

SECTION 733 SODDING

733.1 DESCRIPTION

This work consists of preparing the ground surface and furnishing, transporting, placing, and fertilizing live sod.

733.2 MATERIALS

The sod shall consist of a dense, well rooted growth of Kentucky Blue grass or other specified grass native to the general locality of the project. The sod shall be free from noxious weeds, objectionable grasses, weeds, or foreign materials.

At the time the sod is cut, the grass shall have a length of approximately two inches (50 mm) (if longer than three inches (75 mm), the grass shall be cut to approximately two inches (50 mm) in length) and the sod shall have been raked free of debris.

If the sod is in a dry condition so that it cannot be cut, rolled, loaded, and hauled to the jobsite, without crumbling or breaking, water shall be applied in sufficient quantity to provide a well moistened sod to the depth to which it is to be cut.

Water used on sod shall be from municipal, domestic, or other sources known to be suitable for irrigation.

733.3 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Cutting Sod:** Sod shall be machine cut into rectangular sections. The sections shall be of uniform width. The sod shall be cut to a depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (20 mm) or more so the dense root system will be retained and exposed in the bottom side of sod, and the sod can be handled without undue tearing or breaking. Sod shall be rolled with the top growth inside. Sod strips which indicate crumbling, tearing, breaking, or loss of soil during the operations of cutting, transporting, or handling will not be acceptable. Sod shall be laid in its final position within 36 hours after being cut. During the period between cutting and laying, the sod shall be protected from damage.
- B. Preparing Surface for Sodding:** The surfaces to be sodded shall be constructed to the required cross section and contour and shall be smooth, uniform and free from stones, roots, and other undesirable foreign material. The surfaces shall be undercut to sufficient depth below adjacent areas so the top of newly laid sod will be flush with any adjacent seeded or turfed areas and one inch (25 mm) below top of sidewalks, curbs, or other structures. Some trenching in of the areas to be sodded and some building up of the adjacent areas may be necessary. The adjacent areas shall smoothly blend with each other, without sharp breaks in the contours.

Immediately prior to placing the sod, the soil shall be loosened and brought to a fine granular texture, to a depth of not less than one inch (25 mm). Clods, lumps, weeds, and other undesirable materials shall be removed.

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If the ground prepared for sodding is dry or hot, prewatering of the earthbed to a depth of one inch (25 mm) may be required prior to sodding. The earthbed shall be allowed to dry sufficiently after watering to permit sod placement without tracking.

- C. **Laying Sod:** The sod on bridge berm slopes shall be laid by hand in horizontal strips, beginning at the bottom of the slope and working upwards. In waterways, strips shall be laid parallel to the flow. Each section of sod shall join the adjacent sections without overlapping, but shall abut snugly against the section previously laid. End joints shall be staggered and open joints or gaps shall be filled with sod cut to the proper size and shape.

The top and bottom ends of sodded areas shall extend at least two inches (50 mm) into the ground or ditch bottom. Other edges of sodded areas shall be turned into the ground two inches (50 mm) and covered with a layer of topsoil, which shall be compacted to conduct the surface water over the edge of the sod and blend the sodded areas into the adjacent finished grades.

- D. **Fertilizing:** Following sod installation and just prior to watering, fertilize the sod at the specified rate.
- E. **Anchoring:** On slopes steeper than 6:1 the sod shall be anchored with one inch (25 mm) wide by six inches (150 mm) long U-shaped staples made from No. 11 (3.05 mm) or heavier ungalvanized steel wire. A minimum of four staples per sod strip in every other row shall be used.

In waterways, two staples shall be placed in the upper end of each sod strip, in the end facing flow.

Staples shall be driven flush with the top of the sod. Additional staples required to obtain adequate anchoring shall be placed as directed.

- F. **Watering:** After sod has been laid it shall be watered to provide a moist condition throughout the thickness of the sod and well into the underlying soil bed.

Sodded areas shall be kept thoroughly moistened by sprinkling, as necessary, for four weeks after sodding.

At the end of the four week period, an inspection will be made to determine if the sod is alive and growing. If this cannot be determined, the Contractor shall have the option of maintaining the sod until it can be determined, or replacing the sod. Such maintenance or replacement shall be at the expense of the Contractor. Replaced sod shall be watered as required for original sod at the expense of the Contractor.

- G. **Rolling:** While not generally required, rolling may be specifically ordered for any areas where an especially smooth and level surface is desired.
- H. **Seasonal Limitations:** Seasonal limitations on sodding shall be as provided in Section 730.3.

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733.4 METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

Sodding will be measured to the nearest square yard (square meter). Necessary resodding of areas damaged from causes beyond the control of the Contractor, will be measured and added to the original quantity used.

Water will be measured as provided in Section 120.

Fertilizer will be measured as provided in Section 731.

733.5 BASIS OF PAYMENT

Sodding will be paid for at the contract unit price per square yard (square meter). Payment will be full compensation for preparing the earth bed, for materials, labor, equipment, tools, and incidentals necessary.

Water will be paid for under the item, water for sod or water for plants.

Fertilizer will be paid for as provided in Section 731.