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# Plant Installation Guidelines

REVISED WINTER 2021



## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

For installation of the greenscreen® system prior to plant installation, refer to shop drawings and specifications showing sizes, critical dimensions, panel layout and details. Before vine installation occurs, visually inspect all system components to verify proper location and installation of panels, clips and/or posts. greenscreen® panels, clips and posts are powder coated to resist corrosion. Inspect all components to ensure that the powder coating has not been compromised in the field. If panels have been field cut or components have been scratched, clean thoroughly and apply a corrosion-inhibiting touch-up paint to the locations prior to plant installation.

### OVERVIEW

- Choosing appropriate vines for greenscreen® projects requires careful consideration of climate zone, sun and wind exposure, soil type, water and nutrient needs and visual aesthetics. Twining vines are strongly recommended for wall-mounted applications.
- greenscreen® does not supply plant material and recommends that a landscape architect, landscape designer or horticulturalist be consulted for vine selection for each specific installation.
- greenscreen® encourages the use of vines from nurseries that perform hand weeding, implement an integrated pest management (IPM) system, integrate mycorrhizae in growing mediums and recycle irrigation runoff with micro-irrigation.
- Plants placed in a raised planter or container condition may have different requirements than those placed in an at-grade planting bed. These guidelines pertain mainly to at-grade planting beds. The types of soils, mulch and irrigation necessary for planters/containers may vary. Refer to landscape

drawings, details and specifications where applicable.

- All vines require maintenance, although some are less maintenance intensive than others. At a minimum, all plant material should receive the following annual processes:
  - Pruning
  - Fertilization
  - Mulch
  - Irrigation Check
- Bi-annual pruning is recommended. If needed, additional monthly pruning schedules can be implemented. A written long-term maintenance plan is strongly encouraged. For more information on recommended maintenance practices, refer to our Plant Maintenance Guidelines.

### PLANT INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

The following information is consistent with horticultural best practices for ensuring a successful establishment period and the long-term survival of your green façade installation.

#### Soil Testing

Soil testing will determine the amount of macronutrients and micronutrients available in the post-construction environment. Soil samples should be taken in multiple random locations and sent to a local lab in order to determine the amount and type of soil amendments to be incorporated into the planting area. Certified organic soil amendments should be utilized. Yard waste compost that has been produced from a landfill diversion program is strongly encouraged.

#### Soil Preparation

All construction debris, including gravel, large rocks and masonry spoil, should be removed, and the existing soil should be rototilled to a minimum depth of 6"-8". Organic soil amendments should be placed on top of the prepared, existing soil at the recommended depth (typically 2"-3"). After placing amendments, rototill the planting bed to a depth of 10"-12". Grade the planting bed to provide positive drainage away from structure and place plants according to the planting design layout plan. Typical on-center plant spacing is from 1'-4' and is dependent upon vine species and container size.

General plant spacing recommendations are as follows:

- #1 containers 12 – 24" o.c.
- #3 containers 24" – 36" o.c.
- #5 containers 36" – 48" o.c.

Closer spacing with larger vines may provide quicker results but may also require additional maintenance in the short term. For raised planter conditions, follow design drawings to ensure proper drainage and fill planters with specified soils. After filling, add water to eliminate settling and replenish by adding specified soils to designed planter grade.

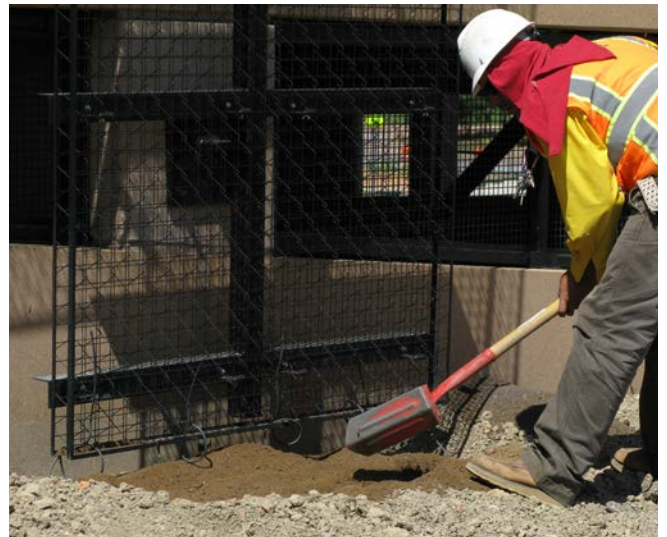
### Plant Installation

All vines should be placed in close proximity to the greenscreen® panels with the root ball being a maximum of 12" away from the panels. All temporary staking should be removed and recycled. Remove container and place root ball into planting hole. The crown of the root ball should typically be at the same height as it was in the container. If circular roots are present, loosen root ball and spread root mass in the planting hole. Apply a water-soluble, slow-release fertilizer and backfill root ball.

Weave vine tendrils into the panel starting at the bottom. Prune any damaged or stray tendrils that will not attach to the panels or that cannot be trained appropriately to the panels. Larger branches can be tied onto the panels with biodegradable ties at the bottom and the tendrils woven into the panels. Tendrils should be spread equally both horizontally and vertically to eliminate bare areas between plants and to promote uniform coverage of the greenscreen® panels. Grade the planting bed to maintain positive drainage and prepare the site for irrigation installation.

### Irrigation Installation

Irrigation is strongly recommended during the one- to two-year plant establishment period. Refer to the irrigation plan for type and location of system. Drip irrigation with smart irrigation controllers is strongly recommended to provide maximum water efficiency. Once the irrigation installation is complete, regrade the entire planting bed to match finish grade. Remove any large soil clumps and any foreign material in preparation for adding mulch. Visual irrigation inspection and monitoring should occur frequently during the establishment period.



## Mulch Application

After the planting area has been properly graded, apply a pre-emergent herbicide according to the manufacturer's instructions to control germinating weed seeds. Apply a 2"-4" layer of mulch to the planting bed. Keep mulch approximately 2" from the base of the vine. Natural, biodegradable mulch, such as shredded hardwood or pine straw, will help to retain moisture, add additional organic material to the soil and cut down on weeding maintenance. After applying mulch, add water to new plant material as necessary. Replenishment and refreshing of the mulch layer should be included as part of the maintenance plan.

## Clean Up

Remove all pots, cans, surplus materials and other debris resulting from planting and construction operations. Completely remove stakes, planting tags, labels, strings or other material from vines. Neatly dress and finish all planting areas and clean all walks and paved areas.

## WARRANTY PERIOD

Plant material is typically warranted by the landscape contractor for one year after date of substantial completion for one-time replacement by contract and/or specifications. Routine inspection, maintenance and establishment practices to ensure the long-term success of the vines are strongly encouraged. All damaged, diseased and dead vines should be replaced as soon as possible by the landscape contractor.

Additional resources are available at [greenscreen.com](http://greenscreen.com), including planting details for inclusion with landscape plans, project examples, CAD details, SketchUp files, Revit files and a plant recommendations list based on USDA hardiness zones for geographic regions.

## SEE ALSO:

Recommended Plant List by Hardiness Zone

greenscreen® Maintenance Guidelines

Considerations for Advanced Green Façade Design

Wall-Mounted Detail Collection

Freestanding Detail Collection



**greenscreen®**  
Engineering Nature.

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