GRASSING SPECIFICATION

PART 1 - GENERAL

1.1 SECTION INCLUDES

A. Seeding, planting grass, and fertilizing graded areas around buildings, structures, soccer fields and sidewalk shoulders and other disturbed areas.

B. Seed protection.

C. Maintaining grassed areas until final acceptance.

1.2 RELATED WORK

A. Civil and Landscape plans and specifications.

1.3 DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

A. Deliver grass seed in original containers showing analysis of seed mixture, percentage of pure seed, year of production, net weight, date of packaging, and location of packaging. Damaged packages are not acceptable. Store in cool, dry locations away from contaminants.

B. Deliver fertilizer in waterproof bags showing weight, chemical analysis, and name of manufacturer. Damaged bags are not acceptable. Store in cool, dry locations away from contaminants.

C. Deliver sod on pallets.

D. All material shall be acceptable to Engineer prior to use.

1.4 PLANTING DATES

A. This specification provides for establishment of a permanent grass cover between the dates of March 1 and September 30. If finished earth grades are not completed in time to permit planting and establishment of permanent grass during the favorable season between dates specified above unless otherwise accepted, Contractor will be required to plant a temporary cover to protect new graded areas from erosion and to keep windborne dust to a minimum. The temporary cover shall be planted between October 1 and February 28 unless otherwise permitted.

1.5 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

A. When the season or stage of project is such results of grassing work cannot be determined, conditional acceptance will be made on work completed. When conditional acceptance is made for items of work covered, Contractor shall be entitled to 50% of bid price for the actual work placed and shall receive remaining 50% of bid price when final acceptance is made. Conditional acceptance shall not apply to the remaining items of work, and full bid price payment shall be made when work is acceptably placed and completed in accordance with specifications.

B. Payment for grassing will be made at contract unit price for the item "Grassing" and such payment shall constitute full compensation for furnishing and placing seed and fertilizer or sod where directed and protecting and maintaining seed and sod in all graded and disturbed areas.

PART 2 - PRODUCTS

Contractor shall submit source and species certification documents to Engineer and Owner's Representative for review prior to installation. Supply complete information on all analysis / test methodologies and results; laboratory certifications, manufacturer's specifications, and agency approvals to the Landscape Architect prior to placement of soil mixtures. In addition, provide the Landscape Architect with thoroughly mixed sample of soil mixes for approval prior to placement. Landscape Contractor shall make modifications and improvements to soil mixes deemed necessary by the soil analysis to meet requirements specified here in before, and to ensure proper growing medium for plant material.

2.1 SEED

A. All seed shall conform to all State Laws and to all requirements and regulations of the State Department of Agriculture.

B. The varieties of seed, as specified in Section 2.2, shall be individually packaged or bagged, and tagged to show name of seed, net weight, origin, germination, lot number, and other information required by the State Department of Agriculture.

C. The Engineer reserves the right to test, reject, or accept all seed before seeding.

2.2 SEEDING SCHEDULE

(EDIT GRASS TYPES, RATES AND PLANTING DATES TO BE CONSISTENT WITH SPECIFIC PROJECT)

A. SEED	RATE	PLANTING DATES
'Princess 77' Bermuda	75 lbs/ acre	March 1 - September 30
Annual Rye (Temp only)	75 lbs/ acre	October 1 - February 28

2.3 FERTILIZER

A. Commercial fertilizer of approved type conforming to state fertilizer laws at the rate as recommended by soils test.

2.4 LIME

A. Agricultural grade, ground limestone at the rate as recommended by soils test.

2.5 SPRIG

A. Healthy living stems, stolons, or rhizomes and attached roots of locally adapted grass without adhering soil, including two to three nodes and from 4 to 6 inches long. Obtain from heavy, dense certified sod. Provide sprigs which have been grown under climatic conditions similar to those in the locality of the project. Coordinate harvesting and planting operations to prevent exposure of sprigs to the sun for more than 30 minutes before covering and moistening. Sprigs showing signs of wilt, mold, containing weeds or other detrimental material or that are heat damaged will be rejected.

B. The varieties of sprig, as specified in section 2.6, shall be individually packaged or bagged, and tagged to show name of sprig, net weight, origin and other information required by the State Department of Agriculture.

C. Sprigs shall be pure to variety specified and shall be free of other grass species, weeds or foreign matter.

D. Sprigs shall be harvested by digging (not collected above soil level) shredding sod, by rototilling sod and raking, by vericutting or by a sprig harvester. Sprigs shall consist of mostly rhizomes and crowns with only a few green leaves.

2.6 SPRIGGING SCHEDULE

(EDIT GRASS TYPES, RATES AND PLANTING DATES TO BE CONSISTENT WITH SPECIFIC PROJECT)

A. SPRIG	RATE	PLANTING DATES
'Tifway 419' Bermuda (or approved equal)	1,000 bushels / ac. (Coverage in 3 months)	April 1 - August 31
Stabilize site with temporary grass seed (See section 2.2)		September 1 - March 31

B. In areas where existing grass is to be matched, Contractor shall sprig at the rate and dates recommended by sprig distributor.

2.7 SOD

A. Sod shall be premium grade, densely rooted, good quality grass of the species and certified variety as shown on the plans, free from noxious weeds with no surface soil being visible. The sod shall be obtained from areas where the soil is reasonably fertile. Sod of specified species with not less than 95 percent germination, not less than 85 percent pure seed, and not more than 0.5 percent weed seed. The sod shall be machine cut to a uniform soil thickness that shall contain practically all of the dense root system and not be less than 1-inch thick.

B. Before cutting, sod shall be mowed to a height of not less that 1-1/2" or more than 2". Sod shall be cut in uniform widths min. 12" and in lengths min. 24 inches.

C. Sod shall be delivered to site in a fresh, moist condition with healthy green foliage. It shall be unloaded from delivery trucks on pallets or rolls and placed in final position within 24 hours of delivery. Sod shall be protected from wind and sun and shall not be allowed to dry out before planting.

D. Sod shall be strong enough to support its own weight and retain its size and shape when suspended vertically from a firm grasp on the upper 10 percent of the section.

2.8 ACCESSORIES

A. Straw Mulch: Oat or wheat straw, reasonably free from weeds, foreign matter detrimental to plant life, and in dry condition.

B. Excelsior Mulch: Excelsior mulch shall consist of wood fibers cut from sound, green timber. The average length of fibers shall be 4 to 6 inches. Cut shall be made in such a manner as to provide maximum strength of fiber, but at a slight angle to naturally curl of the wood to cause splintering of fibers when weathering in order to provide adherence to each other and to soil.

C. Wood cellulose fiber shall be made from wood chip particles manufactured particularly for discharging uniformly on the ground surface when dispersed by a hydraulic water sprayer. It shall remain in uniform suspension in water under agitation and blend with grass seed and fertilizer to form a homogeneous slurry. Mulch fibers shall intertwine physically to form a strong moisture holding mat on the ground surface and allow rainfall to percolate into underlying soil. The mulch shall be dyed processed to contain no germination or growth-inhibiting factors. It shall be dyed (non-toxic) an appropriate color to facilitate metering of material.

PART 3 - EXECUTION

3.1 PREPARATION

A. Areas to be seeded or sprigged shall be made smooth and uniform and shall conform to the finished grade indicated on plans.

B. Remove foreign materials, plants, roots, stones, and debris from surfaces to be seeded.

C. Grassing areas, if not loose, shall be loosened to a minimum depth of 3 inches before fertilizer, seed, sprig or sod is applied.

D. Amendments to soils shall be incorporated into loosened 3 inch top soil layer as recommended by soils test.

E. **No seeding shall occur until acceptance of the seed bed preparation has occurred. Contractor shall notify owner and landscape architect once seed bed is prepared for review and acceptance.**

3.2 STAND OF GRASS

A. Before acceptance of seeding or sprigging is performed for the establishment of permanent vegetation, Contractor will be required to produce a satisfactory stand of perennial grass whose root system shall be developed sufficiently to survive dry periods and winter weather and be capable of re-establishment in spring.

B. Before acceptance of seeding performed for the establishment of temporary vegetation, Contractor will be required to produce a stand of grass sufficient to control erosion for a given area and length of time before the next phase of construction or establishment of permanent vegetation is to commence.

3.3 SEEDING AND SPRIGGING DATES

A. Seeding and sprigging shall be performed during periods and at rates specified in their respective schedules. Seeding and sprigging work may, at discretion of Contractor, be performed throughout the year using schedule prescribed for given period. Seeding and sprigging work shall not be conducted when the ground is frozen or excessively wet. Contractor will be required to produce a satisfactory stand of grass regardless of the period of year work is performed.

3.4 APPLYING LIME AND FERTILIZER

A. Following advance preparation and placing selected material for shoulders and slopes, lime and fertilizer, if called for based on soil tests, shall be spread uniformly over the designated areas, and shall be thoroughly mixed with the soil to a depth of approximately 2 inches. Fertilizer and lime shall be applied at the rate at the rate recommended by required soils test. Unless otherwise provided, lime will not be applied for temporary seeding. In all cases where practicable, acceptable mechanical spreaders shall be used for spreading fertilizer. On steep slopes subject to slides and inaccessible to power equipment, the slopes shall be adequately fertilized. Fertilizer may be applied on steep slopes by hydraulic methods as a mixture of fertilizer and seed. When fertilizer is applied with combination seed and fertilizer drills, no further incorporation will be necessary. The fertilizer and seed shall be applied together when Wood Cellulose Fiber Mulch is used. Any stones larger than 2 ½ inches in any dimension, larger clods, roots, or other debris brought to the surface shall be removed.

3.5 SEEDING

A. Seed shall be sown within 24 hours following application of fertilizer and lime and preparation of the seedbed as specified in Section 3.4. Seed shall be uniformly sown at rate specified by the use of acceptable mechanical seed drills. Rotary hand seeders, power sprayers or other satisfactory equipment may be used on steep slopes and on other areas inaccessible to seed drills.

B. Seeds shall be covered and lightly compacted with rakes or cultipacker or light roller if the drill does not perform these operations. On slopes inaccessible to compaction equipment, the seed shall be covered by dragging suspended chains, by light harrowing or by other satisfactory methods.

C. Apply water with fine spray immediately after each area has been sown.

D. Do not sow seed when ground is too dry, during windy periods or immediately following a rain.

E. If permitted by the special provisions, wood cellulose fiber mulch or excelsior fiber mulch may be used.

3.6 SEED PROTECTION (STRAW MULCH)

A. All seeded areas seeded with permanent grasses shall be uniformly mulched in a continuous blanket immediately following seeding and compacting operations, using at least 2 tons of straw per acre.

3.7 SEED PROTECTION (EXCELSIOR MULCH)

A. Seed shall be sown as specified in Section 3.5. Within 24 hours after covering of seed, excelsior mulch shall be uniformly applied at the rate of 2 tons per acre. The mulch may be applied hydraulically or by other acceptable methods. Should the mulch be placed in a dry condition, it shall be thoroughly wetted immediately after placing. Engineer may require light rolling of the mulch to form a tight mat.

3.8 SEED PROTECTION (WOOD CELLULOSE FIBER MULCH)

A. After the lime has been applied and ground prepared as specified in Section 3.4, wood cellulose fiber mulch shall be applied at a rate of 1,500 pounds per acre in a mixture of seed and fertilizer. Hydraulic equipment shall be used for application of fertilizer, seed, and slurry of the prepared wood pulp. This equipment shall have a built-in agitation system with an operating capacity sufficient to agitate, suspend, and homogeneously mix a slurry of the specified amount of fiber, fertilizer, seed, and water. The slurry distribution lines shall be large enough to prevent stoppage. The discharge line shall be equipped with a set of hydraulic spray nozzles which will provide an even distribution of slurry on various areas to be seeded. The slurry tank shall have a minimum capacity of 1,000 gallons.

Seed, fertilizer, wood pulp mulch, and water shall all be combined into the slurry tank for distribution of all ingredients in one operation by hydraulic seeding method specified herein. Materials shall be combined in a manner recommended by the manufacturer. The slurry mixture shall be regulated so amounts and rates of application shall result in a uniform application of all materials at rates not less than amount specified. Using the color of wood pulp as a guide, equipment operator shall spray prepared seedbed with a uniform visible coat. The slurry shall be applied in a sweeping motion, in an arched stream to fall like rain, allowing wood fibers to build upon each other until an even coat is achieved.

3.9 SPRIGGING

A. Sprigs shall be placed at the date and rates as shown in section 2.6. The sprigging method shall be by broadcast sprigging, hydroplanting or row planter. Sprigging procedure shall ensure even coverage.

B. Sprigs applied by broadcast over the site with a distributor or hydroseeder shall be planted at the rates listed in section 2.6. Cover broadcast sprigs with straw mulch immediately after broadcast and water in immediately (within 2 hours).

C. Sprigs installed by row planter creating a narrow furrow that covers 50 to 80% of the sprig with soil may use less sprig material. Rate shall be as recommended by sprig supplier to provide a solid stand of turf within the time required in Section 2.6. Water in immediately (within 1 hour).

3.10 SODDING

A. Sod shall be placed between March 1st and December 1st. However, if sod is to be placed during periods of temperatures over 90 degrees F., the contractor shall take extra care for quick placement of sod with adequate, consistent watering necessary to ensure sod thrives as planted.

B. Sod shall be placed within 24 hours of cutting.

C. Place top elevation of sod 1/2 inch below adjoining paving or curbs.

D. All areas to be sodded shall be brought to the proper line grade or cross section as was existing prior to construction. Sod shall be placed so that, upon completion, the edges of the sodded areas will be smooth and will conform to the proposed finished grade. Sod shall be laid smooth, edge to edge, with staggered joints. Sod shall be immediately pressed firmly into contact with the sod bed by tamping or rolling, to eliminate all air pockets. Proper and even surface shall be provided, to insure knitting without displacement of the sod or deformation of the surfaces of the sodded areas. Do not stretch or overlap sod pieces. Following compaction, screened soil of good quality shall be used to fill all cracks and even out soil shall be worked into the grass with rakes or other suitable equipment. On slopes steeper than 4 to1, the sod shall be fastened in place with suitable wood or metal pegs to hold the sod in place. Any damage by erosion or other causes that may have occurred after completion of grading operations shall be repaired, before commencing with the sodding operations.

E. Immediately before sodding, moisten topsoil with a fine spray to a minimum 1" depth. Sod shall not be laid on soil that is dry and powdery.

F. Sod shall be cut when laid and placed on moist ground. The sod shall be carefully placed by hand, beginning at the toe of slopes and working upwards. The length of the strips shall be at right angles to the flow of surface water. All joints shall be tightly butted and end joints shall be staggered at least 12 inches. The sod shall be immediately pressed firmly into the ground by tamping or rolling. Fill all joints between strips with fine screened soil. Sod on slopes shall be pegged with sod pegs to prevent movement. The sod shall be watered, mowed, weeded, repaired, or otherwise maintained, to insure the establishment of a uniform healthy stand of grass until acceptance.

G. Within 2 hours after sod has been placed, thoroughly water to a minimum depth of 4". After sod and soil have dried, roll sodded areas to ensure good bond between sod and soil and to remove depressions and irregularities. Roll sodded areas with a roller not exceeding 150 lbs. per foot of roller width. Top dress and roll again as necessary to create a smooth even surface.

PART 4 - MAINTENANCE, WARRANTY AND ACCEPTANCE

4.1 MAINTENANCE

A. Maintenance shall consist of providing protection against traffic, watering to ensure uniform seed germination and to keep surface of soil damp, and repairing any areas damaged as a result of construction operations or erosion. Maintenance shall also include, but is not limited to, watering, weeding, cultivating, removal of dead material, lawn mowing, fertilizing, and other necessary operations.

B. The Contractor shall maintain all proposed plantings until the date of final acceptance by the Owner.

4.2 WARRANTY

A. All grassed areas shall be guaranteed by the Contractor to be alive and healthy for a one year period from the date of substantial completion issued by the Owner. A final inspection with the Owner shall be conducted at the end of the warranty period to determine if any areas require replanting. At the end of the warranty period, the sod shall show evidence of rooting to the underlying soil and shall have no competitive weed growth from either the sod or from between the sod joints.

B. Any grassed area which is dead or not showing satisfactory growth shall be replaced at Contractor's expense at the end of warranty period. All replacements shall be of original quality and of a size equal to adjacent plants or trees of the same kind. Replacements required because of vandalism, excessive use or other causes beyond the control of the Contractor are not part of this contract.

4.3 ACCEPTANCE

A. Before acceptance of seeding performed for the establishment of permanent vegetation, Contractor will be required to produce a satisfactory stand of perennial grass whose root system shall be developed sufficiently to survive dry periods and winter weather and be capable of reestablishment in spring.

B. A minimum coverage of 80% density over 100% of the disturbed area is required for seeded areas before project acceptance. Sprig and sod areas shall have 95 % coverage over 100% of the disturbed area prior project acceptance.

END OF SECTION

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PRELIMINARY

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