

KHAYELITSHA HOSPITAL LANDSCAPED GARDENS – REPORT ON ZEOPLANT SOIL ADDITIVE TRIALS

With reference to the photographs below which show the planting beds on either side of the access road off Walter Sisulu Drive to the Khayelitsha Hospital. In September 2011, Zeoplant soil additive was incorporated by the landscape sub-contractor, as per the manufacturers specifications, into the soil mixture prior to planting in the bed on the north side of the access road and was left out of the soil mixture on the south side of the road. See photos below.



The photos below show the results of the plant growth after 20 months in March 2013 at end of a long dry, summer. Plant growth is good and the hedge on the north side is slightly taller and thicker than on the south. Irrigation was operational during the majority of this period.



Photo of access road with North on left side of pic. North side planting.

South side planting.

The photos below show the results of growth after a further 18 months in September 2014.



Photo of access road with North on left side of pic. North side planting with soil completely covered. South side planting with many gaps & soil exposed.

The planting is clearly growing more strongly on the north side of the road where the Zeoplant soil additive was included in the soil mixture and the hedge and Auracaria trees show much healthier and denser foliage. Much of the ground cover planting on the south side has not survived. It should be noted that the irrigation system was broken for a long period over the 2013/14 summer months and neither side of the road was adequately watered. However, the north side of the road has recovered quickly during winter and the plant growth is strong and healthy.

I therefore recommend that Zeoplant be added to the soil mixture in all future landscaping and planting projects where water saving is required and especially in dry, sandy soil conditions such as the Cape Flats of Cape Town.



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