

Specifications Task Force Meeting Notes for December 17, 2009

Present:

Mark G. Johnson, Moderator
Shelley Brunelle
Ann Murphy
Mark Pendergast
Jake Pierson
Tom Emery

Discussed: Soil Amendments and Mychorrhizae

A. Soil Amendments

Definitions needed:

- Topsoil
- Planting soil

Two Basic Conditions:

- Distressed or Disturbed Site
- Site with Natural Soils

Most hostile environment: non-percolating clay soils

Cross Reference: Amendment terminology and specifications bridge the Earthwork specification section and the Planting specification section

- Cross reference Specification section to avoid duplication

Use of Amendments:

- Use existing soils.
- For shrubs, add topsoil & let it be.
- For trees, do not add topsoil, just let it be.

Nutrient Levels: Define the minimum nutrient levels to strive for – or depend on the (preferred) mandatory requirement for a soils test.

Ownership of stockpiled topsoil: The property owner.

B. Mychorrhizae

Mark brought up this subject again after further research. Jake purports the use of this product, principally because “it can’t hurt” and its use adds minimal cost to the project. The “jury is still out” since we are not convinced that its use is beneficial to plant growth; mychorrhizae may not be included in Part 2 Products at this juncture in the process.

C. Upcoming Events

- Jan 19 MeLNA Annual Meeting at Ramada Inn in Lewiston
- MeLNA invites MSLA to become members of MeLNA as a group for \$100.
- (a subject for discussion at next MSLA meeting Feb 11)
- Next Specification Task Force Meeting has been rescheduled from January 21 to January 28, 2010. The topic of soil amendments to be continued, as presented by Mark Pendergast and Tom Emery. Reminder to read the stack of handouts to promote closure to this soiled subject.

Meeting Notes by Shelley Brunelle