



Highway Maintenance Manual
Chapter 07 Roadside Management
Section 30 Specific Management Plans
Subject 01 Landscaping Planting Contracts

Bureau of Highway Maintenance
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1.0 Authority

[FDM 27-1-15](#) describes the state and federal legislation authorizing landscape planting and other aesthetic elements on state highway right of way.

[Chapter Trans 280](#) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code directs the department to establish uniform procedures for increasing the number of hardy and aesthetically pleasing trees planted on highway rights of way, while maintaining highway safety.

2.0 Background

Landscape planting contracts may encompass several miles of highway and large numbers of plants. Normally, each contract contains provisions for a Plant Establishment Period (PEP). The PEP requires the contractor to care for the plants during a specified time period in order to ensure plant survival and establishment. The intent is for plants to flourish on their own at the end of the PEP and minimal follow-up maintenance will be required.

The standard PEP lasts for two growing seasons after planting is complete. However, a one-growing-season PEP may be specified in certain situations and, in some cases, the PEP may be waived altogether. See the [FDM 27-25-10](#), Plant Establishment Periods. Regardless of the length of the PEP, after it expires the department becomes responsible for any further maintenance.

3.0 Follow-Up Maintenance

Prior to project acceptance for a landscape planting contract, a representative of the regional maintenance section should accompany the department's project supervisor/engineer and the contractor's foreman when they go over the final project punch list to make sure the contractor has fulfilled all of his obligations and to determine if there will be a need for follow-up maintenance by the department.

The following maintenance activities, listed in priority order, are recommended after the PEP has expired:

- a. Removing dead plants as their dead condition becomes evident.
- b. Removing silt fence and planting accessories such as guy wires, tree wrap and rodent protection devices left in place by the contractor within two years after the contract expires. All planting accessories except those used on replacement plants installed at the end of the PEP should have been removed by the contractor.
- c. Pruning out dead and broken branches.