

SECTION 32 92 19.13  
TOP SOILING, SEEDING AND SODDING

PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

- A The work covered by this Section consists of furnishing all labor, equipment and material required to place topsoil, seed, commercial fertilizer, agricultural limestone and mulch material, including seedbed preparation, harrowing, compacting and other placement operations on graded earthen areas as described herein.
- B Seeding operations shall be conducted on all newly graded earthen areas not covered by structures, pavement or sidewalks; all cleared or grubbed areas which are to remain as finish grade surfaces; and on all existing turf areas which are disturbed by construction operations and which are to remain as finish grade surfaces. Areas disturbed by borrow activities shall also be seeded according to these Specifications.
- C The Work shall also include temporary seeding operations to stabilize earthen surfaces during construction or inclement weather and to minimize stream siltation and erosion.

1.2 SUBMITTALS

- A Submittals shall be made in accordance with the requirements of the Contract, and Section 01 33 00 Submittals. In addition, the following information shall be submitted to the Owner for the Project record:
  - 1. Prior to seeding operations, labels or certified laboratory reports from an accredited commercial seed laboratory or a state seed laboratory showing the analysis and germination of the seed to be furnished. Acceptance of the seed test reports shall not relieve the Contractor of any responsibility or liability for furnishing seed meeting the requirements of this Section.
  - 2. Prior to topsoil operations, the Contractor shall obtain representative samples and furnish soil test certificates including textural, pH, and organic ignition analysis from a certified testing laboratory.

PART 2 PRODUCTS

2.1 ACCEPTABLE MANUFACTURERS

- A Wood cellulose fiber mulch shall be manufactured by Weyerhaeuser Company or Conway Corporation or equal.

2.2 MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION

- A Topsoil
  - 1. Utilizing stockpiles or borrow areas on site, the Contractor shall place a minimum of 6-inches of topsoil over all graded earthen areas and over any other areas to be seeded.
  - 2. Topsoil shall be a friable loam containing a large amount of humus and shall be original surface soil of good, rich, uniform quality, free from any material such as hard clods, stiff clay, hardpan, partially disintegrated stone, pebbles larger than 1/2-inch in diameter, lime, cement, bricks, ashes, cinders, slag, concrete, bitumen or its residue, boards, sticks, chips or other undesirable material harmful or unnecessary to plant growth. Topsoil shall be reasonably free from perennial weeds and shall not contain objectionable plant material, toxic amounts of either acid or alkaline elements or vegetable debris undesirable or harmful to plant life.

3. Topsoil shall be natural topsoil without admixture of subsoil material, and shall be classifiable as loam, silt loam, clay loam, sandy loam or a combination thereof. The pH shall range from 5.5 to 7.0. Topsoil shall contain not less than 5 percent nor more than 20 percent, by weight, of organic matter as determined by loss on ignition of oven dried samples to 65 Degrees C.

**B Seed**

1. Seed shall be hulled common Bermuda (Cynodon Dactylon) guaranteed by the dealer to be 98% minimum purity and 90% minimum germination and certified free of giant strain Bermuda.
2. Seed shall be delivered in new bags or bags that are sound and labeled in accordance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Federal Seed Act.
3. All seed shall be from the last crop available at time of purchase and shall not be moldy, wet or otherwise damaged in transit or storage.
4. Seed shall bear the growers analysis testing to 98 percent for purity and 90 percent for germination. At the discretion of the Owner, samples of seed may be taken for check against the grower's analysis.
5. Species, rate of seeding, fertilization and other requirements are shown in Table 1 at the end of this Section.

**C Fertilizer and Liming Materials**

1. Fertilizer and liming materials shall comply with applicable State of Georgia, local and federal laws concerned with their production and use.
2. Commercial fertilizer shall be a ready mixed material and shall be equivalent to the grade or grades specified in Table 02933-1. Container bags shall have the name and address of the manufacturer, the brand name, net weight and chemical composition.
3. Agricultural limestone shall be a pulverized limestone having a calcium carbonate content of not less than 85 percent by weight.
4. Fertilizer shall be a complete fertilizer, the content of which shall meet the following minimum requirements: 10% nitrogen, 10% phosphoric acid, 10% potash, available materials. Fertilizer shall be uniform in composition, dry and free flowing, and shall be delivered to the site in original unopened containers bearing the manufacturer's statement of guarantee.
5. Ammonium Nitrate shall be a standard brand and shall be delivered to the site in original unopened containers. It shall contain not less than 33-1/3% Nitrogen.

**D Mulch Material**

1. All mulch materials shall be air dried and reasonably free of noxious weeds and weed seeds or other materials detrimental to plant growth.
2. Mulch shall be composed of wood cellulose fiber, straw or stalks, as specified herein. Mulch shall be suitable for spreading with standard mulch blowing equipment.
3. Straw mulch shall be partially decomposed stalks of wheat, rye, or oats.
4. Stalks shall be the partially decomposed, shredded residue of corn, cane, or sorghum.

**E Mulch Binder**

1. Mulch on slopes exceeding 3 to 1 ratio shall be held in place by the use of a mulch binder. The mulch binder shall be non-toxic to plant life.

2. Emulsified asphalt binder shall be Grade SS-1, ASTM D977. Cutback asphalt binder shall be Grade RC 70 or RC 250.
- F Inoculants for Legumes: All leguminous seed shall be inoculated prior to seeding with a standard culture of nitrogen fixing bacteria that is adapted to the particular seed involved.
- G Water: Water shall be clean, clear water free from any objectionable or harmful chemical qualities or organisms and shall be furnished by the Contractor.
- H Sod
1. Sod shall be living, growing sod of Bermuda hybrids "Tifway 419" or Tifgreen 328". This includes sod which is dormant during the cold or dry season and capable of renewing growth after the dormant period. All sod shall be obtained from qualified, established sources. The presence of weeds or other noxious growth or any other foreign material which may be detrimental to the proposed planting will be cause of rejection. At least 85% of the plants in the sod shall be composed of the designated variety of Bermuda grass.
  2. The sod will be subject to inspection by Owner while it is being planted and any material which has been permitted to dry out excessively or exposed to extreme heat, or which is not viable, will be rejected.
  3. In the harvesting of the sod, grass more than 3-inches tall shall be mowed to a height of 3-inches, raked and removed before sod cutting begins. The sod shall be cut into square or rectangular sections which may vary in length, but which shall be of uniform width and thickness, and shall have at least ½-inch of soil adhering firmly to the roots. Care shall be exercised at all times to retain the soil on the roots of the sod during the process of cutting, transporting and planting. Sod shall be transplanted within 24 hours from the time it is harvested. All sod stored shall be kept moist, shall be protected from exposure to the air and sun and from freezing, and shall not be stored for more than 10 days. Sod shall be cut and moved only when the soil moisture conditions are such that favorable results can be expected.

### PART 3 EXECUTION

#### 3.1 SECURING AND PLACING TOPSOIL

- A Topsoil shall be secured from areas from which topsoil has not been previously removed, either by erosion or mechanical methods.
- B The area or areas from which topsoil is secured shall possess such uniformity of soil depth, color, texture, drainage and other characteristics as to offer assurance that, when removed the product will be homogeneous in nature and will conform to the requirements of these Specifications.
- C All areas from which topsoil is to be secured, shall be cleaned of all sticks, boards, stones, lime, cement, ashes, cinders, slag, concrete, bitumen or its residue and any other refuse which will hinder or prevent growth.
- D In securing topsoil from a designated pit, or elsewhere, should strata or seams of material occur which do not come under the requirements for topsoil, such material shall be removed from the topsoil or if the material cannot be removed the pit shall be abandoned.
- E Before placing or depositing topsoil upon any areas, all improvement within the area shall be completed.
- F The areas in which topsoil is to be placed or incorporated shall be prepared before securing topsoil for use.

### 3.2 SEEDBED PREPARATION

- A Before liming, fertilizing and seeding, the topsoil surfaces shall be trimmed and worked to true line from unsightly variation, bumps, ridges and depressions and all detrimental material, roots and stones larger than 3-inches in any dimension shall be removed from the soil.
- B Not earlier than 24 hours before the seed is to be sown, the soil surface to be seeded shall be thoroughly cultivated to a depth of not less than 2-inches with a weighted disc, tiller, pulvimixer or other equipment, until the surface is smooth and in a condition ready to accept seed.
- C If the prepared surface becomes eroded as a result of rain or for any other reason, or becomes crusted before the seed is sown, the surface shall again be cultivated for seeding.
- D Ground preparation operations shall be performed only when the ground is in a tillable and workable condition.

### 3.3 FERTILIZATION AND LIMING

- A Following seedbed preparation, fertilizer shall be applied to all areas to be seeded so as to achieve the application rates shown in Table 02933-1 at the end of this Section.
- B Fertilizer shall be spread evenly over the seedbed and shall be lightly harrowed, raked, or otherwise incorporated into the soil for a depth of 1/2-inch.
- C Fertilizer need not be incorporated in the soil as specified above when mixed with seed in water and applied with power sprayer equipment. The seed shall not remain in water containing fertilizer for more than 30 minutes when a hydraulic seeder is used.
- D Agricultural limestone shall be thoroughly mixed into the soil according to the rates in Table 02933-1. The specified rate of application of limestone may be reduced if pH tests indicate this to be desirable. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to obtain such tests to determine any adjustment in rates.
- E It is the responsibility of the Contractor to make one application of a maintenance fertilizer according to the recommendations listed in Table 02933-1.
- F Spread 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. of 10-10-10 fertilizer into top 3-inches, hand rake and smooth. The surface shall be brought to finish grade requirements, allowance being made for settlement. Finish grades shall be smooth and free from hollows or other inequalities.
- G Three weeks after construction of lawns add ammonium nitrate at the rate of 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area, and thoroughly water in.

### 3.4 SEEDING

- A Seed of the specified group shall be sown as soon as preparation of the seedbed has been completed. No seed shall be sown during high winds, nor until the surface is suitable for working and is in a proper condition. Seeding shall be performed during the dates shown in Table 02933-1. Seed mixtures may be sown together provided they are kept in a thoroughly mixed condition during the seeding operation.
- B Seed shall be uniformly sown by mechanical method suitable for the slope and size of the areas to be seeded, preferably with a broadcast type seeder, windmill hand seeder or mechanical power drawn seed drills. Hydro-seeding and hydro-mulching may be used on steep embankments, provided full coverage is obtained. Care shall be taken to adjust the seeder for seedings at the proper rate before seeding operations are started and to maintain their adjustment during seeding. Seed in hoppers shall be agitated to prevent segregation of the various seeds in a seeding mixture.

- C Immediately after sowing, the seeds shall be covered and compacted to a depth of 1/8 to 3/8-inch by a cultipacker or suitable roller.
- D Leguminous seeds shall be inoculated prior to seeding with a compatible nitrogen-fixing inoculant in accordance with the manufacturer's mixing instructions.
- E Italian rye grass (*Lolium Multiflorum*) shall be evenly seeded with a mechanical spreader at the rate of 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. of area, lightly rake, suitably compact and thoroughly water. Before planting the permanent lawn, the rye shall be thoroughly scarified in a manner to incorporate it into the top three inches of the ground.
- F The planting of Bermuda grass shall be done only within the season extending from April 15 to August 1.

3.5 MULCHING

- A All seeded areas shall be uniformly mulched in a continuous blanket immediately after seeding. The mulch shall be applied so as to permit some sunlight to penetrate and the air to circulate and at the same time shade the ground, reduce erosion and conserve soil moisture. Approximately 25 percent of the ground shall be visible through the mulch blanket.
- B One of the following mulches shall be spread evenly over the seeded areas at the following application rates:

Wood Cellulose Fiber	1,400 pounds/acre
Straw	4,000 pounds/acre
Stalks	4,000 pounds/acre

- C These rates may be adjusted at no additional cost to the Owner, depending on the texture and condition of the mulch material and the characteristics of the seeded area.
- D The Contractor shall cover structures, poles, fence and appurtenances if the mulch binder is applied in such a way that it would come in contact with or discolor the structures.
- E Mulch and binder shall be applied by suitable blowing equipment at closely controlled application rates using standard industry practice.

3.6 WATERING

- A The Contractor shall be responsible for maintaining the proper moisture content of the soil to ensure adequate plant growth until a satisfactory stand is obtained. If necessary, watering shall be performed to maintain adequate water content in the soil.
- B Watering shall be accomplished by hoses, tank truck or sprinklers in such a way to prevent erosion, excessive runoff and overwatered spots.

3.7 MAINTENANCE

- A Upon completion of seeding operations, the Contractor shall clear the area of all equipment, debris and excess material and the premises shall be left in a neat and orderly condition.
- B The Contractor shall maintain all seeded areas without additional payment until final acceptance of the work by the Owner, and any regrading, refertilizing, reliming, reseeding or remulching shall be done at the Contractor's own expense. Seeding work shall be repeated on defective areas until a satisfactory uniform stand is accomplished. Damage resulting from erosion, gulleys, washouts or other causes shall be repaired by filling with topsoil, compacting and repeating the seeding work at the Contractor's expense.
- C Contractors' warranty of one (1) year shall also cover a fully rooted stand of grass.

TABLE 1 SEEDING REQUIREMENTS

Area	Sowing Season	Species	Seed	Rates per 1,000 Square Feet		
				Fertilizer	Limestone	Maintenance**
Flat to rolling terrain with slopes less than 3:1	3/1 to 4/15	Rebel II	6-8 lbs.	30 lbs.	200 lbs.	10 lbs.
		Turf-Type Tall Fescue		6-12-12		10-10-10
	9/1 to 11/15	Rebel II	6-8 lbs.	30 lbs.	200 lbs.	15 lbs.
		Turf-Type Tall Fescue		6-12-12		10-10-10
Embankments with slopes greater than 3:1	3/1 to 6/1	Crownvetch*	lb.	30 lbs.	200 lbs.	10 lbs.
		Kentucky 31 Fescue		6-12-12		0-20-20
	8/1 to 11/1	Crownvetch*	lb.	30 lbs.	200 lbs.	10 lbs.
		Kentucky 31 Fescue Annual Ryegrass		6-12-12		0-20-20

1. \* Requires inoculation
2. \*\* Maintenance fertilizer shall be applied in early spring following initial establishment of cover