

Emory Knoll Farms

General Recommendations – Green Roof Plants

We are often requested to provide general recommendations for green roof plants; however, the “best choice” for plants for a particular project is affected by variable factors including geographic location, cultural conditions of the site (light, moisture, temperature, etc.), design intent, roof construction, and available budgets. **We have found that plant choices work best when they are a) site specific and b) the result of discussions between the green roof designers/owners, experienced growers, knowledgeable horticulturalists, and building managers.**

We offer here some very general recommendations on plants for green roofs.



Plant Size

Deep nursery plug 3” deep x 1.5 inches across at the top of the plug.

Plugs should be healthy and fully rooted at the time of shipping.

Growing Medium

Plants should be installed in growing medium of at least 4” in depth.

Growing medium should be appropriate to the type and mix of plants installed on the roof (determined on a per project basis).



Plant Supplier

Supplier should have experience in growing specifically for green roofs for at least 3 years. Plants should be established from plugs propagated in sterile soil-free nursery media.



Planting Rate

6 plugs per sq. ft. – 3 Month coverage

4-5 plugs per sq. ft. – 6-12 Month coverage

2-3 plugs per sq. ft. – 12-18 Month coverage

Installation

Plugs should be planted to their crown, leaving no root mass exposed to the air. After planting, the planted area should be watered thoroughly, until the media is saturated.

