

Green Wall - Creswick Woollen Mill

Aim:

Our aim was to create an instant feature at the front of the Mill, the Mill traditionally has been a utilitarian/ industrial looking area with lots of tin sheds and a very bland outlook. The purpose of the veranda and the green wall was to break the look up, make it much more inviting and to create a wow factor. We wanted the Green wall to be an instant change therefore we used larger plants, 2 per pot and a top-quality potting containing pig manure so the plants would thrive instantly. We deliberately picked a system that had the provision to individually water each pot and a clever drainage system, a lot of systems on the market rely on the overflow from the pot above to water the pot below, in a system this large this would have led to a lot of lost water and the potential for the lower plants to get far less water than the top plants. The system took many hours to construct, it was like building a giant meccano set, each piece slots into the next and with a gentle tap of a rubber mallet would lock it in. There is a timber structure built behind each section to hold the weight of the pots and the soil and the dripper system is broken up into 2 bays per bank so only 2 bays get watered at any one time. The wall was completed in March 2018

The green wall has exceeded our expectations with how tolerant it has been, the maintenance has been very manageable, and it looks great all year round.

Features of the Green Wall pot system:

- Separate frame construction to add stability and strength
- Pots easily lift in and out so plants can be replaced or if a pot gets damaged it can be replaced
- Provision for irrigation system to be easily installed to each pot.
- Drainage system to each pot with the ability to direct the run off away from the system, we let the drainage fall onto the garden bed below
- The system is very strong and durable, we have not had to replace any pots yet.

Plants Used:

Princess lavender as hedge under the green wall

In the Wall itself:

Lotus Red flash - Trailing

Liriope

Hebe Emerald Green (compact small plant)

Little Con (grass)

Silver Moon - Replacement plant (not in original design) 1 per pot

Blue moon - Replacement Plant (not in original design) 1 per pot

- 624 Plants were planted - 2 per pot
- Took 6 weeks to complete
- Plants were purchased in 6" pots
- Plants were planted into a high-quality potting mix consisting of Pig manure
- 312 individual drippers installed to water each pot
- Irrigation system is automatically controlled
 - Watered daily in summer
 - Watered 2 times per week in winter

Maintenance

- Watered with seaweed solution sprayed directly onto the plants every 2 months
- Slow release fertiliser twice a year
- This has contributed to very little plant loss

All plants have proven to be tolerant of harsh conditions

- -3 degrees frost, strong winds and hot sun
- Some of the lotus red flash have been burnt by the frost, especially when young, however were protected by the other plants when established

The wall is currently undergoing refurbishment as the plants have filled the pots out (root bound), they are being broken up and re-potted or replaced if they are at the end of their life.