

HexTile: Nature Pack



Thank you for purchasing the HexTile: Nature Pack! I hope this Unity asset pack is helpful in creating stylized, high quality hexagonal-themed environments. If you need any advice, bug reports, suggestions or comments, feel free to contact me at: alexakins1@gmail.com.

This asset pack is intended to be used with Unity's Universal Render Pipeline (URP) or Unity's Standard Pipeline, Unity 2019.4 upwards. However graphical features such as the included shaders are exclusive to URP. A HDRP version is planned for a later update. No additional plugins or assets are required, however a vertex-painting plugin such as Polybrush will be needed to paint additional layers such as Moss. Polybrush can be found in Unity's Package Manager.

In addition to the many hand sculpted assets included in this pack, the asset pack also contains a number of shaders which enable effects such as secondary moss/dirt layers, animated wind sway, water, fire and more. It also contains a number of scripts developed by William Akins (w.akins111@gmail.com) that enable you to easily snap together assets along a hexagonal grid.

Included in this PDF is a guide on using the included scripts and the options they provide, along with a breakdown of the various shaders included in the pack.

Credits:

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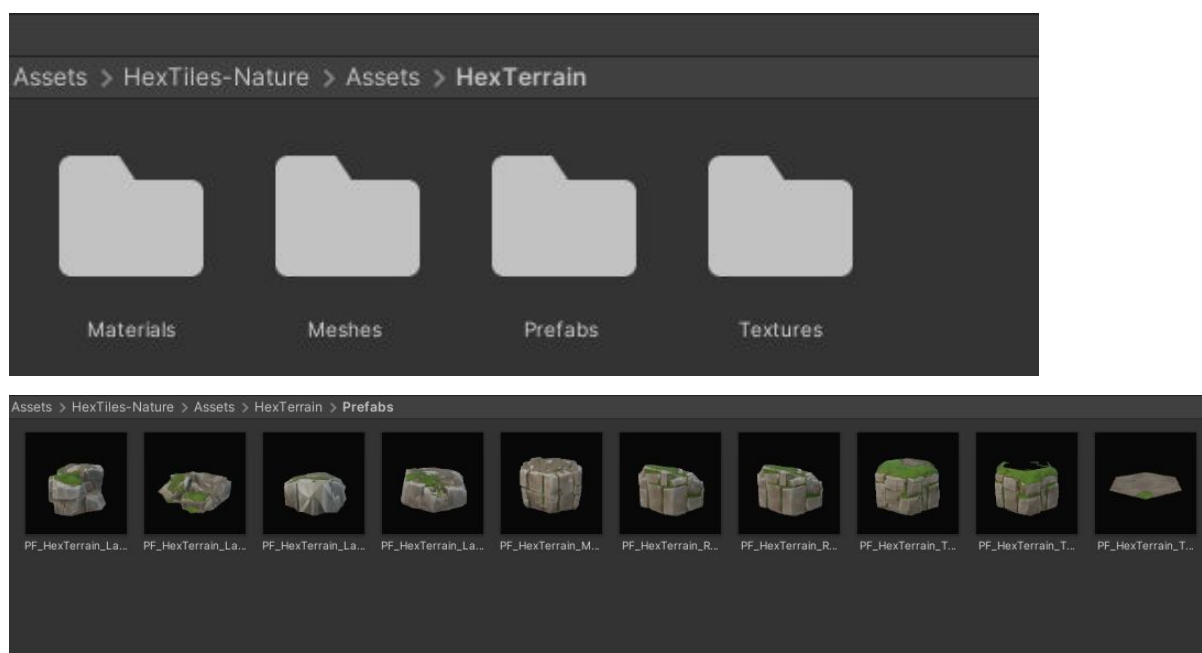
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Assets

To make use of the assets included in this pack, use the prefabs stored in `.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/("AssetType")/Prefabs`

Materials, textures, and raw meshes for each asset can be found in the same root folder:



HexTerrain Prefabs folder

Using HexTile: Nature Pack in Unity's Standard Pipeline

Although this asset pack was built to take advantage of the new URP pipeline offered in Unity, and features such as Shader Graph which are exclusive to the new scriptable render pipelines, Standard versions of the assets can be found in the `Assets_Standard` folder, with the prefabs using Unity's standard shader instead of the custom URP shaders included in this pack.

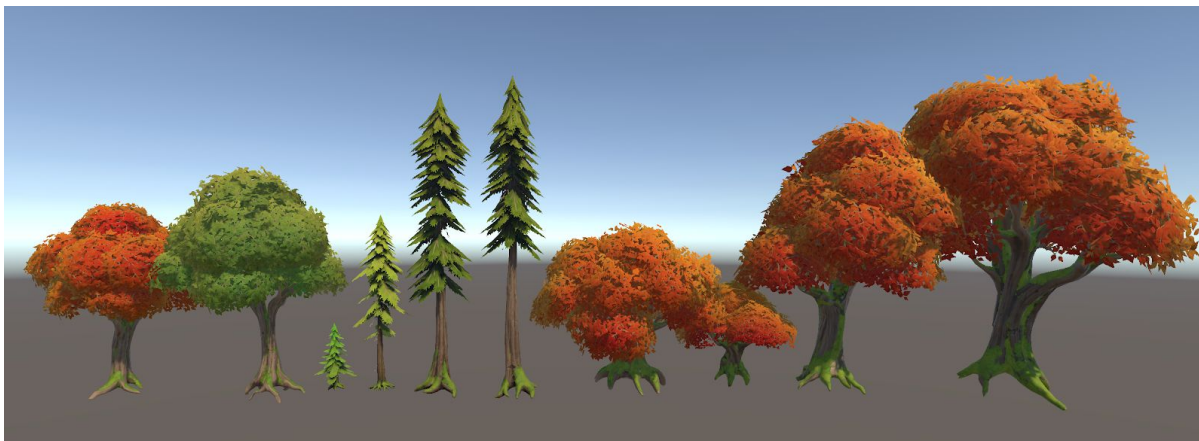
For space reasons textures and raw meshes are shared between the two asset versions. For organization purposes you may wish to install the asset pack in its entirety, then replace the *Prefabs* and *Materials* folders and their contents within each specific asset folder (*HexTerrain*, *HexGrass* etc) with the equivalent files from `Asset_Standard`.

Note that if the asset pack is used in Unity's Standard Pipeline, only the basic Unity Standard Shader will be able to be used, so extra features such as the moss layers or wind animation will not be available and other shaders such as the water and fire shaders won't work either.

A version of the demo demo asset scene is available for Standard pipelines under *DemoScene_Assets_Standard*. A version of the regular demo level is planned for a later update.

Asset List

The following is a list of assets included in this pack, sorted by group, listing the directory where they be found:



Trees (Regular, Conifer, Tall) **.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/Trees/Prefabs**



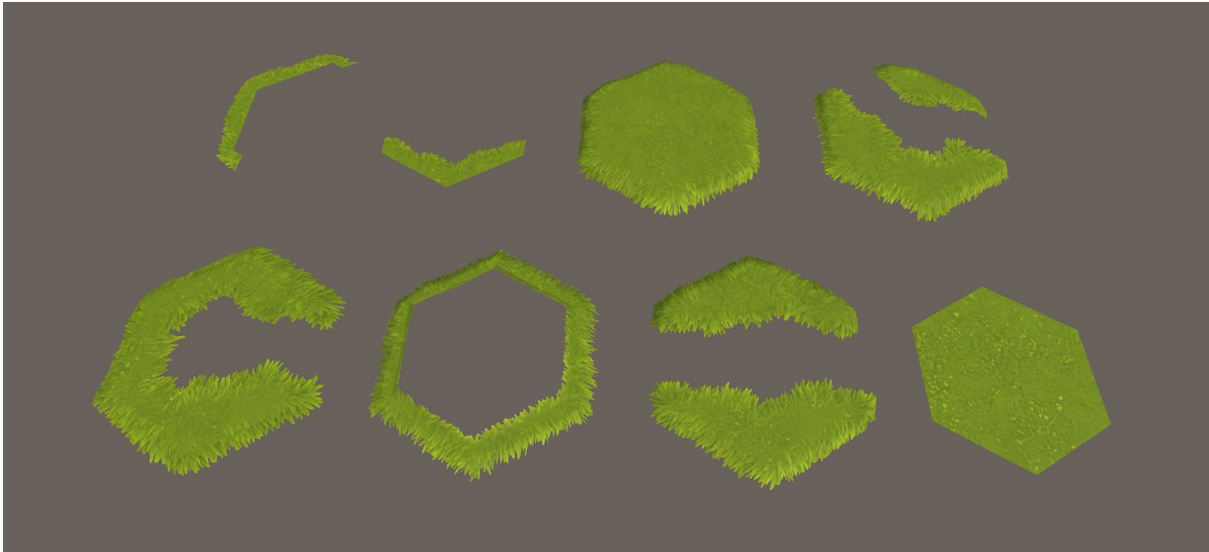
Foliage (Ferns, Bushes, Ivy) **.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/Foliage/Prefabs**



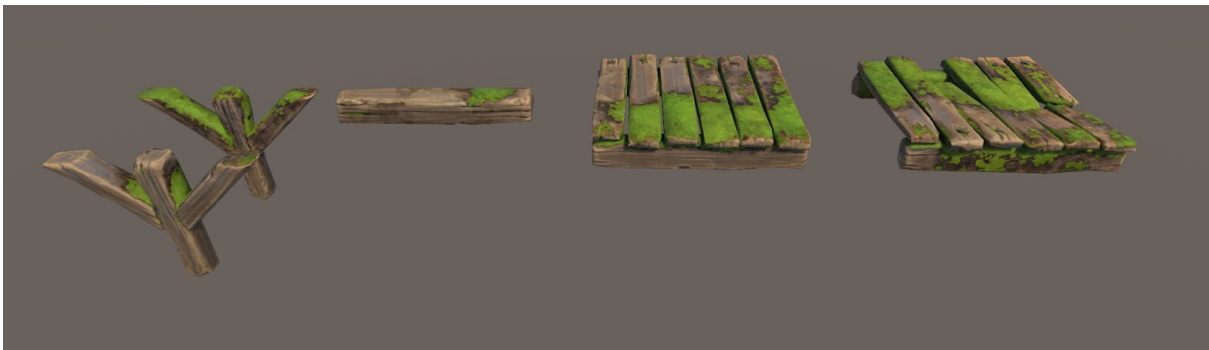
Hex Terrain (Large Rocks, Cliff Pieces, Ramp)
.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/HexTerrain/Prefabs



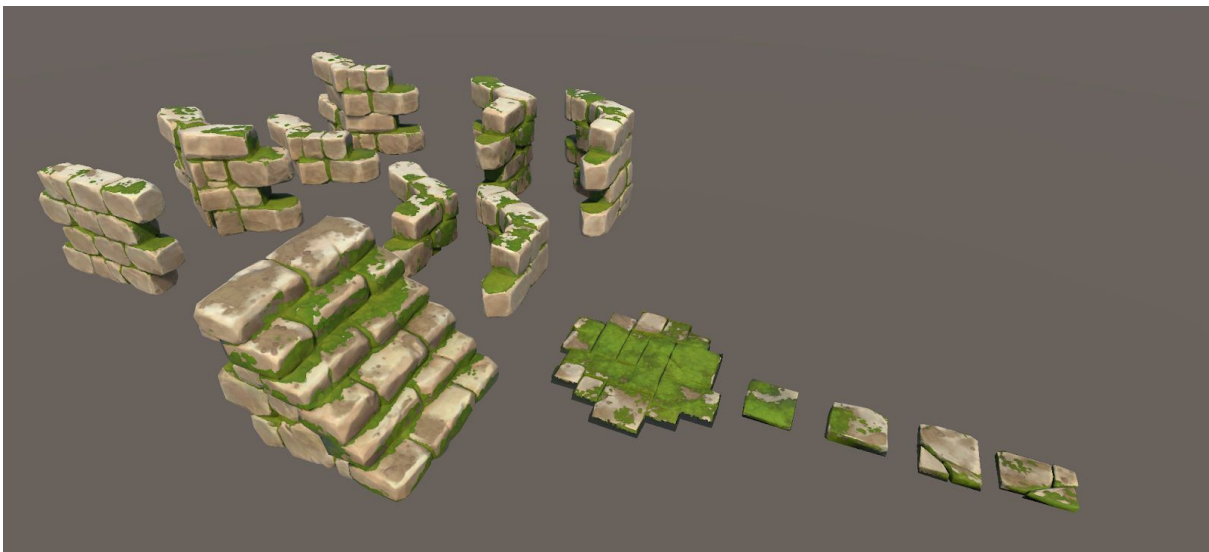
Hex Board & Metal Border **.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/HexBoard/Prefabs**



Hex Grass Sections .../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/HexGrass/Prefabs



Wooden Bridge Sections .../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/WoodenBridge/Prefabs



Stone Ruins .../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/StoneRuins/StoneRuins



Lighting Props (Braizer, Candles)

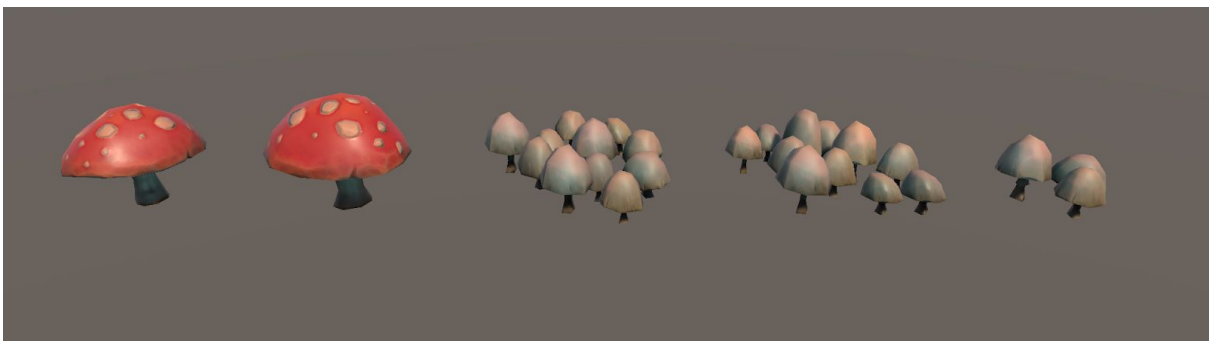
.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/LightingProps/(Brazier/Candles)/Prefabs



Roots and misc tree assets **.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/Trees/Prefabs/Roots**

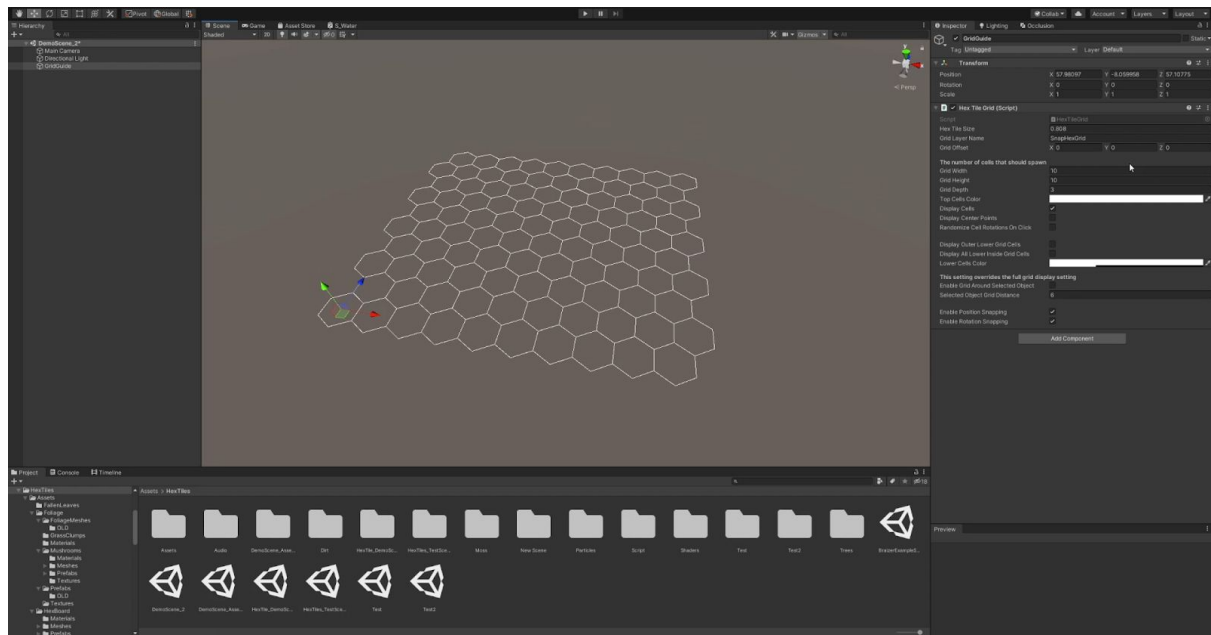
(The fallen tree trunk and tree stump can be found in the regular trees folder):

.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/Trees/Prefabs



Mushrooms: **.../HexTiles-Nature/Assets/Mushrooms/Prefabs**

Hex Tile Grid Script



The HexTile: Nature Pack comes with a hexagonal-grid snapping script to make it easy to snap environment assets together in editor to speed up level creation.

To set up the script, create a blank game object in the scene of your choice and attach the “Hex Tile Grid” script to it. You should see a hexagon grid appear in the center of the scene when Gizmos are enabled in the viewport.

The script relies on Unity’s layer system to determine which assets should be snappable. Prefab assets affected by the grid system should be on the “SnapHexGrid” layer. Because Unity stores layer information within the project settings rather than within scenes or assets, the Hex Tile Grid script will automatically create this layer when attached to a gameobject, if such a layer doesn’t already exist, as well as search for a list of specific assets included in the package which are intended to be snapped and automatically attach the layer to them.

The script comes with a number of customisation options:

Setup options: (Should usually left as default)

Hex Tile Size: Size of individual hex cells, defaults to 0.808. Shouldn’t be modified if the pre-built assets are used otherwise the assets will no longer seamlessly snap together (unless such a thing is intended).

Grid Layer Name: Name of layer used to identify snappable assets, default SnapHexGrid. Probably shouldn’t be changed unless required.

Grid Offset: Offset grid in world space. Should only be done on startup otherwise snappable assets will likely become misaligned when updated.

Grid Options

Grid Width/Height/Depth: Change grid size along X/Y/Z axis. Higher values potentially lower performance.

Top Cells Color: Change color of grid overlay when visible.

Display Cells: Grid overlay visibility

Display Center Point: Center point of grid cell, Used for debug purposes.

Randomize Cell Rotations On Click: When enabled, the selected asset will randomly rotate in 60deg increments. Useful to add variation when using terrain assets, but remember to uncheck once finished to prevent unwanted rotations (Especially when using baked lighting!)

Display Outer Lower Grid Cells: Make the border cells for each grid layer visible, useful for seeing depth of grid without enabling visibility of all layers.

Display All Lower Inside Grid Cells: Display all grid cells for each layer. Can be performance intensive depending on size and depth of grid.

Lower Cells Color: Color of lower grid cell overlay

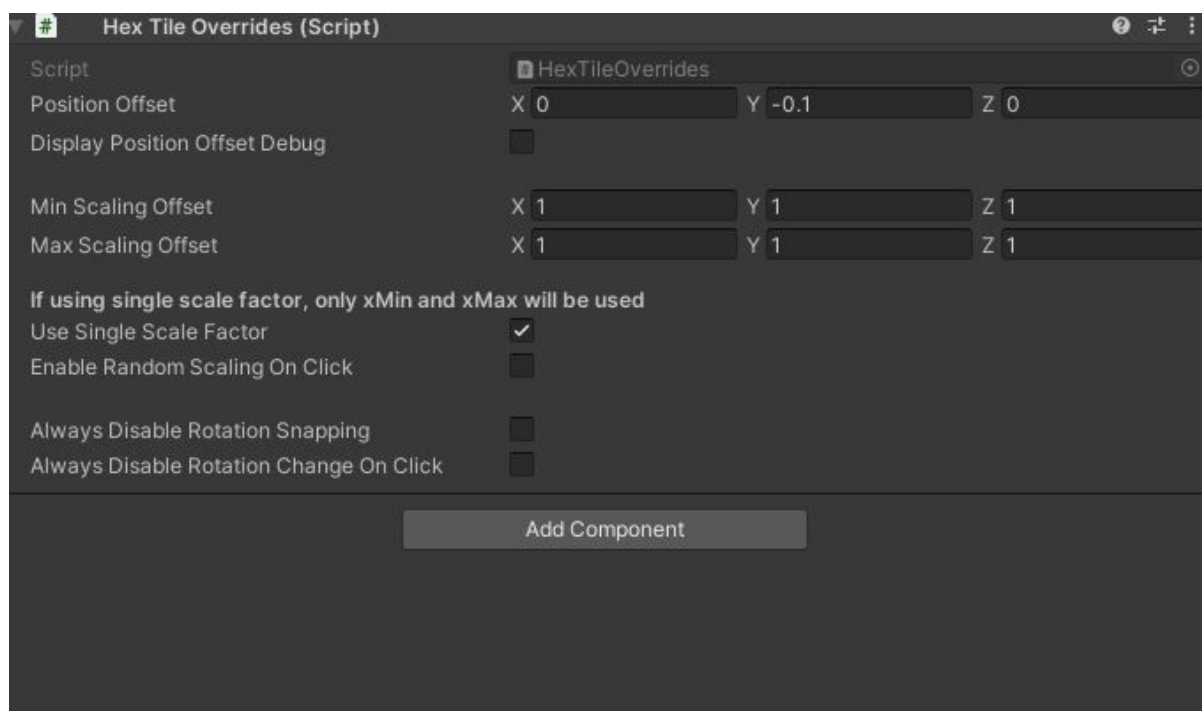
Enable Grid Around Selected Object: Creates a grid overlay around the selected object as an alternative to showing the entire scene grid.

Selected Object Grid Distance: Modify size of selected object grid overlay mentioned above.

Enable Position Snapping: Disable grid snapping entirely for position.

Enable Rotation Snapping: Disable rotation snapping between 60 degree increments.

Hex Tile Overrides Script



Alongside the Hex Tile Grid Script, an optional override script is available for individual prefabs to modify snapping on a per-object basis:

Position Offset: Offset object along X/Y/Z axis, displacing them from the grid. Useful for positioning objects in a certain location within the grid cell or to avoid unwanted intersections.

Display Position Offset Debug: Debug line showing offset amount from grid cell center.

Enable Random Scaling On Click: Similar to the **Randomize Cell Rotations On Click** option in the Hex Tile Grid script, this option randomizes the scaling of the selected asset on click - useful for certain assets such as trees if they are part of the snapping layer.

Min/Max Scaling Offset: If the randomized scaling is enabled, the min/max scaling factor.

Use Single Factor: Uniform randomized scaling.

Always Disable Rotation Snapping: Disable rotation snapping for this specific object.

Disable Rotation Change On Click: Overrides randomize rotation option for this asset, if **Randomize Cell Rotations On Click** is enabled in the Hex Tile Grid script.

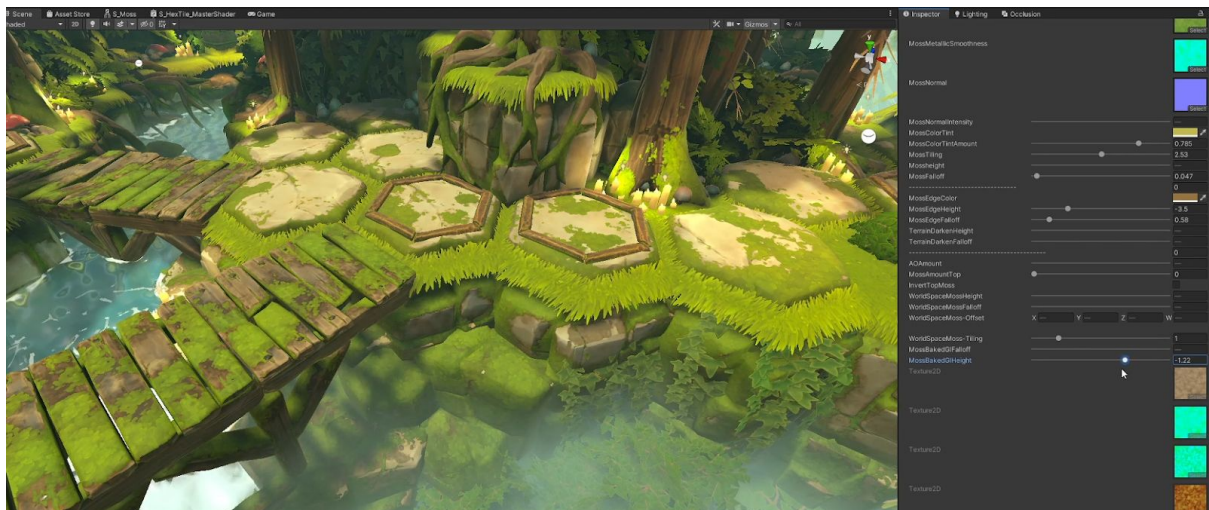
Custom Shaders

The HexTile: Nature Pack comes with a number of different shaders with complex effects such as moss growth, animated wind, water and fire. These shaders are created using Shader Graph, a node-based shader builder included in Unity URP and HDRP pipelines. As mentioned above, the shaders do not support Unity standard since the Shader Graph is unsupported on that pipeline, but versions of the assets using regular Unity standard shaders are available.

S_HexTile_MasterShader

(Used for Terrain, Hexboard pieces, Stone Ruins, Wooden Bridge, and & static tree assets (roots, fallen trees etc).

Primary shader used for most static objects. Features optional moss and dirt layers, the moss layer in particular “grows” within the cavities and above-facing sections of the asset, using the included AO maps and world-space normals. With baked lighting enabled, the moss will also grow within areas of the environment that are in shadow by using the baked lightmap texture as a mask. These features are designed to create a more natural, detailed environment as well as to break up repetition across instanced meshes.



ViewVertexColors: Disables textures and shows raw vertex color values. Useful for seeing where vertex paint has been applied and for debug purposes.

BaseColor

Normal

Unpacked Metallic/AO/Smoothness Maps: Enable if the texture maps for the asset are separate texture files rather than packed into the RGBA channels of a single MetallicSmoothness texture. Apply maps to the texture slots below this property.

EnableBaseColor_Tint

Tweak material colors

SmoothnessAmount

UseEmission

EmissiveIntensity

EmissiveColor: Tint emissive value

The following parameters are available when ***EnableDirtLayer*** is checked:

DirtHeight: Increase visibility of dirt layer applied to the top of asset

DirtFalloff: Sharpness of dirt layer edge

FallenLeaves UseWorldSpaceUVs: Paint fallen leaves layer using (B) vertex channel.

FallenLeaves ObjectSpaceScale: If UseWorldSpaceUVs is unchecked, scales texture.

The following parameters are available when ***EnableMossLayer*** is checked:

MossBaseColor

MossMetallicSmoothness: (R) is Metallic, (G) is AO, (A) is Smoothness

MossNormal

MossNormalIntensity: Increase/reduce normal shading

MossColorTint: Tints Moss BaseColor

MossColorTintAmount

MossTiling: Tile UV

MossHeight: Visibility of moss layer

MossFalloff: Sharpness of moss layer edge

MossEdgeColor: Tint moss near layer edge

MossEdgeHeight: Increase distance from layer edge

MossEdgeFalloff: Tinted moss sharpness

MossCavityAmount: Increase moss within the object's cavities. Uses AO map (Green channel of object's MetallicSmoothness texture).

MossAmountTop: Increase moss along the top of the object using worldspace Y mask.

InvertTopMoss: Inverts Y mask so that moss grows along the bottom of the object instead.

WorldSpaceMossHeight: Visibility of worldspace moss. This option adds a layer of moss using noise with worldspace UVs, as a way to add variation to object instances.

WorldSpaceMossFalloff: Sharpness of worldspace moss layer.

WorldSpaceMossOffset: Offset position of noise texture used to generate this moss layer.

WorldSpaceMossTiling: Increase/decrease tiling (and therefore size) of noise texture.

EnableMossBakedGI: When enabled, moss will grow within the shaded areas of the environment after Global Illumination (static baked lighting) has been baked. If baked lighting isn't being used in your project, then this should be disabled otherwise the

shader will default to applying the moss layer to the entire object if no lightmap textures can be found.

MossBakedGIHeight: Increase, decrease visibility of GI moss layer.

MossBakedGIFalloff: Sharpness of GI moss layer.

EnableMossLayer

EnableDirtLayer

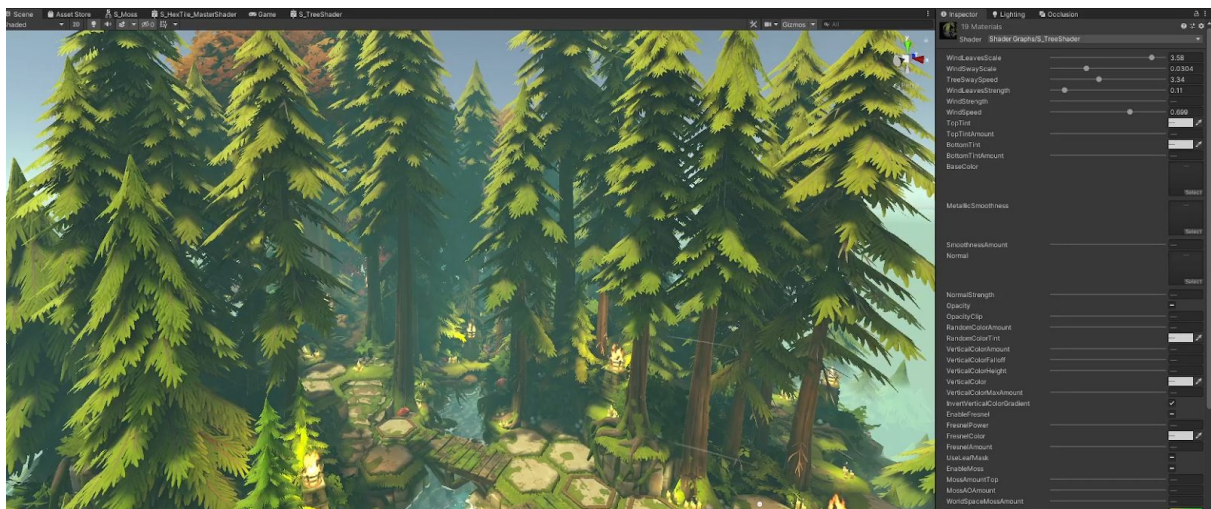
Enable secondary material layers and the properties mentioned above.

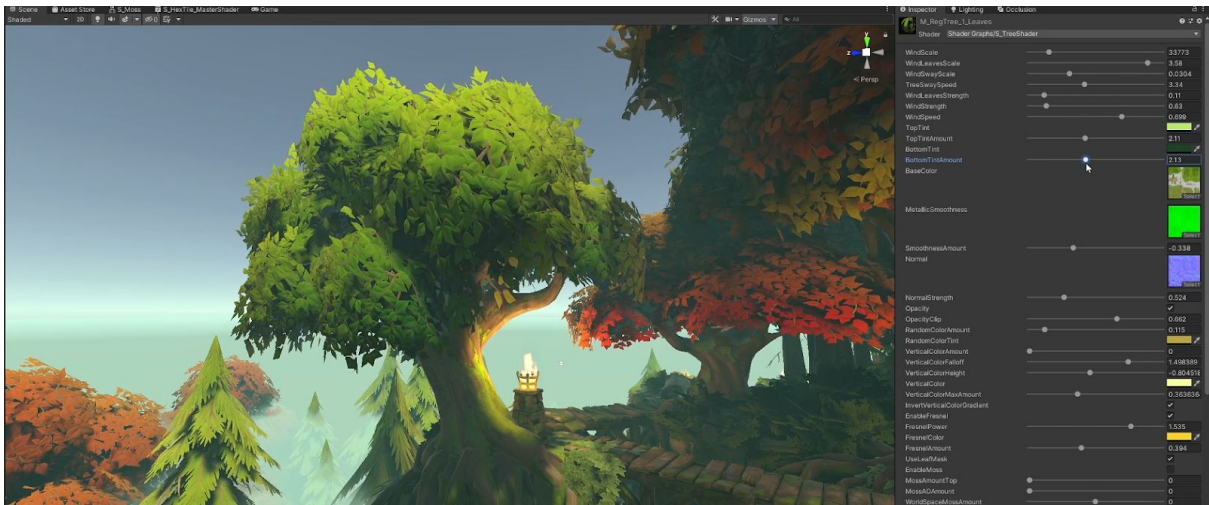
EnableAnimatedEmission

Enable animated noise masks for emission

S_TreeShader

Primary shader used for tree assets, both for leaves and tree trunk. Has a wind effect which takes advantage of painted vertex colors on each of the tree meshes - with the red channel controlling sway/object-scale wind, while blue channel controls blowing leaves.





Tree assets with “ViewVertexColors” enabled. Red channel: Tree Sway, Blue Channel, Leaf Wind

Shader Properties:

ViewVertexColors: Replaces BaseColor with vertex colors, useful for debug purposes to see which areas of the mesh are affected by the wind effect.

WindLeavesScale: Scale wind noise texture for leaves

WindSwayScale: Scale wind noise texture for tree trunk

TreeSwaySpeed

WindLeavesStrength: Amount of distortion to leaves caused by wind

WindStrength: Global wind strength value

WindSpeed: Global wind speed value

(Make sure that all wind parameters are the same for both the leaf mesh and tree trunk mesh otherwise they will no longer be aligned)

TopTint

BottomTint

TopTintAmount

BottomTintAmount

Color tint modifiers for tree leaves.

BaseColor

MetallicSmoothness: (R) is Metallic, (G) is AO, (A) is Smoothness

Normal

SmoothnessAmount: Modify specularly value

NormalStrength: Increase/decrease normal map shading for leaves, lower values give a more flatter style.

Opacity: Check if material is used for leafs rather than tree trunk.

OpacityClip: Value at which Unity “clips” the texture to fully transparent. Lower values give the mesh a more “fuller” look, higher values allow more of the interior of the leaf mesh to be seen. Also affects real time shadows.

RandomColorAmount**RandomColorTint**

Tints the leaves a random color based on mesh position in the world.

EnableFresnel**FresnelPower****FresnelColor**

Adds a “fresnel” shading effect to the mesh, tinting the edges of the visible mesh to give it a more “fuzzy” appearance.

The following parameters are available when **EnableMossLayer** is checked:

MossAmount

MossAmountTop: Increase moss along the top of the object using worldspace Y mask.

MossCavityAmount: Increase moss within the object’s cavities. Uses AO map (Green channel of object’s MetallicSmoothness texture).

WorldSpaceMossAmount: Visibility of worldspace moss. This option adds a layer of moss using noise with worldspace UVs, as a way to add variation to object instances.

EnableMossLayer: Enable secondary moss material layer with properties controlled above.

UseLeafMask: For leaf materials, masks out the branch texture so that they’re not affected by color tinting or other shader effects

S_Water

The water shader is highly customisable with a number of different parameters to modify edge foam, refraction, color, as well as a casutics effect that appears projected onto underwater objects (though the effect is only visible when looking into the water from above, rather than below).

The water shader also works in conjunction with a script which modifies the “UVRotation” parameter in the shader to allow the flow of water to move with the rotation of the prefab. Note however this is still quite experimental and the script generates a new instance for each tile, so the water can no longer be modified by editing the core water material. For that reason, versions of the water prefabs with the script attached have “_UVRotate” affixed to their name alongside regular versions.



Make sure that “Opaque Texture” is enabled in “UniversalRP-HighQuality” asset for accurate water and fire rendering.

Shader Properties:**Scale****SpeedX****SpeedY**

Control panning speed and scale of noise texture used for water.

SecondarySpeed: Multiplier of previous X/Y speed values for secondary noise texture.

FoamEdgeStrength: Intensity of edge foam, smaller values extend the foam outwards.

Displacement: Increase wave height in 3D space.

Smoothness: Specularity value

Opacity: Opacity of non-foam water.

OpacityDepth: Opacity gradient beginning from water surface.

DistortionAmount: Refraction of surface below water.

DistortionOffset: Offset distortion left and right. Used to correct offset created by increasing DistortionAmount value.

WaterColorOpacity**ShallowWaterColor****DeepWaterColor**

Parameters for colorizing water.

FoamFalloff: Sharpness of foam edge.

FoamHeight: Height at which objects below the surface affect the amount of foam produced.

FoamStrength: Intensity of edge foam, increasing the value extends the foam outwards.

Emissive: Adds an emissive value to water, saturating color values. Useful for certain art styles or for depicting other types of liquid.

NormalIntensity: Normal map intensity. Decreases visibility of waves in conjunction with Smoothness value.

UseWorldSpaceUVs: Defaults to world-space to remove seams between the hextile meshes. You may wish to disable and revert to object-space UVs if the material is being used on a custom water mesh, such as a river mesh where the UVs conform to the curves of the river.

Waterfall-Falloff: Sharpness of waterfall foam

Waterfall-Height: Density of foam

Waterfall-StretchX/Y: Stretches texture along X/Y Axis based on verticality.

Waterfall-FoamHeight: Extra density parameter

Water-FoamContrast: Extra contrast parameter

RotateUV: Rotate direction of material (and therefore flow direction)

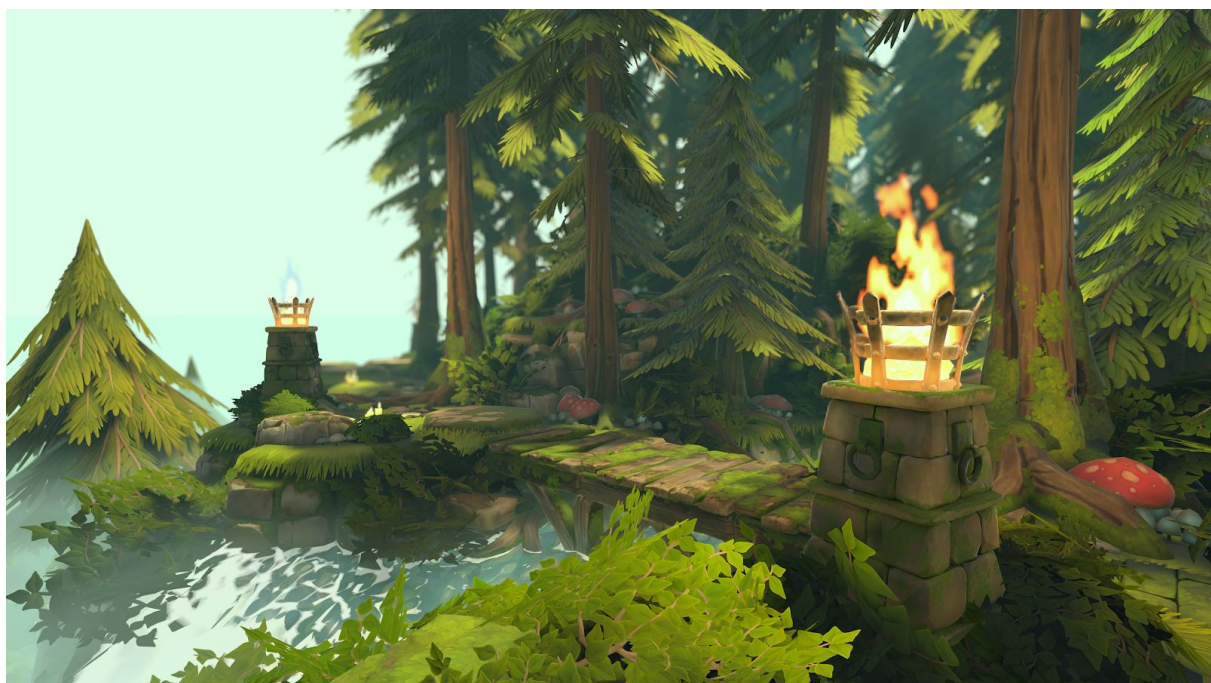
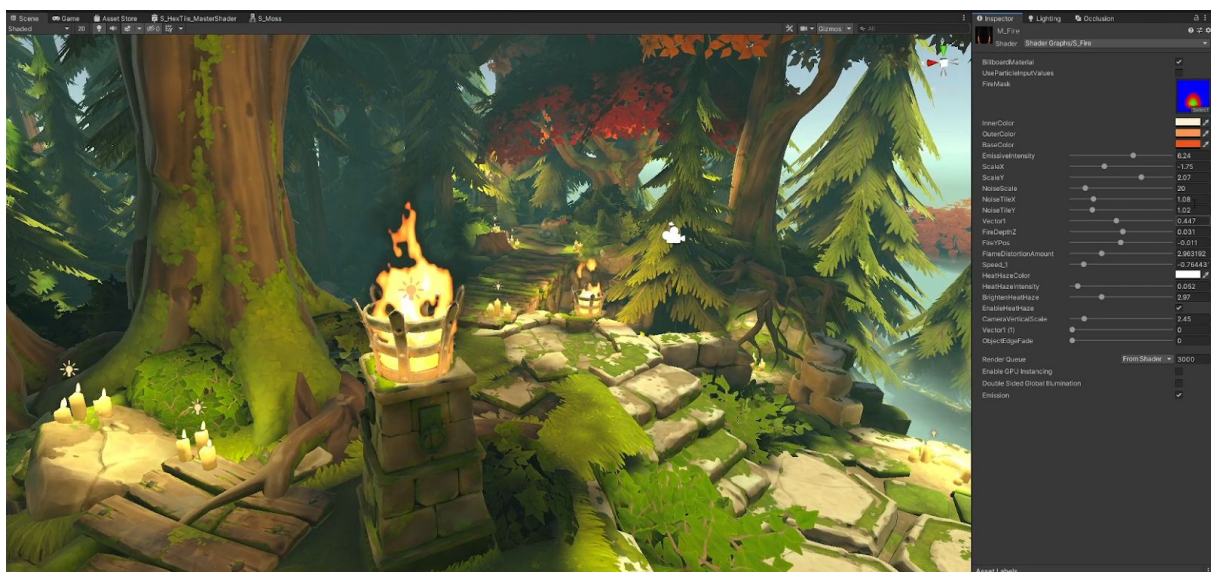
CausticsScale: Size of caustics texture

CausticsMaskHeight: Max height of caustics projection onto underwater objects.

CausticsIntensity: visibility of caustics layer

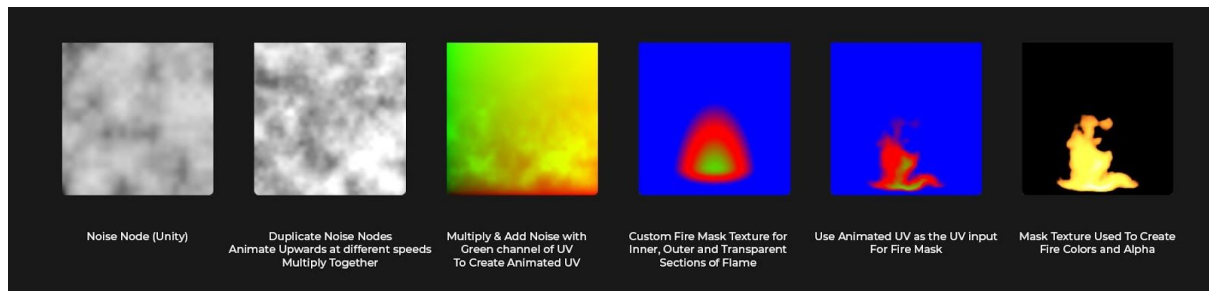
CausticsSurfaceMaskHeight: Visibility of caustics near water surface.

S_Fire



Make sure that "Opaque Texture" is enabled in "UniversalRP-HighQuality" asset for accurate water and fire rendering.

The fire shader works by distorting the UVs of a RGB mask texture with Shader Graph's built-in noise functions. A short breakdown of the effect can be seen here:



The fire shader can be customized in a number of different ways for use in different assets - for example the same shader used for the braziers is also used for the candles, just with certain parameters scaled down to give the appearance of a candle flame.

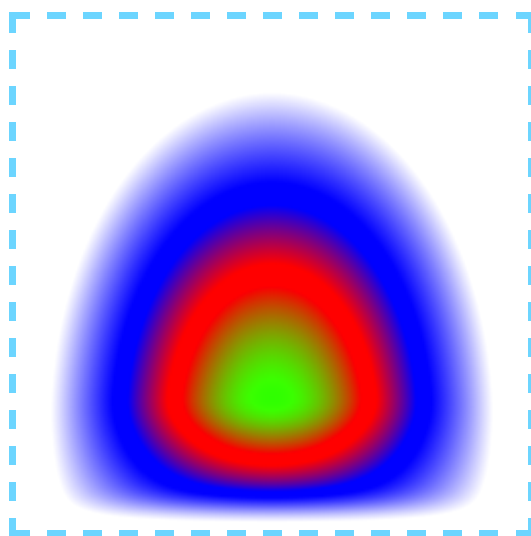
The effect was inspired by the work done in the game RiME by Tequila Works, information of which can be found in this talk: https://youtu.be/ExD_p3hsV80?t=202 and on this blog post: <https://cyangamedev.wordpress.com/2020/08/04/fire-shader-breakdown/>

Shader Properties:

BillboardMaterial: When enabled the mesh will always face the camera.

FireMask: RGBA mask texture which corresponds to the inner, outer and haze sections of the flame. Can be replaced to create certain styles or different flame shapes - for example a “flat” version of the mask is included which creates a more stylized version of the effect, as well as a horizontally tiling version which could be used for a long trail of fire, for example.

ViewRGBA-FireMask: Debug view for mask



Default RGBA mask

InnerColor

MidColor

OuterColor

Color individual sections of flame based on fire mask.

EmissiveIntensity

Speed: Fire animation speed

ScaleX/Y: Scale fire effect independent of mesh

NoiseScale: Distortion noise scale

NoiseTileX/Y

FireDepthZ: Offset fire effect inwards/outwards

FireYPos: Offset effect on Y axis

FlameDistortionAmount: Intensity of noise distortion

EnableHeatHaze: Enable background heat distortion using depth buffer

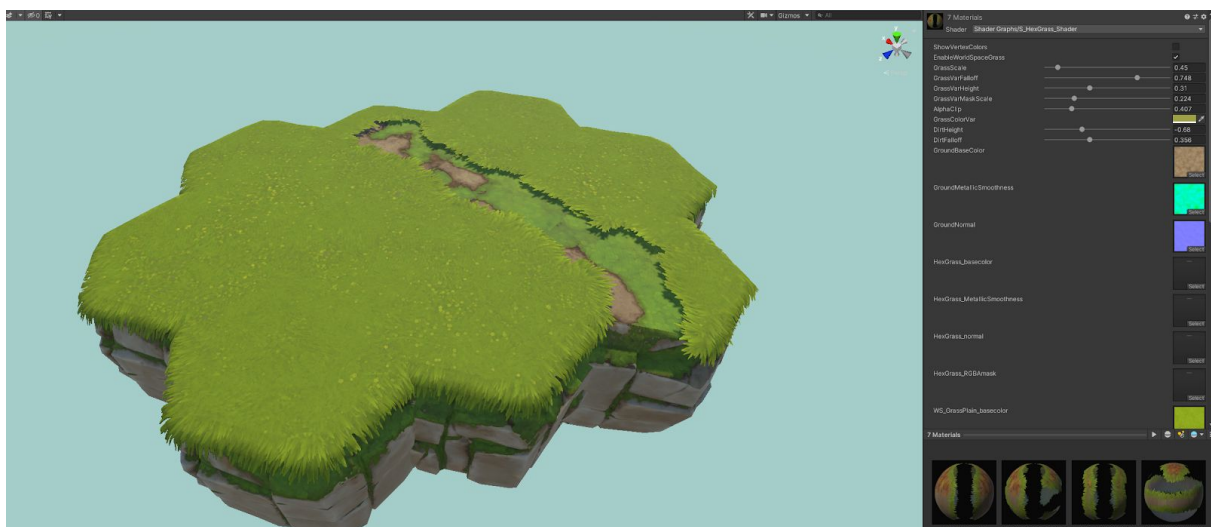
HeatHazeColor: Colorize haze effect

HeatHazeIntensity: Intensity of distortion

HeatHazeBrightness

CameraVerticalScale: Resizes flame on Y axis based on camera rotation, reducing the size of the flame when the camera is looking vertically downwards.

S_HexGrass_Shader



The HexGrass shader is used for the HexGrass tile assets, and has a number of properties to control color tint, worldspace UV grass and the wind effect.

Shader Properties:

ShowVertexColors: Replace BaseColor with vertex colors. Useful for seeing areas of the mesh affected by wind (Blue channel), areas where dirt (Green) or fallen leaves (Red) have been painted, and other debug purposes.

WindAmount: Wind multiplier

WindSpeed: Speed of wind noise texture

GrassScale: Scale factor for worldspace UV grass

The following parameters are available when **EnableWorldSpaceGrass** is checked:

GrassVarFalloff

GrassVarHeight

Worldspace grass consists of two different sets of grass textures blended together using a noise mask to further breakup repetition. These parameters affect visibility of the secondary layer and sharpness.

GrassVarMaskScale: Scale of noise mask used to blend each grass texture set.

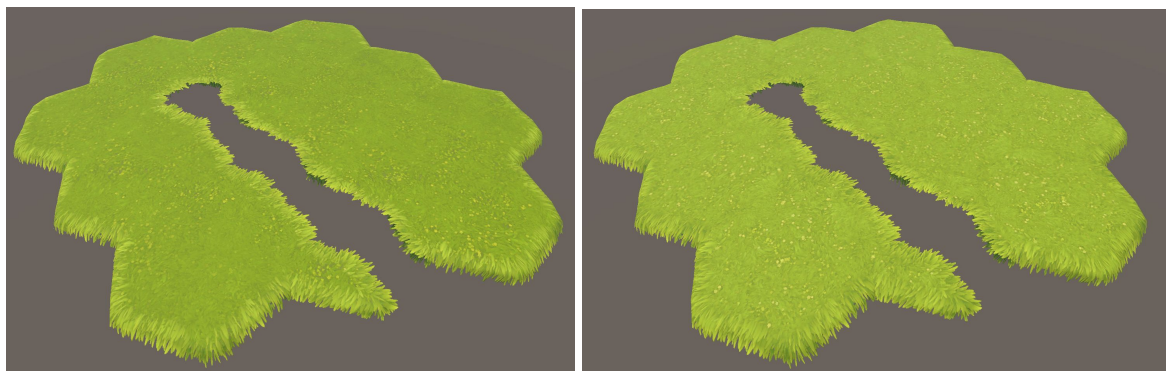
DirtHeight

DirtFalloff

If dirt has been painted onto the mesh using the green vertex channel, controls visibility and sharpness of mask.

AlphaClip: Effects cutoff point of alpha texture.

EnableWorldSpaceGrass: Enable secondary grass layer which tiles in world space. This reduces seams across meshes while also allowing for dirt and fallen leaves to be painted using vertex colors. Disable for a more performance-friendly shader that should suffice in most cases, enable for scenes with larger open fields where repetition is more noticeable.

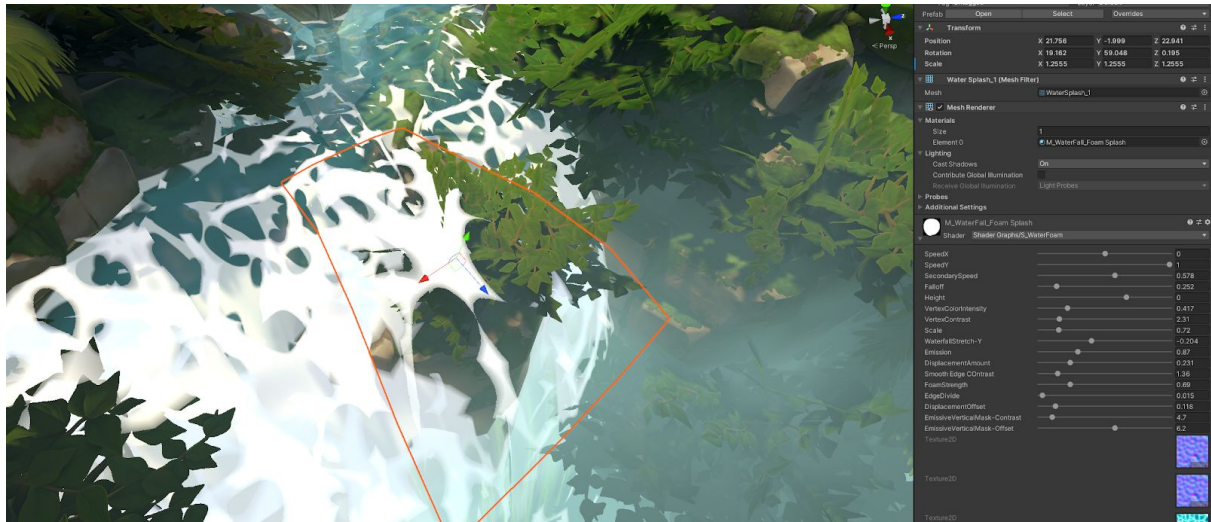


EnableWorldSpaceGrass: enabled (left), disabled (right)

Other Shaders

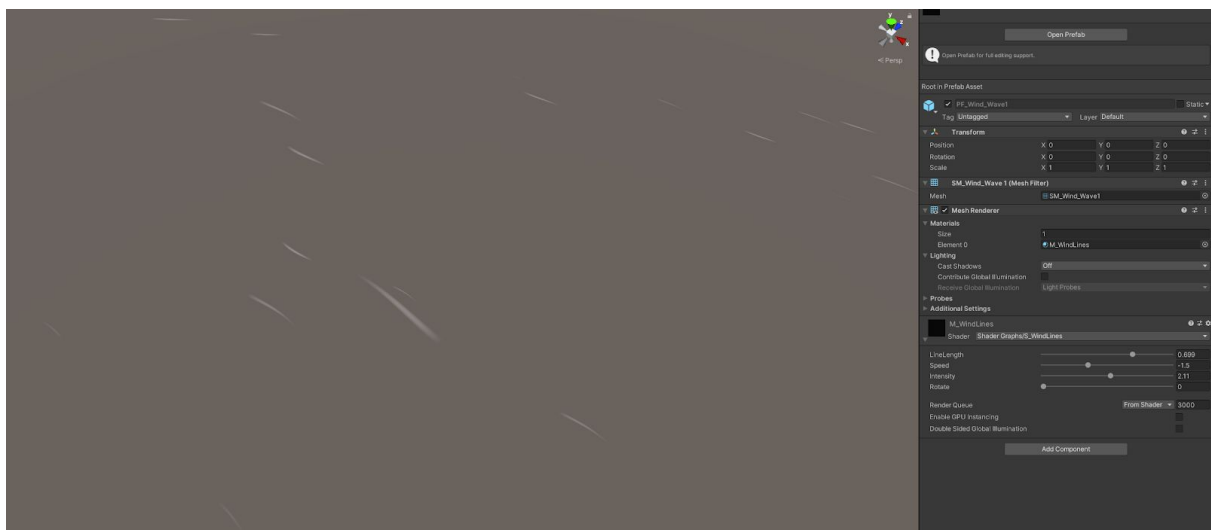
S_WaterFoil

Simpler water shader designed for water splash cards and foam, has much of the same parameters as the standard S_Water shader.



S_WindLines

Shader for animated stylized wind lines, prefabs can be found in:
Assets/VFX/Wind/Prefabs



S_EmissiveProps

Simple shader specifically for emissive materials. Has much of the functionality as the emissive options in **S_HexTile_MasterShader**