

SECTION 02930 - SEEDING

PART 1 - GENERAL

1.01 SUMMARY

- A. This section covers the operations necessary to produce grass covered areas for restoration and erosion control. The Contractor shall provide all materials, labor and equipment to complete the seeding work in accordance with this section. All costs pertaining to supply, delivery, storage, site preparation, seeding, fertilization, mulching, watering, protection, seeding repair and maintenance during the establishment period shall be included in the lump sum bid.
- B. The Contractor shall sod all yards and green spaces unless the owner of the property gives written permission to seed instead of sod. Written permissions shall be made part of the project documentation included at the end of the project.

1.02 DESCRIPTION

- A. All areas disturbed by construction operations shall be seeded unless otherwise specified in the contract documents to be sodded. For areas requiring sod, see Section 02931 – Sodding. Seeded areas include, but is not limited to, areas of cut and fill, trenching, temporary roads, staging areas, storage areas and site specific green spaces. The sequence of work for seeding shall be cleaning the area, adding topsoil, application of fertilizer, tilling and removing rocks, seeding, covering, firming and the application of mulch. All seeded areas shall be mulched with straw or wood cellulose fiber and watered until grass has been established.

1.03 SPECIFICATION MODIFICATIONS

- A. It is understood that throughout this section, these Specifications may be modified by appropriate items in Section 01015 – Specific Project Requirements or as otherwise indicated on the Contract Drawings.

1.04 RELATED SECTIONS

- A. Section 01000 – General Project Requirements.
- B. Section 01015 – Specific Project Requirements.
- C. Section 01300 – Submittals.
- D. Section 02200 – Earthwork.
- E. Section 02575 – Surface Restoration.
- F. Section 02931 – Sodding.

1.05 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. The Contractor is responsible for the quality assurance and quality control of the Work. The Work shall be performed by a contractor with a proven record of performance for similar restoration and erosion control work.

1.06 INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CITY

- A. As provided in the Contract Documents.

1.07 CONTRACTOR SUBMITTALS

- A. The Contractor shall submit to the City/Design Professional for review and approval, in accordance with Section 01300 – Submittals, all specifications and data covering the proposed materials to be used for seeding operations.
- B. Prior to commencing seeding operations, the Contractor shall submit the following to the City/Design Professional for review and approval:
 - 1. Invoices and Analysis Labels. A copy of the supplier's invoices for all seed, mulch and fertilizer which shows the quantity by weight purchased for the project. The label bearing the manufacturer's guaranteed statement of analysis to ensure compliance with the specified requirements for quality and application rates.
 - 2. Turf grass seed certification:
 - a. Certify that each lot of seed has been tested by a testing laboratory certified in seed testing, within 6 months of the date of delivery. Include with the certification:
 - 1. Name and address of laboratory.
 - 2. Date of test.
 - 3. Lot number for each seed specified.
 - 4. Test Results:
 - a. Name.
 - b. Percentages of purity and of germination.
 - c. Weed content and identity for each kind of seed furnished.
 - 3. Mixtures: include proportions of each kind of seed.
 - 4. Certification of sprig type and name.
 - 5. Description of required maintenance activities and activity frequency.

1.08 PRODUCT DELIVERY, STORAGE AND HANDLING

- A. Delivery of materials shall be in manufacturer's original unopened and undamaged packages. They shall be clearly marked to identify brand name, contents and order number on each package. Packages showing indication of damage that may affect the condition of contents are not acceptable.
- B. Materials shall be stored in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Storage shall provide protective cover from moisture and damage. Materials shall be maintained at the temperature in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation.

PART 2 - PRODUCTS

2.1 MATERIALS

- A. Top soil: The top soil shall be of a quality at least equal to that which exists in areas adjacent to the area to be repaired. Top soil shall be free from weed seeds, tree roots, clumps of clay, stones and other objectionable materials that hinder grading, planting and maintenance operations. See Section 02200 – Earthwork for additional requirements on topsoil.

- B. Mulch: Mulch for application to seed bed areas shall be cereal grain straw or wood cellulose fiber.
1. Straw mulch shall be baled, dry and show no signs of discoloration and mold damage.
 - a. A minimum of 50 percent of weight of the herbage making up the material shall be 10 inches in length or longer.
 - b. Mulch material containing weed seeds and crop seeds is not acceptable.
 2. Wood cellulose fiber shall be prepared from virgin wood fibers containing no substance or factor which might inhibit germination or growth of grass seed.
 - a. The fiber shall be dyed an appropriate color to allow visual metering of its application and shall contain a tacking agent either combined with the product or added in the tank when making the slurry.
 - b. Fibers shall have the property of becoming evenly dispersed and suspended when agitated in water.
 - c. When sprayed uniformly on the surface of the soil, the fibers shall form a blotter-like groundcover which readily absorbs water and allows infiltration to the underlying soil.
 - d. Weight specifications from suppliers for all applications, shall refer only to air dry weight of the fiber, at a standard equivalent of 10 percent nominal moisture content.
 - e. The mulch material shall be supplied in packages having a gross weight not in excess of 100 pounds and shall be marked by the manufacturer to show the air dry weight content.
 - f. Suppliers shall certify that laboratory and field testing of their product has been accomplished and that it meets all of the foregoing requirements pertaining to wood cellulose fiber mulch.
 3. Exception: Vegetative Type mulch will be the only acceptable type mulch used in areas where Type "C" seed is required, Type "C" seed is specified in paragraph 2.1.E.3 in this Section.
- C. Starter Fertilizer: Fertilizer shall be pelleted or granulated and shall be an approved brand composed of a "Slow Release Nitrogen" fertilizer in the 1-2-1 range, such as 13-25-12 grade, uniform in composition free flowing and suitable for application with approved equipment, delivered to the site in convenient containers, each fully labeled, conforming to the applicable state fertilizer laws, bearing the name, trade mark, or trade name and a warranty of the producer.
- D. Seed: Seed shall be labeled in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture Rules and Regulations under the Federal Seed Act and Stated seed laws. Seed shall be furnished in sealed standard containers of the vendor. Each seed container shall bear the botanical name, trade name or trade mark, warranty of the producer, identity of noxious weeds and a certificate of the percentage of the purity and germination of each kind of seed specified. Seed which has become wet, moldy or otherwise damaged in transit or in storage will not be acceptable.
1. Seed shall have a guaranteed germination rate of 85% or greater based on the weighted average of the seed blend.

2. Pure Live Seed (PLS) formula: PLS shall be 98% or greater. The following formula shall be used to determine PLS for each kind of seed:

$$\text{PLS (\%)} = [\text{Purity (percent)} \times \text{Germination (percent)}] / 100$$

- E. The areas and types of seeding to be used shall be specified on the plans. The types of acceptable seed, depending upon the area, is as follows:

Type “A” Seed: This seeding mixture will normally be used when seeding is required in areas of established yards, shoulders, slopes in street right-of-way and any other area where a high-type seeding is deemed necessary. The seed shall be sowed at a rate of 10 lbs. PLS per 1000 square feet (436 lbs. PLS per acre). The seed mixture will be 90 percent Turf-Type Tall Fescue and 10 percent Kentucky Bluegrass fulfilling the following requirements:

1. Blend shall be at least three (3) improved Turf-Type Tall Fescue species combined with at least one (1) Kentucky Bluegrass species.
 2. Blend shall not include aggressive Kentucky Bluegrass cultivars.
 3. Blend shall not include Forage-Type Tall Fescus.
 4. Turf-Type Tall Fescues shall have a 70 percent average endophyte level minimum.
- 1.

The seed mixture shall also include 100 percent Annual Rye grass to provide a temporary grass stand. The seed shall be sowed at a rate of 10 lbs. PLS per 1000 square feet (436 lbs. per acre) of the Fescue/Bluegrass blend and 2 lbs. PLS per 1000 square feet (87 lbs. per acre) of the Annual Rye.

2. Type “B” Seed: This seeding mixture will be used to seed areas outside of street right-of-ways that are not maintained.

Type “B” Seed	Minimum Pure Live Seed (PLS%)	Rate of Pure Live Seed (lbs. per acre)
Alta Fescue or Kentucky 31 Fescue (Festuca Elatior Var. Arundinices)	75	90
Rye grass (Lolium Perenne or L. Multiflorum)	80	50
TOTAL		140

3. Type “C” Seed: This seeding mixture will normally be used in public parks, wild life refuges and other areas where this seeding mixture is deemed necessary. The types of seeding mixtures for different habitats will be as follows:

Planting Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Initial or Permanent Cover	Coverage
Wet Woodland	<i>Elymus virginicus</i> L.	Virginia Wild Rye	P	3 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Cinna arundinacea</i> L.	Woodreed	P	100 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> A. Gray	Prairie Dropseed	I,P	3 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Elymus canadensis</i> L.	Canada Wild Rye	P	3 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Festuca octoflora</i>	Six-weeks Fescue	I	0.5 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Winter Wheat	I	60 lbs./ac PLS
Planting Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Initial or Permanent Cover	Coverage
Dry Woodland	<i>Elymus canadensis</i> L.	Canada Wild Rye	P	3 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Elymus virginicus</i> L.	Virginia Wild Rye	P	3 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> A. Gray	Prairie Dropseed	I,P	3 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Winter Wheat	I	60 lbs./ac PLS
Planting Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Initial or Permanent Cover	Coverage
Wet Open	<i>Elymus canadensis</i> L.	Canada Wild Rye	P	3 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Echinochloa muricata</i> Fern.	Rough Barnyard grass	I,P	2 lbs./ac PLS
	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cordgrass	P	200 rhiz./ac
	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Rice Cutgrass	P	200 rhiz./ac
	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Winter Wheat	I	60 lbs./ac PLS

F. Herbicide: Pre-emergent herbicide shall be siduron (Tupersan).

G. Water: Water used for this work shall be furnished by the Contractor.

PART 3 - EXECUTION

3.1 SAFETY

- A. Perform all work in accordance with applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

3.2 INSTALLATION

- A. Time and Conditions: The seeding work shall not be started until all earthwork has been completed in accordance with Section 02200 – Earthwork. Backfills and fills shall be allowed to settle and the topsoil spread and finish-grading completed before seeding work is started.
- B. Personnel and equipment: All seeding work shall be performed by a contractor having demonstrated experience in seeding on projects of similar size. The work shall be performed by experienced personnel who are familiar with project requirements and are under the supervision of a qualified foreman at all times when the work is in progress.
- C. Equipment: The Contractor shall have access to equipment such as a fertilizer spreader, farm tractor with tilling equipment, grass seed drill or cultipacker type seeder, mulch blower, hydro-mulcher and straight serrated disk for crimping mulch into the soil.
- D. Clearing: Prior to grading and tilling, vegetation that may interfere with operations shall be mowed, grubbed and raked. The collected material shall be removed from the site. The surface shall be cleared of stumps, stones larger than 1 inch, roots, cable, wire, trash and other materials that might hinder the work or subsequent maintenance.
- E. Grading: Established grades, as indicated on the Drawings, shall be maintained in a true and even condition. Eroded areas and areas having inadequate drainage, as indicated by ponding of water, shall be filled. Ruts, deep tracks, dead furrows and ridges shall be eliminated.
- F. Application of Fertilizer: Fertilizer as specified shall be applied within 24 hours prior to the tilling operation. The fertilizer shall be distributed over the entire area to be seeded at the rate of 200 pounds per acre and incorporated into the soil to a depth of at least 4 inches by disking or harrowing methods. Fertilizing rate is equivalent to 2.3 pounds per 500 square feet.
- G. Preparation of Seed Bed: After fertilizer has been applied, the areas to be seeded shall be tilled to a depth of at least 4 inches by disking, plowing, harrowing, or other accepted methods until the soil is well pulverized and smoothed with a weighted spike-tooth harrow, railroad chains, or bridge timber float drag. When a chisel plow is used, the chisels shall be set not more than 10 inches apart and the areas shall be cross or double-tilled. All areas shall be left smooth for ease of mowing. All operations shall be done in a direction parallel to the contour lines on the slope and not uphill or downhill. Areas tilled shall be maintained until seeding and mulching is complete to insure a smooth area with no gullies or depressions.
- H. Application of Seed: Seeding equipment calibration tests shall be made in the presence of the City/Design Professional to determine the equipment setting required to apply the seed at the specified rates. Markers shall be used to ensure that no skips occur between successive passes of the seeder. If unplanted skips and areas are noted after germination and the growth of the grass, the unplanted areas shall be seeded at no additional cost to the Owner. The seed box shall be kept at least half full during seeding operations to ensure even distribution of seed over all the areas seeded.
- I. Hydro-seeding:

1. Seed and fertilizer, mixed in proportions as herein specified, can be broadcast in a hydro-mulch with water which forms an emulsion covering the prepared designated areas in a uniform manner.
 2. Areas to be hydro-seeded shall be fertilized at rates specified earlier. The seed-bed shall be free of any irregularities in the surface resulting from being fertilized, or other operations, and shall be corrected to prevent formation of water pockets.
 3. Hydro-mulch used shall be a wood fiber mulch with a tackifier, such as Conwit 2000, or approved equivalent. Hydro-mulch shall be applied at a rate of 1500 lbs. per acre.
 4. Hydro-seeder filling tank should be $\frac{1}{2}$ full of water before adding seed, fertilizer and hydro-mulch components. Begin agitation while adding remaining water so that a uniform mixture is obtained. Seed, fertilizer and hydro-mulch components shall not be added to water more than four (4) hours prior to application.
 5. Discharge hydro-mulch slurry mix on prepared soil for uniform distribution.
- J. All seeding work shall be done between the dates of February 1 and April 15 for spring planting or August 15 and October 15 for fall planting.
- I. Sowing shall be accomplished by use of an approved mechanical seeder or drill (hand spreader can be used in small areas), making sure that successive seed strips overlap to provide uniform coverage.
- J. The mixtures shall be applied in a crossing pattern of two passes, each applying half of the seed required.
- K. Seed should be drilled to a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
- L. Sprigs (rhizomes) shall be broadcast evenly and uniformly on the soil surface.
- M. Compaction: Immediately following the completion of seeding operations, the entire area shall be compacted by means of a roller weighing at least 60 but not more than 90 pounds per linear foot of roller or any other method approved by the City/Design Professional.
- N. Application of Herbicide: Following completion of seeding operations, pre-emergent herbicide as specified shall be applied to all seeded areas at the rate of 6 pounds active ingredient per acre.
- O. Mulching: Mulching shall be done within 24 hours following the seeding operation except in the case of wood cellulose type mulch.
- P. Vegetative Type Mulch:
1. Straw mulch shall be spread uniformly in a continuous blanket at a depth of not less than 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches and not more than 2 inches loose measurement (approximately 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 tons per acre).
 2. Mulch shall be spread by hand or by a blower type mulch spreader.
 3. Blower type mulch spreaders shall be adjusted and operated in such a manner as to prevent excessive breakage of the mulch material. If this cannot be accomplished, the mulch shall be spread by hand.
 4. Care shall be exercised to ensure that all wire from baled hay is collected as it is removed from the bale.
 5. Mulching shall be started at the windward side of relatively flat areas, or at the upper part of a steep slope and continued uniformly until the area is covered.
 6. The mulch shall not be bunched.
 7. No mulch shall be spread unless it can be anchored on the same day.

Q. Anchoring Straw Mulch:

1. The straw mulch shall be anchored in the soil to a depth of 2 to 3 inches by a notched disk set straight or a mulch crimping machine.
2. The machine shall be weighted and operated in such a manner to secure the mulch firmly in the ground to form a soil binding mulch and prevent loss or bunching of the hay by wind.
3. Two or more passes may be required to anchor the mulch to the satisfaction of the City/Design Professional.

R. Application of Wood Cellulose Fiber:

1. Wood cellulose fiber mulch shall be applied with a hydro-mulcher at not less than 1000 pounds per acre.
2. Precautionary measures shall be taken in preventing overspray on structures, paving and plantings.

S. Watering: Promptly after seeding and mulching, wet the seed bed thoroughly. Watering shall continue so as to keep all areas moist throughout the germination period.

T. Cleanup operations within forty-eight (48) hours after completion of the construction operations:

1. The entire area shall be cleared of excess soil and waste material, including, but not limited to, stones, stumps, roots, brush, wire, grade stakes, trash and all objects that might be a hindrance to maintenance operations or affect the visual appearance of the site.
2. All roads, over which hauling operations have been conducted, regardless of the type of surfacing, shall be clean and all debris left on the surface shall be removed.
3. The wheels of vehicles shall be cleaned to avoid leaving soil upon roads, walks and other surfaced areas.

U. Water Usage:

1. All watering equipment required for the work shall be furnished by the Contractor.
2. All water obtained from fire hydrants shall be metered. See Section 01000 – General Project Requirements.

3.3 MAINTENANCE, PROTECTION AND REPAIR

A. Maintenance of Area: The Contractor is responsible for maintaining all seeded areas until acceptance by the City/Design Professional. Maintenance of the seeded areas shall include the following:

1. Established yards, shoulders, slopes in street right-of-way and all other areas where a high-type seeding is deemed necessary. All newly seeded grassed areas shall be kept in a healthy growing condition by watering, weeding, mowing, trimming, edging, etc., until completion and acceptance by the City/Design Professional. The seeded areas shall be mowed with approved mowing equipment to a height of 3 inches whenever the average height of vegetation becomes 6 inches.
2. Turf grass of one-square foot or more that does not show definite growth and establishment shall be re-seeded by the Contractor at no additional cost to the Owner. The Contractor shall continue the care and maintenance of all seeded areas as specified above until all work of this project has been satisfactorily completed and all deficiencies have been corrected at which time final inspection shall be made.

3. Areas off of street right-of-way: All seeded areas shall be maintained until acceptance by the City/Design Professional. Maintenance shall include repair of erosion damage, re-seeding, mulching and watering.
- B. Protection and Repair:
1. The seeded area shall be kept free of traffic until accepted.
 2. If at any time before acceptance of the completed contract, any portion of the seeded surface becomes gullied, damaged - intentionally or otherwise, or the seeding has been damaged or destroyed, the affected portion shall be repaired to re-establish the specified condition prior to the acceptance of the work.

3.4 WARRANTY

- A. Seeding shall have germinated, taken root and have established satisfactory coverage before acceptance by the City/Design Professional. The Contractor shall maintain as described in paragraph 3.3 and shall guarantee seeding for one (1) year after acceptance. The Contractor shall scarify, reseed, fertilize and mulch any barren area greater than 1 square foot. See Section 02575 – Surface Restoration for requirements on early acceptance.

END OF SECTION