

Flex MSE Vegetation Guide

Where Structural Strength
Meets Living Landscapes

Flex MSE Vegetated Retaining Walls

Flex MSE® is a patented engineered solution for vegetated retaining walls and erosion control. Flex MSE bags and interlocking plates are used to build naturally resilient geomodular structures using a soft building material which exhibits hard material qualities, and only gets stronger and greener as time goes on.

Vegetation Advice

This guide offers best practice to achieve a thriving green wall appropriate to aspect and environmental conditions. A key advantage of Flex MSE is its ability to accept almost all types of vegetation over 100% of the face.

A popular approach to vegetating Flex MSE walls, especially in large scale applications, is through hydroseeding. Through using water to spray seed over the face of a wall, this is a fast and effective method to get vegetation underway. Live planting and live staking walls are other examples of vegetation methods that work well with the Flex MSE system. Vegetation can include grasses, ground covers, flowers, vines, and small shrubs.

Planting Success Criteria

We recommend plants that:

- Thrive in sandy, free-draining soils with low organic matter, and suit the typical regional pH range
- Are drought tolerant and appropriate for the solar orientation of the wall
- Align with the intended function of the wall (e.g. aesthetic outcomes, pollinator support, or woody species for riparian environments), ideally with a spreading growth habit
- Include grasses under 600 mm at maturity (for slopes steeper than 45°) that do not rely solely on seed dispersal, and shrubs under 2 m at maturity
- Are ground covers, long-lived perennials, and plants with rhizomatous root systems

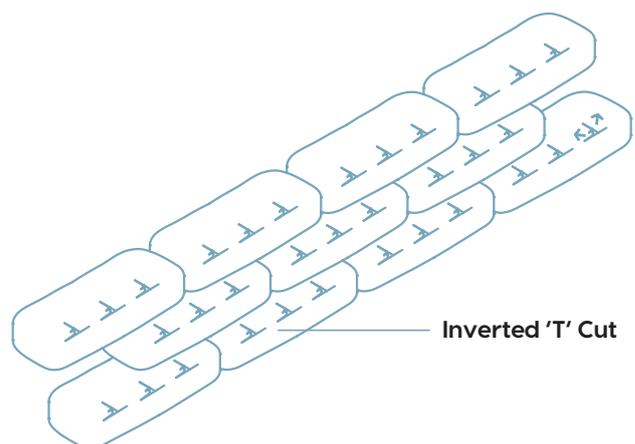
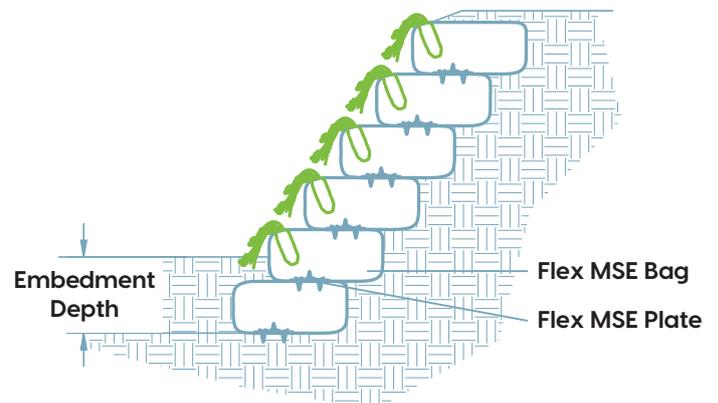
Flex MSE Live Planting

Guidelines for live planting Flex MSE retaining walls:

- Maximum of 3 100mm / 4" plants per Flex MSE bag
- Holes must only be on the top half, bag shoulder or set back
- Each inverted 'T' cut to be a maximum of 3.5" x 3.5" (90mm x 90mm)
- Space plants evenly and offset for complete coverage

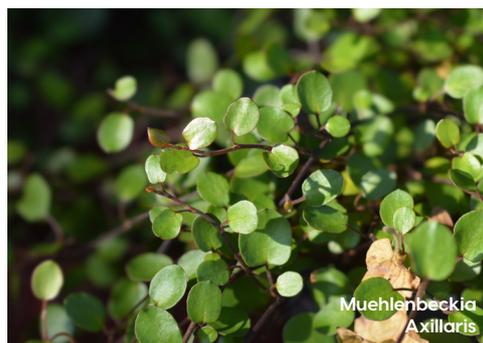
Applications and Uses

Flex MSE is suitable for commercial and residential applications, such as large landscaping walls, garden retaining walls, site levelling and optimisation, golf courses and parks. It is also a great solution anywhere land meets water.



New Zealand Plant Species Recommended for Flex MSE

The following plants are the best options for vegetated walls. Suitable plant types include (common names):



Other New Zealand plant species recommended for Flex MSE vegetated walls include:

- Lobelia Angulata
- Pimelea Prostrata
- Coprosma Acerosa 'Hawera'

These are just some of the plants suitable for vegetating Flex MSE – if you would like to know more, we offer a free online vegetation consultation with a professional horticulturist through Flex MSE.



Advance Landscape Systems have Flex MSE consultants available to offer technical support and guidance to landscape designers, engineers and project managers. When it comes time to decide on the best plants or vegetation methods, our consultants can assess an initial plant species list against key criteria to ensure long-term vegetation success with Flex MSE vegetated wall systems.

If you are interested in learning more about the Flex MSE vegetated wall system, visit advancelandscape.co.nz/flex-mse or contact:

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