Guidelines on the application of the TL-Nursery Plants – Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants (Quality Standards)

The TL-Nursery Plants – Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants (Quality Standards), Edition 2020 follows the 'Quality Standards for Nursery Plants', Edition 2004.

As the nursery plants standards contain far-reaching provisions which have an impact on cultivation practices, a transitional period is planned for their introduction:

The 2020 German Edition of 'TL-Baumschulpflanzen – Technische Lieferbedingungen für Baumschulpflanzen (Gütebestimmungen)' (TL-Nursery Plants – Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants – Quality Standards) – replaces the 'Gütebestimmungen für Baumschulpflanzen" (Quality Standards for Nursery Plants) Edition 2004 with effect from the delivery date 01 July 2021. Should they be applied beforehand, this is to be expressly agreed.

In case of construction contracts based on the General Conditions of Contract for the Implementation of Construction Work, it shall become an essential part of the contract, by being referred to in the section 2.2 ATV DIN 18320 of the contract. In addition, the quality requirements in Section 4.1 of DIN 18916 are compulsory for plants from nurseries. Thus, these nursery stock standards are part of a contractual fall-back level, individual contractual regulations take precedence.

Should the VOB/B not be agreed, the nursery plants standards should be agreed separately as contractual provisions. This applies in particular to sales contracts in the specialist retail trade and companies in the 2nd and 3rd sales sectors. Separate, individually negotiated regulations may apply there.

Nursery stan plants standards set the framework of quality requirements. It is defined in the nursery catalogue which species and varieties combined with which quality and grading requirements are to be sold. This can be obtained from the BSG – Bund Deutscher Baumschulen – Servicegesellschaft mbH. (National Association of German Nurseries – Services GmbH).

Forschungsgesellschaft Landschaftsentwicklung Landschaftsbau e. V. (FLL)

Landscape Development and Landscaping Research Association (FLL)

TL-Nursery Plants

Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants (Quality Standards)

Prepared by the Editorial Board of TL-Nursery Plants

Notes for the user

Technical rules of FLL are freely available for everyone to use. An obligation to apply the rules may result from legal or administrative regulations, contractual agreements or other legal grounds.

FLL standard guidelines are the result of cooperative voluntary technical and scientific work. They are considered to be the professional standard by virtue of the principles and rules applied in their preparation.

FLL standard guidelines are an important source of knowledge for professional behaviour under normal conditions. However, they are not able to cover all the possible special cases in which more extensive or restrictive measures may be necessary. They are nevertheless a benchmark for proper technical performance. This benchmark is also important in the framework of the legal framework.

FLL standard guidelines are to be implemented as 'acknowledged rules of technical practice'.

The application of FLL standard guidelines exempts no one from responsibility for their own actions. Each person acts in this respect at their own risk.

Anyone who discovers an error or misinterpretation in an FLL rulebook that could lead to incorrect application is requested to inform the FLL immediately so that any defects may be rectified.

Modal auxiliary verbs (e. g. shall, should, must) and their meaningfulness are of particular importance for a clear understanding of the set of rules. DIN 820 refers to ‘standardisation work'.

TL-Nursery Plants – Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants (Quality Standards)

Publisher

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Preface

The FLL has been the custodian of the quality regulations for nursery plants for 34 years and define the impeccable quality of cultivated plants.

The 2020 edition is a fundamental revision of the last comprehensive revision in 2004 and now published under the new name Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants (Quality Standards). The FLL is thereby following international conceptual conventions.

This edition has been used mainly to adapt the quality requirements to the actual cultivation procedures in the nurseries.

The specification of the transplanting status is still a fundamental characteristic of the quality of all plants. In addition to many minor editorial and content changes, a new quality of shrubs and specimens has been introduced.

The last two editions of the magazine no longer included the transplanting status of trees and whips (1x transplanted and 2x transplanted, respectively), but over the years it has become clear that 2x transplanted quality is indispensable for certain cultivars. This has now however been reintroduced for the shrubs, and also to again close the gap to the 3x transplanted specimens.

A completely new addition is the minimum rootball sizes and minimum container sizes of standard trees, avenue trees and feathered trees. It was also redefined that the tree collar or trunk flare should be visible and that 'after rootballing, the upper fibrous roots and lateral roots should not be covered with soil by more than 5 cm'. Both are important aspects to ensure a measurable quality.

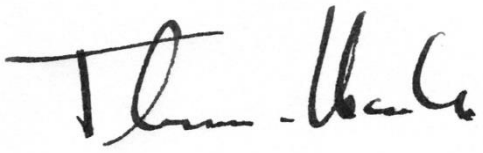
'Instructions for the use of nurserystock standards' were formulated for the first time. This is to clarify the contractual classification of the Technical Conditions of Delivery as a 'fall-back level'. Should the contract, for example, specify delivery with wirebaskets, no alternative is possible, because individual agreements generally take priority. Only when there is no specifications in the contract, the nurserystock standards fill the gap, e. g. by the formulation '...are to be delivered with rootball, wirebasket or in container', so that the contractor then has the choice, only a delivery 'bare root' is excluded.

The importance of this set of rules for the tree nursery industry is also shown by the close connection to the Association of German Plant Nurseries. Here, all resolutions of the FLL Rules Committee were reflected and discussed in the relevant expert committees. This made it possible to ensure that only arrangements were made which correspond to the actual production and at the same time meet the requirements from the customer side.

We hope that the practical application of a set of quality assurance standards benefits nursery plants. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Editorial Board (Standards Committee) for their extraordinary commitment in revising the quality specifications.

Bonn, April 2020

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kias
President of FLL



Prof. Martin Thieme-Hack
Chair Editorial Board TL-Nursery Plants

1 Scope of application

Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants (Quality Standards) include requirements for the cultivation and delivery of plants from nurseries for nursery plants.

The Technical Conditions of Delivery for Nursery Plants (Quality Standards) apply in particular to:

- deciduous plants;
- roses;
- rhododendron, azaleas and evergreen plants;
- conifers;
- ground cover;
- fruit trees and shrubs;
- liners of deciduous plants an conifers;
- rootstocks.

The Technical Conditions of Delivery also apply to locally grown plants and plants under the Forest Reproduction Act.

2 Normative references

The documents listed in this section contain specifications which are necessary for the application of these technical conditions of delivery.

In the case of dated references, the edition stated applies; in the case of undated references, the current edition of the document stated applies.

ACTS, ORDINANCES, OR SIMILAR

- Forest Reproduction Material Act (FOVG) of 22 May 2002 (Federal Law Gazette - BGBl. I p. 1658), last amended by Article 414 of the Ordinance dated 31 August 2015 I 1474.
- Act on Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (Federal Nature Conservation Act - BNatSchG) dated 29 July 2009 (BGBl. I p. 2542); last amended by Article 8 of the Act dated 13 May 2019 BGBl. I p. 706.
- Ordinance on the distribution of cultivated material of vegetative, fruit and ornamental plant species (Ordinance on Cultivated Material - AGOZV) dated 21 November 2018 (BGBl. I p. 1964).

ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN TREE NURSERIES – SERVICES COMPANY (BSG)

- Nursery catalogue section (BKS).

GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR STANDARDISATION (DIN):

- DIN 18916: Vegetation technology in landscaping – plants and plant care.
- German Construction Contract Procedures – VOB
  - Part A: General Provisions for the Award of Construction Contracts.
  - Part B: General Conditions of Contract Relating to the Execution of construction Work.
  - Part C: General Technical Specifications in Construction Contracts (ATV).