects with landscape areas of 1,000 sf or more, private sub-meter(s) to measure landscape water use shall be installed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

F. Signature

I agree to comply with these Simplified Compliance requirements for the Water Efficient Landscape Plan Review.

Signature of Applicant or Property Owner or authorized representative

Date



Certificate of Completion

A. Project Information

Date _____

Project Name _____

Project Street Address, City and Zip _____

Parcel or Lot Number(s) (if available) _____

Applicant Name _____

Applicant Job Title _____

Applicant Company Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Street Address, City and Zip _____

Property Owner Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Street Address, City and Zip _____

Property Owner:

“I/we certify that I/we have received copies of all the documents within the Landscape Documentation Package and the Certificate of the Completion and that it is our responsibility to see that the project is maintained in accordance with the Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance Schedule.”

Property Owner

Date



B. Certificate of Installation

To be signed by the signer of the Landscape Design Plan or the Irrigation Design Plan or by the licensed landscape contractor

“I/we certify that based upon periodic site observations, the work has been completed in accordance with the ordinance and that the landscape planting and irrigation installation conform with the criteria and specifications of the approved Landscape Documentation Package. As-built drawings have been provided to document any major modifications of the approved Landscape Documentation Package. Significant changes made during construction comply with the ordinance.”

Contractor/Professional Signature

Date

Print Name

License Number



C. Irrigation Scheduling

APPLICANT	ITEM	REVIEWER		NOTES
		PASS	FAIL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Irrigation scheduling is regulated by automatic irrigation controller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Overhead irrigation is scheduled between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Settings for the irrigation controller for each station include the following:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Irrigation days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Run times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Number of cycle starts per watering event to avoid run off	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Amount of applied water on a monthly basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

D. Schedule of Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance

APPLICANT	ITEM	REVIEWER		NOTES
		PASS	FAIL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Attach schedule of maintenance for the landscape and irrigation system per ordinance to ensure water efficiency. The attached schedule of landscape maintenance includes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Routine inspection, auditing, adjusting and repair of the irrigation system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Aerating and dethatching turf areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Topdressing planting areas with compost as needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Replenishing mulch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Pruning and weeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Routine inspection, auditing, adjusting and repair of the irrigation system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>(Bay-Friendly Landscape maintenance manual used for the site would satisfy this requirement)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Attach landscape irrigation audit report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Attach landscape irrigation audit checklist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. The irrigation audit was conducted by a third-party certified Irrigation Auditor professional who is not a part of the design team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Irrigation items identified for repair in the audit are fixed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. In large project or projects with multiple landscape installations (i.e. production home developments) an auditing rate of 1 in 7 lots or 15% is conducted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



DESIGNER CONTACT INFORMATION

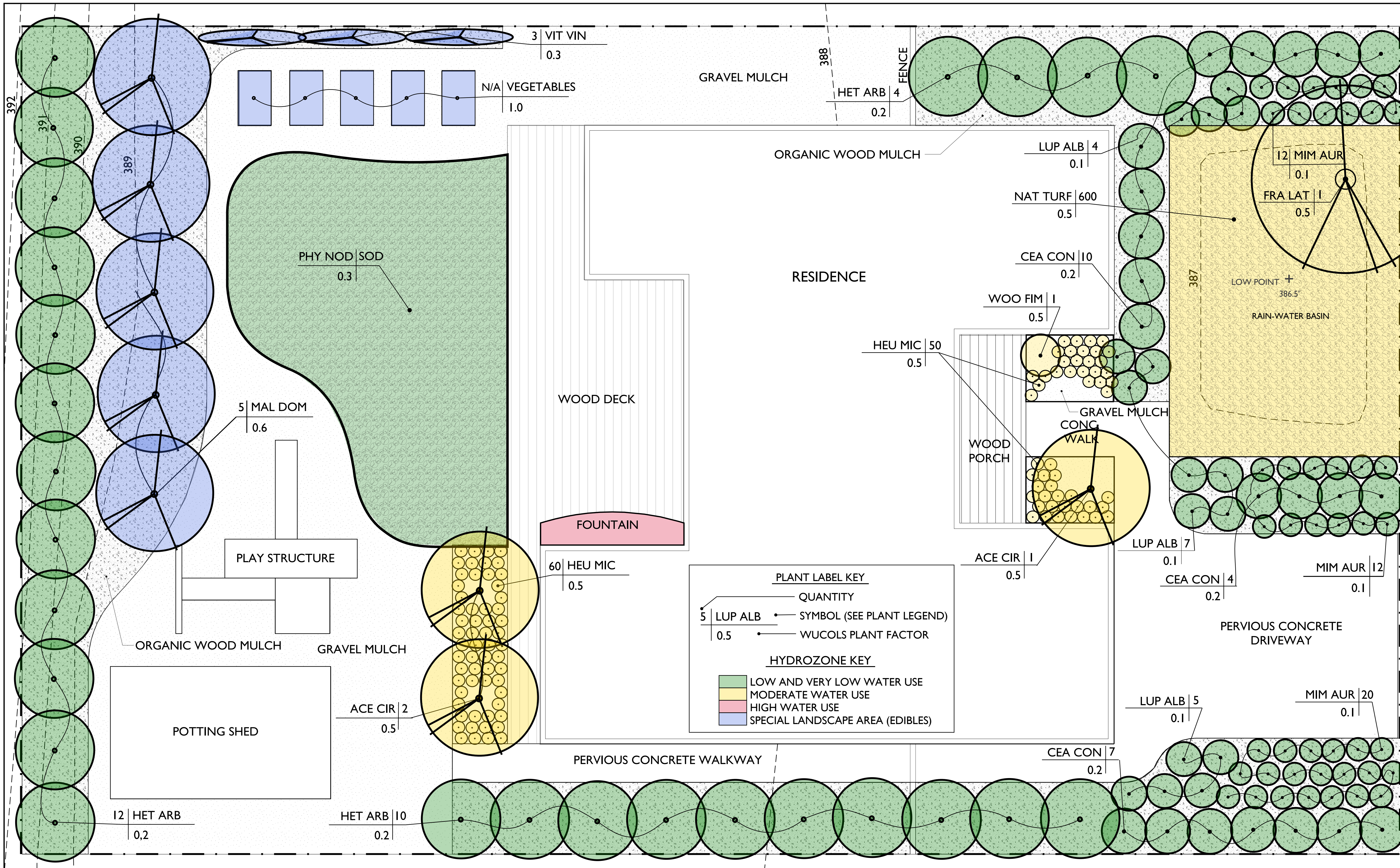
ORIGINAL SCALE: 1/4" = 1'
0 5 10

PROJECT TITLE AND SITE ADDRESS

PLANTING AND HYDROZONE PLAN

DATE:
REVISIONS:

L
1.0



PLANT LABEL KEY

- QUANTITY
- SYMBOL (SEE PLANT LEGEND)
- WUCOLS PLANT FACTOR

HYDROZONE KEY

- LOW AND VERY LOW WATER USE
- MODERATE WATER USE
- HIGH WATER USE
- SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA (EDIBLES)



DESIGNER CONTACT
INFORMATION

PROJECT TITLE AND SITE ADDRESS

PLANT LEGEND, NOTES
AND DETAILS

DATE

REVISIONS:

L

1.1

SAMPLE PLANT LEGEND

(BOTANICAL NAME AND WATER USE DESIGNATION REQUIRED)

SYMBOL	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	QUANTITY	SIZE	NOTES	WUCOLS
TREES:						
ACE CIR	ACER CIRCINATUM	VINE MAPLE	3	15 GAL.	NATIVE, MULTI-STEM	M
FRA LAT	FRAXINUS LATIFOLIA	OREGON ASH	1	24" BOX	NATIVE, STANDARD	M
MAL DOM	MALUS DOMESTICA 'FUJI'	FUJI APPLE	4	15 GAL.	EDIBLE, STANDARD	M
SHRUBS:						
CEA CON	CEANOTHUS CONCHA	MOUNTAIN LILAC	20	5 GAL.	NATIVE, REDUCED SUMMER WATER	L
HET ARB	HETEROMELES ALBUTIFOLIA	TOYON	16	5 GAL.	NATIVE, REDUCED SUMMER WATER	L
LUP ALB	LUPINUS ALBIFRONS	SILVER BUSH LUPINE STICKY MONKEY	17	1 GAL.	NATIVE, REDUCED SUMMER WATER	VL
MIM AUR	MIMULUS AURANTIACUS	FLOWER	29	1 GAL.	NATIVE, REDUCED SUMMER WATER	VL
VIT VIN	VITIS CALIFORNICA 'RODGER'S RED'	WILD GRAPE	3	1 GAL.	NATIVE HYBRID	L
WOO FIM	WOODWARDIA FIMBRIATA	GIANT CHAIN FERN	1	5 GAL.	NATIVE	M
GROUNDCOVERS:						
HEU MAX	HEUCHERA MICRANTHA	CREVICE ALUM ROOT	110	4 INCH	NATIVE	M
PHY NOD	PHYLA NODIFLORA	KURAPIA	675 SF	SOD	NATIVE CULTIVAR	L
NAT TURF	F.OCCIDENTALLIS, F. RUBRA, F. IDAHOENSIS	NATIVE FESCUE BLEND	600 SF	SOD	NATIVE	L

SAMPLE NOTES

(REQUIRED MEASURES)

PLANTING

- 1) TURF IS LIMITED TO 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL IRRIGATED AREA (EXCEPT WHERE NON-RESIDENTIAL PLAY FIELDS ARE A PROGRAM REQUIREMENT) AND NOT PLANTED ON AREAS SLOPING MORE THAN 25 PERCENT.
- 2) PLANTINGS MUST BE GROUPE INTO HYDROZONES BASED ON MICROCLIMATE, SOIL TYPE, PLANT TYPE, AND WATER USE CLASSIFICATION (SEE WUCOLS: WWW.UCNR.EDU/SITES/WUCOLS/).

IRRIGATION

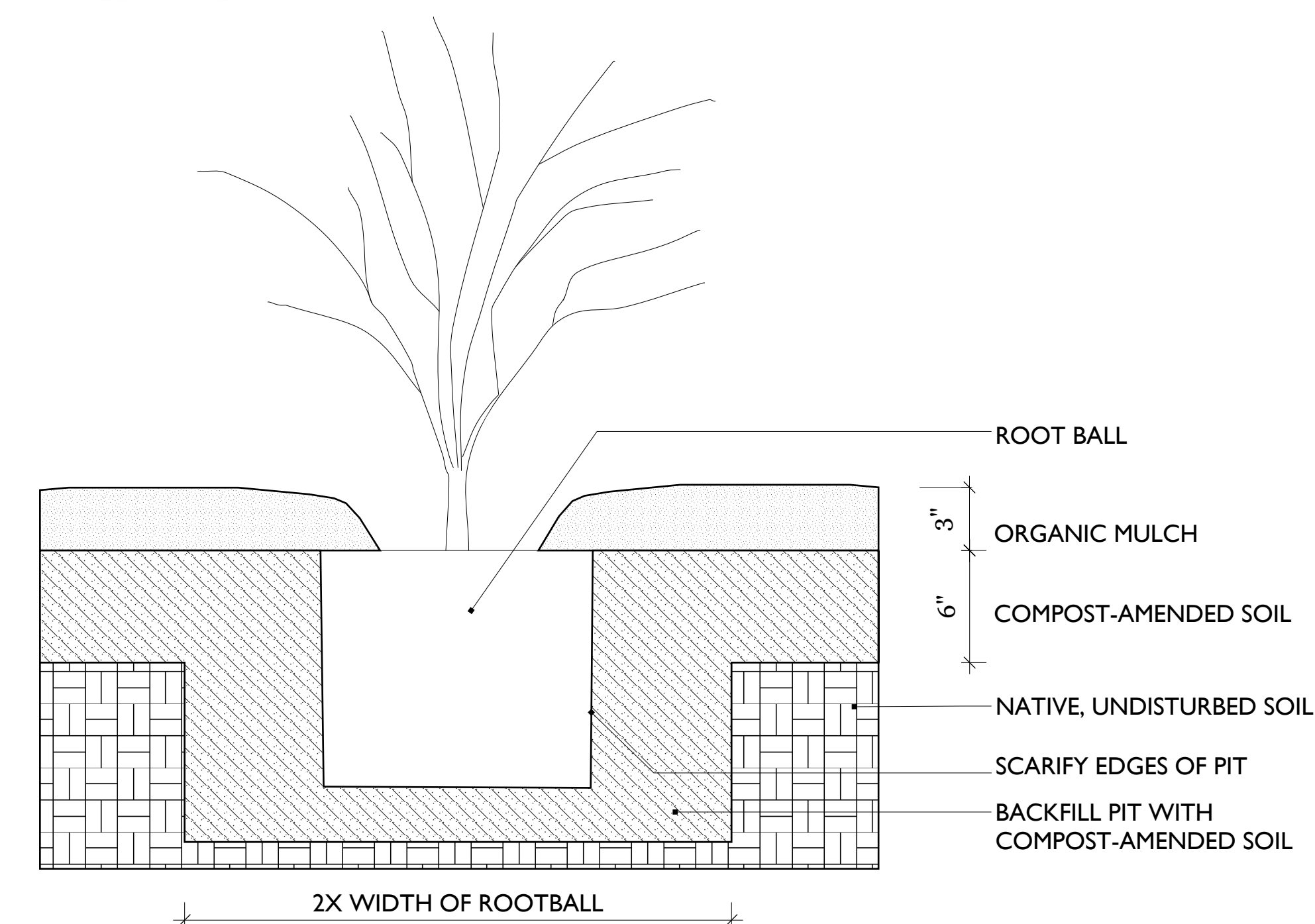
- 3) PRECIPITATION RATES MUST BE UNIFORM ACROSS EACH ZONE.
- 4) EMITTERS MUST BE FIXED RATE AND OF THE SAME TYPE WITHIN A ZONE. NO VARIABLE OR ADJUSTABLE FLOW RATE EMITTERS ARE ALLOWED. MIXING EMITTERS WITHIN A ZONE IS NOT ALLOWED.
- 5) OVERHEAD SPRAY IS NOT ALLOWED IN AREAS LESS THAN TEN FEET ACROSS IN ANY DIMENSION.
- 6) OVERHEAD SPRAY NOZZELS MUST BE SET BACK A MINIMUM OF TWO FEET FROM ADJACENT IMPERVIOUS SURFACES.

COMPOST

- 7) INCORPORATE COMPOST AT A RATE OF FOUR (4) CUBIC YARDS PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET INTO THE TOP SIX (6) INCHES OF SOIL OR COMPOST PER HORITICULTURAL SOIL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.

MULCH

- 8) APPLY ORGANIC MULCH TO A MINIMUM DEPTH OF THREE (3) INCHES ON ALL EXPOSED SOIL IN THE PLANTED AREA EXCEPT WHERE CONTRAINDICATED.



SAMPLE PLANTING DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE