



# Florida Department of Transportation

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## Memorandum

**Date:** November 22, 2002  
**To:** Lori Williams, P.E., Gainesville Construction  
**Copies:** File  
**From:** Ken Cheek, District 2 Landscape Manager  
**Subject:** 580 Spec Changes

Lori,

Here are my responses to the comments made during the last 580 industry review period.

### Duane Brautigam Comments:

- 580-2.11: Specifications are needed to distinguish between botanical names and common names of plants. Common names can be regional and cause confusion in the field. **Action taken: None**
  - 580-2.1.2(a): The two paragraphs do not conflict and are not confusing to the nursery industry. Florida Department of Agriculture's "Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants" cover the most common plants used by Florida nurseries but it is not completely inclusive. The second paragraph supports materials that are not specifically covered in the "Grades and Standards". **Action taken: None**
  - 580-2.1.2(b): The terms "latest editions" and "any and all revisions" are two separate publications so therefore it is not redundant. The "Grades and Standards" book is published infrequently but revisions or supplemental materials can be made at any time. **Action taken: None**
- 580-2.1.2(c): The request to modify the term "specifically specified" is appropriate.  
**Action taken: Approved**

***Florida Department of Transportation***  
**District Two Construction**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 15, 2002

**TO:** Tom Driscoll

**FROM:** Lori Williams

**COPY:** Ken Cheek

**SUBJECT:** Review of 580 specification comments

The following is in response to your comments on the proposed revisions to the 580 specification. We very much appreciate your time and effort in reviewing the proposed changes. Your minor changes to sections 2.1 and 2.2 are incorporated. Your comments to 3.1.1 are adopted. We provide a “definition” of pot bound as recommended. We have improved the wording in section nine as suggested and added the word “ensure” as noted for section ten which makes the language consistent with the rest of the document. We struck the sentence “and at the time of final acceptance” from section ten because it seemed to cause confusion. We also substituted the words “contract documents” in the last sentence of section ten, for the word “plans” to improve accuracy. The last paragraph was also expanded to include “layout” and “other incidentals necessary for a complete installation”.

Again, thank you very much for your help.

- 580-2.1.3(a): The inspection certificate in this section differs from the certification of Florida based nurseryman stock. **Action taken: None**
- 580-2.1.3(b): The request to relocate the last sentence in this section seems appropriate. **Action taken: Approved**
- The request to capitalize the terms “federal” and “state” is appropriate. **Action taken: Approved**
- 580-3.1.1(a): The comment regarding “local industry standards” is appropriate. The Florida Department of Agriculture does not have standards regarding root pruning, digging, balling and burlapping etc. **Action taken: None**
- 580-3.1.1(b): No certification is needed; only verification of the hardening off period is required. **Action taken: None**
- 580-3.1.2: The term “hogwire” already exists in the current standard specs. **Action taken: None**
- 580-3.6(a): The comment raised about the phrase “unless otherwise noted” is deleted. **Action taken: Approved**
- 580-3.6(b): The request to relocate the last sentence in this section seems appropriate. **Action taken: Approved**
- 580-3.7: The comment asking who is the language is referencing is confusing. The phrase has been modified to read, “...provided they meet”. **Action taken: Approved with modification**
- 580-4.1: The comment regarding the incorrect font size is correct. **Action taken: Approved**
- 580-4.4: This statement requires that the Contractor make a determination if the planting beds are draining properly prior to planting. The responsibility for inadequate drainage will be made by the Engineer based upon the requirements of the Contract Documents. **Action taken: None**
- 580-4.5(a): The Design Standards do not provide all the information necessary to execute the activity accurately. **Action taken: None**
- 580-4.5(b): The request to change the term “Standard Index 544” to “Design

Standard Index No. 544” should be implemented. **Action taken: Approved**

- 580-5.1(a): The Design Standards do not provide all the information necessary to execute the activity accurately. **Action taken: None**
- 580-5.1(b): The Contractor’s responsibility for landscaping materials do not end until the end of the establishment period. **Action taken: None**
- 580-5.2, 580-5.3, 580-5.4: The Design Standards do not provide all the information necessary to execute the activity accurately. **Action taken: None**
- 580-6: The comment regarding rephrasing the first sentence is appropriate. **Action taken: Approved.** The comment regarding removing the second sentence is unfounded. **Action taken: None**
- 580-8: The request to change the term “Standard Index 544” to “Design Standard Index No. 544” should be implemented. **Action taken: Approved**
- 580-9: The only changes to the existing specification were to add the “weekly” requirement and to include “roadside litter”. **Action taken: None**
- 580-10(a): See response for 580-5.1(b): **Action taken: None**
- 580-10(b): The inclusion of the last two sentences in this section reinforces the requirement that the Contractor is responsible for the condition of all landscape items throughout the establishment period. **Action taken: None**
- 580-11: See response for 580-5.1(b): **Action taken: None**

D4 Comments:

- 580-3.1.1: The comment regarding “local industry standards” is appropriate. The Florida Department of Agriculture does not have standards regarding root pruning, digging, balling and burlapping etc. **Action taken: None**
- 580-3.3, 580-3.4, 580-3.5: The request for inspections and for Contractors to notify Engineers 1 week prior to inspection can be found in 580-4.1. Although a time frame is not specified 580-4.1 clearly states that “All materials must be available for inspection before installation...” **Action taken: None**
- 580-9, 580-10: The comment “what about weeding” is clearly in place in 580-10 **Action taken: None**
- Additional comments: The comments regarding the deduction of watering and maintenance cost during the establishment period is already addressed in the current standards. Enforcement of the contractor to replace materials during the

establishment period could be referred to the Legal Department when negligence is evident. Having the contractor sign legal documentation that he will be responsible up to the final acceptance as well as the 365-day establishment period leaves him with little room to be indifferent. It states clearly in the 2000 Standard Specifications under 580-11: Plant Establishment Period and Contractor's Warranty that the contractor is to "assume responsibility for the proper maintenance, survival and condition of all landscape items for a period of one year after final acceptance of all work under the Contract in accordance with 5-11". It also states "take responsibility to apply water as necessary during this period and include the cost in the various landscape items. No separate measurement of payment will be made for water during the plant establishment period." Regarding the comments for local municipalities. If District 4 is allowing local municipalities to take over landscaping contracts after final acceptance then District 4 have not been lawfully executing landscape contracts as stated in the current Standard Specifications. The contractor is the only one accountable for the execution of the contract...which includes the 365-day establishment period. District 4 may want to get their Legal Department involved with their Construction Department to settle these issues at the District level.

**Action taken: None**

Marshall Dougherty Comments:

- 580-8: The comment regarding this section should be taken under consideration. Mr. Dougherty is correct in stating that the current subarticle is confusing. However, the reviewer is mistaken regarding the numerical convention. 580-8 should be altered to: "Uniformly apply mulch material over the entire area of the backfilled hole or bed within two days after planting. Ensure mulch consists of pine straw, compost, or other suitable material (no cypress mulch allowed) as approved by the Engineer. Place mulch to a minimum loose thickness of 3 inches (75 mm) in accordance with Design Standard 544. Compost used for mulch shall meet the requirements of Section 987."

**Action taken: Approved with modification**

Carol Worsham Comments:

- 580-4.5: The comments regarding the setting the top of the rootballs between 1 and 3

inches above grade are valid and should be implemented. **Action taken: Approved**

Paul Grochowski Comments:

- 580-4.4: The comments regarding the validity of the spec change is flawed since the reviewer misunderstands the intention. The Department is simply requesting that the Contractor report any drainage problems after digging holes to the Engineer prior to planting any materials. **Action taken: None**
- 580-4.5(a): The comment recommending changing the language from “vertical position” to “plumb position” is unnecessary. **Action taken: None**
- 580-4.5(b): The comment recommending changing the language from “Install specified fertilizer before final watering and mulching” to “during the installation of tree” is unclear. Recommend changing language to read: “Install any specified fertilizer to manufacturer’s recommendations” **Action taken: Approved with modification**

William Moriaty Comments:

- 580-2.1.2(a): The comments regarding the addition of Florida based Collected Material is valid. **Action taken: Approved**
- 580-2.1.2(b): The comments regarding changing the text from “certification” to “verification” is valid. **Action taken: Approved**
- 580-3.1.1: The comments regarding changing the text to read from “Do not remove burlap” to removing the burlap is not generally supported in the industry. The risk of damaging the trees or exposing the roots to drying is not worth the justification without proper research and support through the industry. **Action taken: None**
- 580-3.6: The comment recommending the deletion of the first sentence is invalid since most landscape plans do not stipulate between booted and non-booted materials. This sentence was added to provide continuity on plans that do not specify. **Action taken: None**
- 580-10: The comment recommending the modification of the third sentence is invalid since most landscape jobs done by FDOT will be Florida grade #1 per FDOT Specs.

This sentence was added to provide continuity in the Specs. Rarely does a job require anything less than #1. If the plans call for Florida grade #2 materials then this 580-10 will taken under consideration per job. **Action taken: None**

- 580-11: The comments posed regarding the personal difficulty and popularity of District 7 executing landscaping contracts is irrelevant. Current policy require a 365-day establishment period. **Action taken: None**