

# MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**SPECIAL PROVISION NO. 907-225-3**

**CODE: (IS)**

**DATE: 02/23/2012**

**SUBJECT: Grassing**

Section 907-225, Grassing, of the 2004 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction is hereby amended as follows:

Delete in toto Section 225 on pages 158 thru 163, and substitute the following.

## **SECTION 907-225--GRASSING**

**907-225-01--Description.** This work consists of furnishing, transporting, placing, plant establishment, and all work, including ground preparation, fertilizing, seeding, and mulching, necessary to produce a satisfactory and acceptable growth of grass.

At the Contractor's option, seeds and mulch may be incorporated using a hydraulically applied method under certain limitations. Under no circumstances shall fertilizer be incorporated hydraulically.

### **907-225.02--Materials.**

**907-225.02.1--Fertilizers.** Fertilizers for purposes of this specification shall be understood to include standard manufactured products consisting of single or combination ingredients and agricultural limestone.

All fertilizer shall comply with the State fertilizer laws, Subsection 715.02, and the requirements of this specification.

**907-225.02.2--Seeds.** Seeds shall meet the requirements of Subsection 715.03, subject to the provisions of this subsection. The Contractor shall acquire seed from persons registered with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Except for the germination requirements, bags of seeds properly labeled or tagged according to law and indicating characteristics meeting or exceeding the requirements of Subsection 715.03 will be acceptable for planting.

The Contractor should provide adequate dry storage facilities for seeds, and shall furnish access to the storage for sampling stored seed.

### **907-225.02.3--Mulch.**

**907-225.02.3.1--Vegetative Mulch.** The vegetative materials for mulch shall meet the

requirements of Subsection 215.02.

**907-225.02.3.2--Hydraulically Applied Mulch (Hydromulch).** Fibers for hydromulch shall be produced from wood, straw, cellulose, natural fibers, or recycled fibers which are free of non-biodegradable substances. The fiber shall disperse into a uniform slurry when mixed with water. Fibers shall be colored green, or other approved contrasting color, and shall not stain concrete or other surfaces. The use of tackifiers or activators will be allowed.

Hydromulch shall be listed on the Department's "Approved Sources of Materials".

**907-225.02.3.2.1--Wood Fiber Mulch.** Wood fiber mulch 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. The fibers shall intertwine physically to form a strong moisture-holding mat on the ground surface and allow rainfall to percolate the underlying soil. The fiber material shall be heat processed so as to contain no germination or growth-inhibiting factors. The mulch shall be dyed an appropriate color to facilitate the application of material using non-toxic dye.

**907-225.02.3.2.2--Cellulose Fiber Mulch.** Cellulose fiber mulch consist of recycled paper stock products which are shredded into small pieces particular for application by hydraulic seeding equipment. It shall mix readily and uniformly under agitation with water and blend with grass seed and fertilizer to form a homogeneous slurry. When applied to the ground surface, the material shall form a strong moisture-holding mat, allow rainfall to percolate the underlying soil, and remain in place until the grass root system is established. The material shall contain no growth inhibiting characteristic or organisms. The mulch shall be dyed an appropriate color to facilitate the application of material using non-toxic dye.

**907-225.02.3.2.3--Wood/Cellulose Fiber Mulch.** Wood/cellulose fiber mix hydroseeding mulch shall consist of a combination of the above wood and cellulose fibers at a ratio recommended by the manufacturer of the products.

**907-225.02.3.2.4--Straw Mulch.** Straw mulch shall consist of a natural straw fiber. This material shall be a minimum 90% straw and essentially free from plastic materials or other non-bio degradable substances. The material shall be disperse into a uniform mulch slurry when mixed with water.

**907-225.02.3.2.5--Tackifier.** The tackifier will serve the purpose of an adhesive to form a bond between the soil, fiber, and seed particles. It will also allow the soil to retain moisture. The tackifier shall be of the organic or synthetic variety.

**907-225.03--Construction Requirements.**

**907-225.03.1--Ground Preparation.** Ground preparation, light or standard, consists of plowing, loosening, and pulverizing the soil to form suitable beds for erosion control items in reasonably close conformity with the established lines and grades without appreciable humps or depressions.

When grassing an area that has been previously planted with temporary grassing, a standard ground preparation will be required. The previously planted grasses shall be disked, tilled, plowed, etc. to assure that the existing temporary grasses are thoroughly mixed into the soil.

Any equipment used for ground preparation shall be approved units suitable to perform the work and subject to the requirements of Subsection 108.05.

The Contractor shall take full advantage of weather and soil conditions, and no attempt shall be made to prepare soil when it is wet or in a condition which will not allow the soil to be properly tilled.

Light ground preparation should be used on areas where seeding is required to improve the coverage of partially vegetated areas.

Standard ground preparation should be used on areas designated to be solid sodded and unvegetated areas designated to be seeded.

Aerating, moistening, or otherwise bringing the soil to a suitable condition for ground preparation shall be considered as incidental to the work and will not be measured for separate payment.

**907-225.03.1.1--Light Ground Preparation.** Light ground preparation consists of scratching the surface with a close-tooth harrow, disk-harrow, or similar equipment. The depth of scratching should be at least three-quarters inch but not deep enough to damage existing grasses of the type being planted.

**907-225.03.1.2--Standard Ground Preparation.** Standard ground preparation consists of plowing or disk-harrowing and thoroughly pulverizing the areas immediately before the application of erosion control (vegetative) items. Unless otherwise specified, the pulverized and prepared seedbed should be at least four inches deep and shall be reasonably free of large clods, earthballs, boulders, stumps, roots and other objectionable matter. Incorporation of fertilizer and ground preparation may be performed simultaneously.

**907-225.03.2--Fertilizing.** Fertilizing consists of furnishing, transporting, spreading, and incorporating fertilizers. The Contractor shall furnish all equipment necessary to properly handle, store, uniformly spread, and incorporate the specified application of fertilizer.

Unless otherwise specified in the contract, the Contractor shall incorporate bag fertilizer at a rate of 1000 pounds per acre of 13-13-13 commercial fertilizer. The equivalent rate of other type fertilizers will be allowed if the equivalent percentages of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium are obtained. The Contractor shall incorporate agricultural limestone at a rate of 5000 pounds per acre. Fertilization shall be applied uniformly on the areas to be planted or seeded and uniformly incorporated into the soil.

Fertilizers should be applied on individual areas of not more than three acres.

All fertilizer should be incorporated within 24 hours following spreading.

**907-225.03.3--Seeding.** Seeding consists of furnishing and planting seeds in a prepared seedbed, covering the seeds, and providing plant establishment on all areas seeded.

Prior to planting the seeds, ground preparation and fertilizing shall be satisfactorily performed.

The required type of seeds, minimum rates of application, and planting dates of seeds are shown in the vegetation schedule in the plans.

When a vegetation schedule is not shown in the plans, the following types of seed and application rates shall be used, unless otherwise approved by the Engineer.

Bermudagrass -----	20 pounds per acre
Bahiagrass -----	25 pounds per acre
Tall Fescue -----	15 pounds per acre
Crimson Clover -----	20 pounds per acre

It is the Contractor's responsibility to apply an ample amount of each type of seed to produce a satisfactory growth of grass and of the seed type required. At the completion of the project, a satisfactory growth of grass will be required. Reference Section 210 for satisfactory growth and coverage of dormant seed.

Seeding should not be done during windy weather or when the ground is frozen, extremely wet, or in a condition which will not allow the soil to be properly tilled.

**907-225.03.3.1--Conventional Application.** Legume seeds should be treated in accordance with Subsection 715.03.4 immediately before sowing. Seeds should be uniformly sown over the entire area with mechanical seeders. Seeds of different sizes may necessitate separate sowing. When legume seeds become dry, they should be re-inoculated.

All seeds should be covered lightly with soil by raking, rolling, or other approved methods, and the area compacted with a cultipacker.

Mulching should be performed as soon as practicable after seeding.

**907-225.03.3.2--Hydroseeding Application.** Seeds may be applied using the hydroseeding method except during the months of June, July, August, and September. During these months, the seeding shall be incorporated in accordance with the above Conventional Application method.

The seed(s) shall be combined into a distribution tank with all required ingredients on the project site. The application of the seed(s) and all ingredients shall be performed in one operation.

Mulching should be performed simultaneously with or as soon as practicable after seeding.

**907-225.03.3.3--Plant Establishment.** The Contractor should provide plant establishment on all areas seeded until release of maintenance. At the completion of the project, a satisfactory growth of grass will be required. The Contractor should reference Subsection 210 for satisfactory growth and coverage of dormant seed.

Plant establishment should be provided for a minimum period of 45 calendar days after completion of seeding. In the event satisfactory growth and coverage has not been attained by the end of the 45-day period, plant establishment should be continued until a satisfactory growth and coverage is provided for at least one kind of plant as referenced in Section 210. The Contractor shall perform plant establishment on all areas of temporary seeding until the Engineer determines that the temporary seeding has served its purpose.

Plant establishment shall consist of preserving, protecting, watering, reseeding, mowing, and other work necessary to keep the seeded areas in satisfactory condition.

Areas requiring reseeding should be prepared and seeded and all other work performed as if the reseeding was the initial seeding. The types and application rates of fertilizer will be at the discretion of the Contractor.

**907-225.03.3.4--Growth and Coverage.** It shall be the Contractor's responsibility to provide satisfactory growth and coverage of grasses, legumes, or combination produced from the specified seeding.

Growth and coverage on seeded areas will be considered to be in reasonably close conformity with the intent of the contract when the type of vegetation specified, exclusive of that from seeds not expected to have germinated and shows growth at that time, has reached a point of maturity where stems or runners overlap adjacent similar growth in each direction over the entire area.

**907-225.03.4--Mulching.** Mulching consists of furnishing, transporting, and placing mulch on slopes, shoulders, medians, and other designated areas. Unless otherwise noted in the contract or directed by the Engineer, the Contractor has the option to place mulch by the conventional method or by the hydraulic method.

**907-225.03.4.1--Vegetative Mulch.**

**907-225.03.4.1.1--Equipment.** Mulching equipment should be capable of maintaining a constant air stream which will blow or eject controlled quantities of mulch in a uniform pattern.

Mulch stabilizers should consist of dull blades or disks without camber and approximately 20 inches in diameter. The disks should be notched, should be spaced at approximately 8-inch intervals, and should be equipped with scrapers. The stabilizer should weigh approximately 1000 to 1200 pounds, should have a working width of no more than eight feet, and should be equipped with a ballast compartment, so that weight can be increased.

**907-225.03.4.1.2--Placement of Vegetative Mulch.** Mulching should be placed uniformly on designated areas within 24 hours following seeding unless weather conditions are such that

mulching cannot be performed. Placement should begin on the windward side of areas and from tops of slopes. In its final position, the mulch should be loose enough to allow air to circulate but compact enough to partially shade the ground and reduce erosion.

The baled material should be loosened and broken thoroughly before it is fed into the machine to avoid placement of unbroken clumps.

**907-225.03.4.1.3--Anchoring Mulch.** The mulch should be anchored by using a mulch stabilizer when not hydraulically applied. If a mulch stabilizer is used, the mulch should be punched into the soil for a minimum depth of one inch.

When mulch stabilizers are used, anchoring the mulch should be performed along the contour of the ground surface.

**907-225.03.4.2--Hydromulch.** Hydromulch shall be applied in accordance with the installation instructions and recommendations of the manufacturer. Hydromulch shall be uniformly applied at the manufacturer's recommended application rate. In no case shall the application rate be less than one (1) ton per acre.

**907-225.03.4.3--Protection and Maintenance.** The Contractor should maintain and protect mulched areas until the Release of Maintenance of the project. The Contractor should take every precaution to prevent unnecessary foot and vehicular traffic.

The Contractor should mow, remove or destroy any undesirable growth on all areas mulched as soon as any undesirable growth appears. This will prevent competition with the desired plants and to prevent reseeding of undesirable growth.

**907-225.03.5--Hydro Equipment.** The equipment for hydraulically applying seed and mulch shall have a built-in agitation system with an operating capacity sufficient to agitate, suspend, and homogeneously mix slurry of the specified amount of fiber, 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 even distribution of the slurry on the various areas to be seeded.

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

**907-225.04--Method of Measurement.** Grassing will be measured by the acre. Acceptance will be based on a satisfactory growth and coverage of seeds planted.

