



**Environmental criteria for sustainable public
procurement of**

Green spaces

Version 7 May 2015

1. Scope/definition

The Green Spaces product group includes the products and services for the design, installation and maintenance of green spaces.

Types of Green Spaces that fall within this product group:

Green space	Description
Forest	Contiguous area covered by trees that may or may not have bushes (larger than 2,500 m ²)
Trees	Trees that stand on their own, in rows or in small groups, not as part of a forest or small cluster of trees and bushes
Cluster of trees and bushes	Contiguous area covered by planted bushes possibly with scattered trees
Hedges and shrubs	Bushes, on their own, in small groups or in rows, usually closely maintained by trimming or closing off
Plant patches	Patches of permanent and annual herbaceous plants (usually decorative) and bulbous plants
Lawns	Short grass that is frequently mowed
Rough grass and herbage	Grass and rough herbage that is mowed at most twice per year
Sport/playing fields and grass pitches	Grass fields primarily intended for sports and play activities
Banks and water	Open water and the areas where it borders dry land
Nature areas	Areas with vegetation with an important natural value that is primarily planted and/or managed for this purpose: moors, heather, natural forests, etc. Other green elements can also be part of nature areas.

Urban and rural outdoor spaces

There is a big difference between a number of green space types in both urban and rural outdoor spaces when it comes to their installation, use, maintenance and function. The edge of the built-up area is considered to be the boundary between urban and rural outdoor spaces. This distinction is included in some criteria.

The following are excluded from this product group:

- dikes/water defences
- sport fields with artificial grass

A distinction is made in this document between the procurement criteria that are related to products and materials and procurement criteria that are related to services. Some authorities have their own green space services. They purchase all plant material, machines and tools. Other authorities outsource green space management and purchase both labour-hours and products for this.

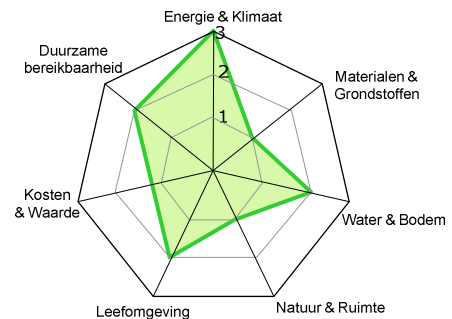
The following products (with their corresponding CPV codes) are part of this product group. This list of products is not intended to be exhaustive.

Products	CPV code
Activities for landscape architecture	45112700-2
Landscape architecture services	71420000-8
Gardening services	77300000-3
Planting and maintenance of green spaces	77310000-6
Sports pitch maintenance	77320000-9

2. Criteria documents and approach to sustainable groundwork, road and hydraulic engineering

The core of the Sustainable Groundwork, Road and Hydraulic Engineering Approach is to allow sustainability aspects to be a consideration from an early planning stage on, with a focus on the whole life cycle of the infrastructure or object(s) to be built. This is the approach that facilitates the biggest gains in sustainability, and it allows a good and broad-based consideration of [People, Planet and Profit](#) to be made in every project.

The AmbitionWeb has a key role in the Sustainable Groundwork, Road and Hydraulic Engineering Approach. It helps clarify ambitions at an early stage of a project, so they can then be maintained throughout the entire project process. For more information about the Sustainable Groundwork, Road and Hydraulic Engineering Approach and AmbitionWeb, see <http://duurzaamqww.nl/>.



The AmbitionWeb revolves around a number of sustainability themes, each with three ambition levels:

1. insight into the biggest impactors and flows for the theme in question, with the achievement of a minimum level.
2. drafting specific reduction targets and achieving a significant improvement on the theme in question.
3. adding value, instead of just making “less bad”. Not only is the impact on people/planet/profit zero, but a positive contribution is made.

Part of level 1 is meeting the suitability requirements, minimum requirements and contract provisions of the Sustainable Procurement criteria documents. The award criteria may be used to make a contribution to level 2.

Below is a list of the requirements and criteria broken down by the individual themes. The criteria documents identify a total of five themes:

- energy and climate
- supplies and raw materials
- water and soil
- living environment
- nature and space

The following table presents the themes on which the buyer can actually have an impact by using the requirements and criteria in this criteria document.

Themes	Level 1 AmbitionWeb Selection criteria (SC) Technical specifications (ME) Contract provisions (CB)	Level 2 AmbitionWeb Award criteria (AC)
Supplies and Raw materials		GC3. Sustainable plant containers GC5. Sustainability action plan
Water and Soil	GE1. Professional designer ME1. Acquiring nursery products and flower bulbs ME3. Use of fertilisers/soil improvers ME4. Controlling unwanted weeds, diseases and pests	GC1. Acquiring nursery products and flower bulbs GC4. Green space design where plant and soil fit in with each other GC5. Sustainability action plan

Nature and Space	<p>GE1. Professional designer</p> <p>ME2. Acquiring plant material of genetic quality (rural areas)</p>	<p>GC2. Acquiring plant material of genetic quality (rural areas)</p> <p>GC3. Green space design where plant and soil fit in with each other</p> <p>GC5. Sustainability action plan</p>

3. Assignment of criteria to project phases

The criteria in this document pertain to both the design and completion of new construction and reconstruction of works, and the management, maintenance and demolition of existing works. In the following table, the criteria are assigned to the individual phases to which they apply.

Area of application Criterion	Design	Completion	Management and Maintenance
Suitability requirements			
1. Professional designer	x	-	-
Technical specifications			
1. Acquiring nursery products and flower bulbs	-	x	x
2. Acquiring plant material of genetic quality (rural areas)	-	x	x
3. Use of fertilisers/soil improvers	-	x	x
4. Controlling unwanted weeds, diseases and pests	-	-	x
Award criteria			
1. Acquiring nursery products and flower bulbs	-	o	o
2. Acquiring plant material of genetic quality (rural areas)	-	o	o
3. Sustainable plant containers	-	o	o
4. Green space design where plant and soil fit in with each other	o		
5. Sustainability action plan	-	o	o
Contract provisions			
1. Planning and reporting on fertilisation, soil improvement and control	-	x	x

x = include in this phase

- = do not include in this phase

o = optional

4. Suitability requirements

No.	Suitability requirements (GE)
GE1	<p>Professional green space designer</p> <p>The interested party has a professional designer and expertise in the area of sustainability* related to green designing.</p> <p>*This refers to knowledge about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fertilisation and control requirement of planting the burden on the environment of different types of fertilisers and control methods

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable soil management and plant selection in relation to soil quality and other growing conditions • origin of plants and biodiversity <p>Using the term Landscape Architect/Designer was considered; however, this is a protected title and, therefore, too limiting. The decision was made to use a wider formulation.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements above.</p>
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5. Technical specifications

No.	Technical specifications (ME)
ME1	<p>Acquiring nursery products and flower bulbs</p> <p>At least 90 per cent (based on the purchase price) of the tree nursery products and flower bulbs to be used must comply at least with the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plant protection products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the cultivation of nursery products, only plant protection products listed in schedule 4g of the most recent version (or the version from the previous year) of the Dutch language document Environmental certification table "vegetable products from open ground farming" with specific criteria for nursery products are used and applied in accordance with the instructions and the maximum doses listed on that table. • For the cultivation of flower bulbs, only plant protection products listed in schedule 4i of the most recent version (or the version from the previous year) of the Dutch language document Environmental certification table "vegetable products from open ground farming" with specific criteria for nursery products are used and applied in accordance with the instructions and the maximum doses listed on that table (this list will be available from September 2015). <p>In addition, biological crop protection products listed in the Regeling Uitzondering Gewasbeschermingsmiddelen (Regulation for the Exception of Plant Protection Products) may also be used.</p> 2. For the cultivation of nursery products and flower bulbs, the standards under the law for fertilisation (see below for references to these standards) apply (these standards do not apply for container cultivation), and the organic substance balance is calculated at the company level. This calculation must make clear that the company strives for a positive organic substance balance (annual input of effective organic substance [EOS] is at least equal to decomposition). For the standards under the law, see the following web references (links): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General • Nitrogen standards • Phosphate use standards • Available animal fertiliser use area. 3. A list of the delivered nursery products including a specification of the products that satisfy the set requirements and the derived percentage of the total of products that complies will be included with the delivery. <p><i>Explanation</i> In practice, it has emerged that the supplier (grower or market gardener) does not always know exactly which nursery products will be delivered when submitting the tender. In many cases, it becomes necessary to order some or all of these products from external suppliers. This is the reason that the "hard evidence" that all products were actually produced sustainably can only be submitted upon handover. The purchaser must check this properly upon delivery. A batch that does not have the correct documents upon delivery must be sent back by the purchaser.</p> <p>For one-off deliveries, however, before granting the definitive award the purchaser can ask the preferred party for the award of the contract to prove within two weeks that it can dispose of the requested batch. This is not possible with long-term maintenance contracts.</p> <p>The purchaser may indicate whether the 90% must be achieved on a project basis or an annual basis.</p> <p>With the coming into effect of the Crop protection regulation in 2011 and the Biocides Regulation in</p>

	<p>2013, the RUB list is no longer in compliance with the European legislation. A risk assessment must be conducted prior to marketing crop protection products and biocides. In 2012, the Dutch Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides ("Ctgb") expressed the intention to revoke the RUB list for this reason. Both the Crop protection regulation and the Biocides regulation allow the option to request admission for less hazardous substances, also referred to as the basic substances (crop protection only) and the low-risk substances (both crop protection and biocides). Despite the fact that both regulations have already come into effect, within the EU there is still some confusion on how the basic substances and low-risk substances should be evaluated. Partly because of all this, for the time being the RUB list will be maintained for crop protection products and biocides until there is an option at the European level to obtain admissions for low-risk and basic substances.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>Every nursery product or batch of flower bulbs delivered in accordance with the aforementioned components 1 and 2 of this requirement will be provided with a document that shows that these requirements have been satisfied upon delivery. This document may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a certificate issued by an accredited certifying institution <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the registration of plant protection product used during the cultivation of the delivered nursery products and flower bulbs, including calculations that show that the set standards have not been exceeded. This registration and calculation must have been approved by an independent expert third party (such as an accredited certifying institution). <p>The document (certificate or registration with calculations) may have been drawn up for each nursery product or batch of flower bulbs separately, or it may contain the aggregated data of multiple products.</p> <p>The product certificates Ecolabel, MPS (Environmental Programme for Horticulture) with sustainability certificate or the EKO-keur ecolabels are assumed to satisfy all components of this requirement.</p>
ME2	<p>Acquiring tree nursery products of genetic quality (rural areas)</p> <p>When procuring tree nursery products for the Forest, Cluster of trees and bushes, Trees and Nature areas green space types that are intended for use in a rural area, at least 25% (in terms of numbers) must be supplied from an origin/cultivar that is specified in the most recent Tree Varieties List.</p> <p>Rural area is understood to mean outside the built-up area.</p> <p>These tree nursery products will be delivered for this purpose with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. for trees: a Naktuinbouw certification tag or other similar document that demonstrates the above*. 2. for other tree nursery products: a supplier document originating from the grower (that is not a self-declaration) and issued with the approval or under the supervision of Naktuinbouw or a comparable national or foreign organisation that proves that the above requirement has been satisfied*. For both the delivered EU directive species and non-EU directive species that satisfy the requirement the full origin reference and coding of the Tree Varieties List must be provided. This is shown using the following method: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o for EU directive species in accordance with the relevant regulations in EU Directive 1999/105/EC o for non-EU directive species in accordance with the Naktuinbouw Regulations. <p>* The means of proof will include at least the specification of the species name, origin name and origin code. For example: <i>Crataegus laevigata</i>, Losser-02, NL.SI.1.3.13-02. In the case of cultivars, the species name and cultivar reference are sufficient, for example, <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, Eureka.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i></p> <p>Purchasers are advised to inform suppliers at an early stage which species, origins and varieties are required at which times so that growers can anticipate on demand. This also gives purchasers the opportunity to make agreements at an early stage on the material to be supplied.</p> <p>In practice, it has emerged that the supplier (nurseryman or market gardener) does not know exactly which nursery products will be delivered when submitting the tender. In many cases, it becomes necessary to order some or all of these products from external suppliers. This is the reason why the hard proof required can only be submitted upon delivery. It is important that this is checked properly upon delivery and not to accept products without the correct documents.</p> <p>A Naktuinbouw certification tag is only available for trees and not (yet) for other tree nursery products. This label ensures that every individual tree is traceable and that the species authenticity of the products can be guaranteed.</p> <p>The Tree Variety List can be obtained by phoning 035-8889308; ISSN number 0924-929x; or on www.rassenlijstbomen.nl.</p>

	<p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be asked to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements above. If required, a query can be submitted about the origin data on the supplier's documents or Naktuinbouw tag from Naktuinbouw or a comparable domestic or foreign organisation.</p>
ME3	<p>Use of fertilisers and soil improvers when installing and maintaining public green spaces (including sports and playing fields)</p> <p>The necessity of using fertilisers and soil improvers is determined on the basis of soil surveys (preferably no more than three years old) and related advice performed/provided by an accredited laboratory and a consultancy agency with expertise in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The soil survey will at least comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pH value and lime requirement ○ phosphate, potassic fertiliser, magnesium, sulphur and nitrogen content ○ organic substance and lutum content • The advice concerning fertilisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ indicates which minimum quantity of fertilisation is required to retain the quality of the plants in view of the condition of the soil and the requirement of the plants ○ indicates, if fertilisation is required, which types (or combination of types) of fertiliser(s) must be used when planting and which are possible during the maintenance stage with a view to running a minimum risk of it being flushed out ○ only offers space for incidental intervening additional nitrogen fertilisation when the person performing the work shows that this is required with an N mineral sample for the retention of the quality of the plants • The advice concerning soil improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ indicates whether soil improvers are required to retain or improve the quality of the soil and natural soil life ○ indicates, if soil improvement is required, which type(s) of soil improvers is/are required and how this choice fits in with the fertilisation requirement of the plant material <p><i>Explanation</i></p> <p>If the contracting authority already has a soil survey and/or advice, it must make it/them available to all potential tenderers.</p> <p>Good plants require little or no fertilisation. The highest risk of the product being flushed out is with quick-acting artificial fertilising granules. Expert advice will, therefore, only sometimes consist of or include quick-acting artificial fertilising granules when planting fast soil cover. Slow-acting fertilisers or fertilisers that are released in a controlled manner or organic (soil-improving) fertilisers will usually be sufficient during the maintenance stage. Whether this is required must be shown for each instance through an N-mineral sample.</p> <p>An accredited laboratory is understood to mean: a laboratory accredited for relevant analyses based on the ISO 17025 standard.</p> <p>A contract provision has been formulated for this requirement.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be asked to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements above.</p>
ME4	<p>Controlling unwanted weeds, diseases and pests (excl. sport and playing fields)</p> <p>No plant protection products may be used in the performance of the work, except in the following cases and after permission or instruction from the contracting authority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to control giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>) in or near intensively used green spaces (such as play areas) 2. to control Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>) 3. to control the perennial weed quackgrass (<i>Elytrigia repens</i>) in the event of an explosion of weeds where total soil replacement or long-term covering would be the only alternative weed control methods. This control may only be performed once every four years (three applications per year at most). 4. controlling stumps of unwanted tree species: American black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>), American oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>), Maple (<i>Acer spp.</i>), Mahonia and Poplar (<i>Populus spp.</i>) using the roll-coating method 5. to control oak processionaries (<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>) in the event of foreseen or unforeseen nuisance and risk to public health*

	<p>6. to treat stumps of elms infected with Dutch elm disease and English elm suckers</p> <p><i>Explanation</i> * The oak processionary moth can be controlled through its natural enemies <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> or <i>Steinernema</i> spp.</p> <p>A contract provision has been formulated for this requirement.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements above. If government organisations work in accordance with the Silver or Gold Sustainable Area Management Barometer, they may demonstrate that they satisfy this requirement.</p>
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6. Award criteria

No.	Award criteria (AC)
GC1	<p>Acquiring nursery products and flower bulbs The higher the percentage above 90% of tree nursery products that satisfy the requirements included in minimum requirement no. 1, "Acquiring tree nursery products and flower bulbs", the more highly this component of the tender will be rated.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i> The purchaser may indicate whether the percentage must be achieved on a project basis or an annual basis.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> Further explanation is given under minimum requirement no. 1 "Acquiring tree nursery products and flower bulbs".</p>
GC2	<p>Acquiring tree nursery products of genetic quality (rural areas) The higher the percentage above 25% (in terms of individual products) of the tree nursery products for the Forest, Cluster of trees and bushes, Trees and Nature areas green space types intended for use in a rural area that are in compliance with the requirements included in minimum requirement 2, the more highly the tender will be rated. Rural area is understood to mean outside the built-up area.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> Further explanation and verification are given under minimum requirement no. 2 "Acquiring tree nursery products of genetic quality (rural area)".</p>
GC3	<p>Sustainable material use of plant pots The higher the percentage of plant pots in which the plant material is delivered consists of material that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is biodegradable*, or • is made of recycled material, or • is made of quickly renewable raw materials** <p>the more highly the tender will be rated.</p> <p>These plant pots must be delivered with a product description from the manufacturer of the pots that shows which material make up the pots and how this material satisfies one or more of the above properties.</p> <p><i>*The biodegradability of plastic is promoted in Europe in accordance with the harmonised European 13432 standard for plastic packaging. For other materials, this concerns the fact that materials can be broken down through the natural activity of microorganisms such as bacteria and mould to obtain water, CO₂, inorganic compounds and biomass that can serve as nutrients for the soil.</i></p> <p><i>** Quickly renewable is understood to mean a natural or animal material that can again be supplied by nature in less than ten years in a sustainable manner.</i></p> <p><i>Explanation</i> In practice, it has emerged that when submitting the tender, the supplier (grower or market gardener) often does not know exactly which plant material with related containers will be delivered. In many cases, it becomes necessary to order some or all of these products from external suppliers. This is why the hard proof required can only be submitted upon delivery. It is important that this is</p>

	<p>checked properly upon delivery and not to accept products that do not satisfy the requirements.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements above.</p>
GC4	<p>Sustainable green space design: the right plant at the right place</p> <p>The higher the degree to which the plants selected in the green space design are suited to the place in which they will grow, the higher the tender will be rated. Being suited is understood to mean that the plant material should be able to take and grow in conditions (soil conditions, moisture management, incidence of light, etc.) as are present at the growing location in accordance with the available professional knowledge. A description will be provided on how the details for this will be given in a sustainability paragraph supplied with the design.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i> This criterion is intended to encourage designing green spaces in such a way that they maintain the natural soil as far as this is possible or even improve the soil, contributing to biodiversity and a healthy soil for the plant. It is not, however, always possible to retain the natural soil and this not always functional either. This is why the criterion is limited to the correct combination of plant/soil to prevent loss and/or avoid excessive maintenance. The procuring authority must assess whether the soil must be adjusted for this purpose.</p> <p>Whether a plant will thrive in the available growing location demands expert assessment of the current situation (soil/water/climate) at the growing place and knowledge of the requirements of the plant material. This is why an eligibility requirement has also been included.</p> <p>This criterion is only linked to one aspect of a sustainable design but it is a very important one. There are many more aspects that make a design sustainable. The purchaser can seek reference points for this in, for example, a structural vision or other ambition documents of the purchaser's own organisation. Examples would be a document in which the vision of the green issues for the coming years are described: soil policy plans for management and maintenance of green spaces or policy plans related to the image and the aesthetic value that the green space must have. In this last case, design and management go hand-in-hand.</p> <p>The assessment of the sustainability paragraphs also demands expertise from the procuring organisation in the area of growing place conditions in relation to plant material.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements above.</p>
GC5	<p>Sustainability action plan <i>(to be elaborated by purchaser; see explanation)</i></p> <p><i>Explanation</i> A green space provider can set up its work in different ways using different working methods, resources, machines and materials. If required, the contracting authority can include an additional award criterion in which the tenderer is asked to provide an action plan. The tenderer must indicate in this action plan which choices it will make when setting up the work and in what way. It must also substantiate the degree in which these contribute towards the sustainability objectives of the contracting authority.</p> <p>The contracting authority must indicate to the tenderers based on which sustainability aspects the action plan will be assessed.</p> <p>Emphasis will be placed on different aspects of sustainability, depending on the local conditions. Major themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainability in the preparatory stage • acquisition of sustainable plant material (environmentally friendly cultivation, genetic quality and origin) • responsible use of fertilisers and soil improvers • minimum use of chemical protection products in fighting weeds, diseases and pests • collection and processing of green by-products • soil quality • less waste from plant containers <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements above.</p>

7. Contract provisions

No.	Contract provisions (CB)
CB1	<p>Planning and reporting on fertilisation, soil improvement and control</p> <p>The tenderer will submit the following prior to planting and maintenance work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil survey • advice related to fertilisation and soil improvement <p>As referred to in minimum requirement 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work plan that specifies how and when the maintenance will be performed in accordance with the recommendations from minimum requirement 3 and the requirements from minimum requirement 4. <p>The tenderer will report periodically about the performed work.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i></p> <p>This contract provision serves to support minimum requirement 3 and 4. The purchaser must define "periodically" for the specific situation.</p>