

## EMORY KNOLL FARMS

# **SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE — EXTENSIVE GREEN ROOF PLANTS**

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We are often requested to provide maintenance procedures for green roof plants; however, every project is affected by variable factors including geographic location, cultural conditions of the site (light, moisture, temperature, etc.), and available budgets. **We have found that maintenance procedures work best when they are a) site specific and b) the result of discussions between the site designers and building managers.**

We offer here some very general, what we might even consider to be “common sense” green roof maintenance issues, as well as some points to take under consideration when beginning the maintenance discussion with your designer or building personnel.

### **Plant Establishment**

The care of the plants during the initial establishment period is very important to creating a working green roof. However, the quality of the plant material you install is as important. For this reason, we do not ship plants that do not meet our high growing standards.

**Fertilizing** at installation is not required of Emory Knoll Farms’ plants. Our plants should have sufficient vitality to grow well during their first season on the roof.

**Watering** is suggested during the first season to help establish plants, with a frequency consistent with area rainfall and installed irrigation on the site. Cuttings require significantly more watering than plugs to keep them from drying out- however, do not allow the cuttings to lay in standing water.

**Weeding** is critical during the first year; weeds germinate early spring (April) thru October, depending on location; some have a seed cycle of as little as 10 days. A suggested schedule is to weed the roof once a week after installation until no weeds need to be pulled on the assigned day- then weed every two weeks until that same condition occurs- then monthly- then every two months.

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

The location of a project can drastically change the amount of maintenance that is required. Consider the climate of the green roof’s geographical location as well as the location on the site.

**Fertilizing** should be minimal, if at all, and on an as needed basis. Once a year in the spring is usually sufficient. The plants should have enough vitality at installation to grow through the year without any artificial fertilization.

**Watering** may be necessary in times of unusually severe low rainfall, however the amount will vary with the types of plants installed on the green roof.

**Weeding** after the roof is fully vegetated with sedums (generally one year after installation) is essential to the continued performance of the roof. We suggest weeding twice per year during times of high weed seed production but prior to seed dispersal, according to your local climate (typically mid-spring and late summer).

