

SECTION 02485
SEEDING AND MULCHING

PART 1 - GENERAL

1.01 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 and/or shown on the Drawings. In general, 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.

- B. The Work shall include temporary seeding operations to stabilize earthen surfaces during construction or inclement weather and to minimize stream siltation and erosion.

1.02 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Prior to seeding operations, the CONTRACTOR shall furnish to the ENGINEER 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.

- B. Prior to topsoil operations, the Contractor shall obtain representative samples and furnish soil test certificates including textural, pH, and organic ignition analysis from the State University Agricultural Extension Service or other certified testing laboratory.

- C. All existing lawns encountered shall be replaced with topsoil and seeding of the same type and quality as that existing prior to construction and shall be restored to original condition or better.

PART 2 - PRODUCTS

2.01 TOPSOIL

- A. The CONTRACTOR shall place a minimum of 4 inches of topsoil over all graded earthen areas and over any other areas to be seeded. Sources of topsoil shall be approved by the ENGINEER prior to disturbance.

- B. 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 perennial weed seeds, and shall not contain objectionable plant material, toxic amounts of either acid or alkaline elements or vegetable debris undesirable or harmful to plant life.
- C. 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. The ignition test shall be performed on samples which have been thoroughly oven-dried to constant weight at a temperature of 221 degrees F.

2.02 SEED

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. Seed shall bear the growers analysis testing to 98% for purity and 90% for germination. At the discretion of the ENGINEER, samples of seed may be taken for check against the growers analysis.
- D. Species, rate of seeding, fertilization, and other requirements are shown in the Seeding Requirements Table.

2.03 FERTILIZER AND LIMING MATERIALS

- A. Fertilizer and liming materials shall comply with applicable state, local, and federal laws concerned with their production and use.
- B. Commercial fertilizer shall be a ready mixed material and shall be equivalent to the grade or grades specified in the Seeding Requirements Table. Container bags shall have the name and address of the manufacturer, the brand name, net weight, and chemical composition.

Seeding Requirements Table

<u>Area</u>	<u>Sowing Season</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Limestone</u>
Flat to rolling Terrain with slopes less than 3:1	3/1-6/1	Kentucky 31			

- C. Agricultural limestone shall be a pulverized limestone having a calcium carbonate content on not less than 85% by weight. Agricultural limestone shall be crushed so that at least 85% of the material will pass a No. 10 mesh screen and 50% will pass a No. 40 mesh screen.

2.04 MULCH MATERIAL

- A. All mulch materials shall be air dried and reasonably free of noxious weeds and weed seeds or other materials detrimental to plant growth.
- B. 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.
- C. Wood-cellulose fiber mulch shall be as manufactured by Weyer-Hauser Company, Conway Corporation, or equal.
- D. Straw mulch shall be partially decomposed stalks of wheat, rye, oats, or other approved grain crops.
- E. Stalks shall be the partially decomposed, shredded residue of corn, cane, sorghum, or other approved standing field crops.

2.05 MULCH BINDER

- A. Mulch on slopes exceeding 3 to 1 ratio shall be held in place by the use of an approved mulch binder. The mulch binder shall be non-toxic to plant life and shall be acceptable to the ENGINEER.
- B. Emulsified asphalt binder shall be Grade SS-1, ASTM D 977. Cut-back asphalt binder shall be Grade RC 70 or RC 250.

2.06 INNOCULANTS 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.

2.07 WATER

Water shall be clean, clear water free from any objectionable or harmful chemical qualities or organisms and shall be furnished by the CONTRACTOR.

PART 3 - EXECUTION

3.01 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. Topsoil shall not be removed to a depth in excess of the depth approved by the ENGINEER.
- 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 required by the ENGINEER, the pit shall be abandoned.
- E. Before placing or depositing topsoil upon any areas, all improvement within the area shall be completed, unless otherwise approved by the ENGINEER.

3.02 SEEDBED PREPARATION

- A. Before fertilizing and seeding, the topsoil surfaces shall be trimmed and worked to true line free from unsightly variation, bumps, ridges and depressions, and all detrimental materials, roots, and stones larger than 1 inch 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 acceptable to the ENGINEER.
- 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 placed in a condition suitable for seeding.
- D. Ground preparation operations shall be performed only when the ground is in a tillable and workable condition.

3.03 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 the Seeding Requirements Table. Copies of all weight tickets shall be furnished to the ENGINEER.
- 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 the Seeding Requirements Table. The specified rate of application of limestone may be reduced by the ENGINEER if pH tests indicate this to be desirable. It is the responsibility of the CONTRACTOR to obtain such tests and submit the results to the ENGINEER for adjustment in rates.
- E. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to make one application of maintenance fertilizer according to the recommendations listed in the Seeding Requirements Table.

3.04 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 the Seeding Requirements Table unless otherwise approved by the ENGINEER. Seed mixtures may be sown together provided they are kept in a thoroughly mixed condition during the seeding operation. Copies of all weight tickets shall be furnished to the ENGINEER.
- B. Seeds shall be uniformly sown by any approved mechanical method to suite the slope and size of the areas to be seeded, preferably with a broadcast type seeder, windmill hand seeder, or approved 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 an approved and compatible nitrogen-fixing inoculated in accordance with the manufacturer's mixing instructions.

3.05 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:
 - 1. Wood Cellulose Fiber 1,400 lbs./acre
 - 2. Straw 4,000 lbs./acre
 - 3. Stalks 4,000 lbs./acre

These rates may be adjusted at the discretion of the ENGINEER at no additional cost to the OWNER, depending on the texture and condition of the mulch material and the characteristics of the seeded area.

- C. Mulch on slopes greater than 3 to 1 ratio shall be held in place by the use of an approved mulch binder. Binder shall be thoroughly mixed and applied with the mulch. Emulsified asphalt or cutback asphalt shall be applied at the approximate rate of 5 gallons per 1,000 square feet as required to hold the mulch in place.
- 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.

3.06 WATERING

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

3.07 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. Seeding work shall be repeated on defective areas until a satisfactory uniform stand is accomplished. Damage resulting from erosion, gullies, washouts, or other causes shall be repaired by filling with topsoil, compacting, and repeating the seeding work at contractor's expense.