

Landscaping

The idea of landscaping is to improve the aesthetic appearance of an area, ranging from a large open space to a small plot of land / garden, by changing its contours, adding features and planting a range of trees and shrubs.

There are two types of landscaping, hard and soft. This is used to describe the type of features being added to the site.

Hard landscaping is anything from paving stones and fountain to fencing materials. These features are what help to form the layout and structure in which the soft landscaping elements can grow and establish.

Some examples of Hard Landscaping include Paved Areas, Timber, Concrete or Brick Edging and Ponds & Water Features.

In contrast to the Hard Landscaping, the softening of the landscape (Soft Landscaping) is the job of plants and trees placed into the chosen area. This can be anything from grass seeding, the laying of turf down to the surrounding trees. This can sometimes be down to a single species of tree to an open area filled with a sea of colours from a soil specific wildflower mix.

Typical soft landscaping products include Tree Planting, Native Plug Planting and Wildflower Meadows. At *Phoenix Amenity Supplies Ltd*, we predominantly sell the soft landscaping products.

Understanding the soil which you have to work with when landscaping is as important as the design. The soil that is being worked, will dictate what species of plants and shrubs will survive and thrive and which will fail to grow. By Knowing the type of soil you have to work with, whether it is sandy, clay, loam, peat or chalk will help in choosing the right plants for the area.

- **Clay soils** are heavy, high in nutrients, wet and cold in winter and baked dry in summer
- **Sandy soils** are light, dry, warm, low in nutrients and often acidic
- **Silt soils** are fertile, light but moisture-retentive, and easily compacted
- **Loams** are mixtures of clay, sand and silt that avoid the extremes of each type
- **Peat soils** are very high in organic matter and moisture
- **Chalky soils** are very alkaline and may be light or heavy

When choosing the right seed mix to finish your chosen area, the type of seed to choose can be difficult. But there are benefits of mixing grass seeds together. By mixing the seeds, you have multiple species and multiple cultivars, which will help with disease resistance in the sward, as not all the cultivars from the species will be susceptible to the same disease / type of disease.

By mixing fine leaved grasses such as Fescues and bent grass with rye grass will help to give wear tolerance to the grass, while maintaining a good appearance, as the fine leaved grasses will fill in the gaps and provide a good base coverage.

[Below are links to our products to help with your Soft Landscaping needs:](#)

www.phoenixamenity.co.uk/store/products/category/landscaping/

www.phoenixamenity.co.uk/store/products/category/wild-flowers/