

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION 15 GRASSING

15.01 GENERAL

Specifications in this section shall apply to the establishment of grass, including, but not limited to, plowing, discing, harrowing, grading, placing of topsoil, furnishing grass seed mix or sod, fertilizing, and mulching as necessary.

All work under this section shall conform to the ALDOT Standard Specifications for Highway Construction. These specifications are intended to supplement the Alabama Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highway Construction.

15.02 TESTING RESPONSIBILITY

The cost of testing will be borne by the Contractor, unless otherwise noted in the contract documents. Testing for grassing components will be as outlined in Section 9 or within this section.

15.03 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY

The Contractor is responsible for ensuring an adequate stand of grass and all maintenance until such time as the work is accepted by the City of Auburn. All planting, watering, fertilizing, and mowing shall be conducted at no additional cost to the City as part of the establishment of an adequate stand of grass.

15.04 CONSTRUCTION METHODS

A. Preparation

After all other construction work is completed and the surface finished to subgrade, topsoil shall be spread over the area to be grassed in a uniform layer not less than four inches (4") thick. Topsoil from other sources, shall be furnished by the Contractor if necessary to cover the area to be planted to the specified depth. Plow and disc in both directions, when feasible, and then remove all large particles that cannot be broken. Carefully finish the entire area to exact line and grade and shape the surface properly around structures.

B. Fertilizer and Lime

After ground preparation is complete, the area to be seeded shall then have commercial fertilizer (800 lbs./acre: 13-13-13) and lime (1.5 ton/acre: dolomitic or calcitic lime) applied at the applicable rate.

C. Seeding

1. All seed shall meet the requirements of these specifications and comply with applicable state law. The type of grass seed to be planted shall meet the approval of the Owner. Seed shall be delivered in sealed bags, properly labeled. Seeds of legumes shall be inoculated just before use with the appropriate culture.
2. Sowing of seed shall promptly follow incorporated of fertilizer. Sowing shall be done uniformly by approved mechanical seeders.
3. Immediately after sowing, the seeded area shall be harrowed, dragged, raked, or otherwise worked so as to cover the seed with a layer of soil one and one fourth inches (1¼") thick. After seed is properly covered, the seeded area shall be compacted immediately by means of a cultipacker, light roller, or approved drag.
4. The Contractor shall water, fill washes, and otherwise protect and maintain the seeded areas until the contract is accepted. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to establish and maintain a satisfactory stand of grass, a satisfactory stand being defined as a complete cover of living grass (limited to species expected to germinate in the current season).

D. Mulching

Mulching shall consist of covering the sloping areas that have been grassed with straw. Straw shall be threshed oats, wheat, or rye, and shall be applied at the rate of two (2) tons per acre. Mulch materials shall be free of seeds detrimental to the project. If straw is unavailable, hay may be used for mulching. Hay shall be applied at the rate of two (2) tons per acre and may be Sudan grass, broom sedge, or grass clippings.

Mulch shall be applied immediately and uniformly after seeding is complete. Mulch materials shall be free of seeds detrimental to the project.

E. Sodding

1. When sod is to be placed, it shall match the existing sod, unless otherwise noted in the construction documents.

2. Immediately after placement, the sodded area shall be compacted immediately by means of a cultipacker, light roller, or other approved method.
3. The Contractor shall water, fill washes, and otherwise protect and maintain the sodded areas until the contract is accepted. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to establish and maintain a satisfactory stand of grass, a satisfactory stand being defined as a complete cover of living grass.

15.05 GRASS BOND

A grassing bond will be required to cover all grassed area, solid sod areas, and erosion control for one year after the time of planting seed or placing sod.