

**Biotic Community: 154.12E**

PRELIMINARY / DRAFT SPECIAL PROVISIONS

For

MILE POST:

PROJECT NO.

PREFIX NO.

TRACS NO.

AVERAGE PROJ. ELEV.:

APPROX. SEEDING ACREAGE:

ESTIMATED PER ACRE UNIT PRICE:

*This is not a stored spec; lastly updated on 9-25-2020.*

**PROJECT SPECIAL PROVISIONS' INSERTION STARTS BELOW—**

**ITEM 8050003 — SEEDING (CLASS II):**

The work under this item shall consist of furnishing all materials, preparing the soil, applying Class II seed, establishing, and maintaining the seeded areas along with final mulch cover.

Areas to be seeded are those disturbed or unvegetated areas listed herein, shown on the plans, called for in the contractor's erosion/sediment control plan, Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution control plan, Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP), or designated by the Engineer. All construction support activities disturbed unpaved temporary construction access, unpaved on-site staging, unpaved on-site material storage, and unpaved on-site stockpiling areas shall ultimately be seeded unless otherwise stabilized by equivalent permanent stabilization measures. If not seeded, the equivalent permanent stabilization measures shall be evaluated by a Construction Professional Landscape Architect (PLA) and approved by the Engineer. Unless otherwise prohibited by environmental permit, seeding is required to stabilize the unpaved disturbed dry area within the Waters of the U.S. Seeding area below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) shall exclude any definable low flow channels.

Seeding may be included as part of a landscape project as specified in Section 807, or used for erosion control as part of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as specified in Subsection 104.09 of the specifications, or both.

In either case, seeding shall be accomplished in two (2) stages. The first stage shall consist of tillage; furnishing and applying compost, chemical fertilizer, and sulfur; furnishing and planting the contract-specified seed mix; and furnishing, applying and affixing final mulch cover. The second stage, beginning after the first stage has been accepted by the Engineer, shall be a 45 calendar-day period during which time the contractor shall be responsible for maintaining and stabilizing the seeded and mulched areas, and restoring damaged or eroded areas.

Seeding used as part of a SWPPP shall be completed, including the 45 calendar-day maintenance period, before final acceptance, or sooner as required in the SWPPP. Seeding used as part of a landscape project shall be completed, including the 45 calendar-day maintenance period, before the end of the Construction Phase. When seeding is part of a landscape project, the maintenance activities described herein shall be in addition to the work specified in Section 807 for landscape establishment. No time extension will be granted for seeding not completed as specified herein, including the 45 calendar-day maintenance period, prior to final acceptance or before the end of the Construction Phase as applicable.

An on-site pre-activity seeding construction meeting shall be coordinated by a Construction PLA. The necessity of half-acre (0.5 acre) sample demonstrative area of Class II Seeding shall be verified for the seeded areas greater than five (> 5) acres excluding shoulder build-up areas (edge of pavement build-up areas). The contractor shall guarantee in writing to furnish all suitable equipment for soil tillage, seeding, and mulching during pre-activity seeding construction meeting as evaluated by a Construction PLA, as well as approved by the Engineer.

**2.0 Materials:**

**2.01 General:**

Appropriate documentation, as specified below, shall be submitted to the Engineer a minimum of 30 calendar days before the start of a scheduled seeding activity. No materials shall be delivered to the site until the documentation has been approved by the Engineer.

Unless otherwise specified, Certificates of Compliance conforming to the requirements of Subsection 106.05 of the specifications shall be provided for all materials.

The contractor shall also provide test from accredited laboratories for all materials, as specified herein. Should the contractor perform its own testing, such test results shall also be provided to the Engineer.

**2.02 Seed:**

**(A) General Requirements:**

The species, variety, and strain of seed (designated elsewhere herein as contract-specified seed) shall be as shown on the plans or as specified herein. The contract-specified seed shall be obtained from seed suppliers through harvesting of wildland collections, or field-grown seeds grown prior to or during the contract period.

A Certificate of Analysis for each seed species shall be furnished to the Engineer at least four (4) weeks prior to seeding construction. No seed shall be furnished to, or delivered to the project until approved by the Engineer and Roadside Development. The Certificates of Analysis shall contain the following information for each seed sample: the test results of the Fifty States Noxious Weed list, all seeds including weed seeds listed, purity and germination, tetrazolium test results, when used and any pathology found to be present.

**CLASS II SEEDING – NO SUPPLEMENTAL MAN-MADE IRRIGATION IS REQUIRED**

The sample testing, when available for the native plant species, shall use the rules for testing seeds published by the “Association of Official Seed Analysts” or the “Society of Commercial Seed Technologists”.

If the samples indicate species listed as noxious, restricted or invasive, the lot will be rejected or evaluated for use on the project. The list of noxious, restricted or invasive species is located at Roadside Development and linked to the following website:

<http://www.azdot.gov/business/engineering-and-construction/roadway-engineering/roadside-development>

Within 30 calendar days after the award of contract, the contractor shall submit the name of the seeding subcontractor to be used, along with written confirmation from seed suppliers and/or collectors, on their letterhead, that the source(s) for the contract-specified seed has been secured. A minimum of three (3) separate confirmation letters from seed suppliers, providers and/or collectors shall be presented through the Engineer for a Construction PLA’s evaluation within context from reliable sources. If any of the contract-specified seed is expected to be unavailable prior to the time specified for seeding, in accordance with Subsection 2.02(B) below, the contractor shall notify the Engineer at this same time.

The seed shall be delivered to the project site unmixed in standard, sealed, undamaged containers for each seed species. Each container shall be labeled in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes and the U.S. Department of Agriculture rules and regulations under the Federal Seed Act. Labels shall indicate the scientific genus, species, subspecies/varieties or strains of seed, the percentage of germination, purity, weed content, and testing information. Unless otherwise approved by Roadside Development Section through the Engineer, the date of analysis for Tetrazolium Test (TZ) shall not be more than 15 months prior to the delivery date from a seed provider/supplier. A Certificate of Analysis from an accredited seed-testing laboratory, and conforming to Subsection 106.05 of the specifications, shall accompany each container of seed.

Unless otherwise approved by Roadside Development through the Engineer, weed content of the contract-specified seed mix shall not exceed 0.5 percent ( $\leq 0.5\%$ ).

In addition to Federal Seed Act Regulations, unless otherwise approved by Roadside Development through the Engineer, the contamination of seed lots from the following noxious /invasive plant species shall not be permitted.

<b>NOXIOUS / INVASIVE WEEDS WATCH LIST FOR THE CONTAMINATED SEED LOTS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	Redroot Amaranth / Redroot Pigweed / Red-Rooted Pigweed / Rough Pigweed
<i>Bassia scoparia</i> ( <b>syn.</b> <i>Kochia scoparia</i> )	Kochia / Fireweed
<i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i> ( <b>syn.</b> <i>Andropogon bladhii</i> / <i>Andropogon caucasicus</i> /	Caucasian Bluestem

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<b>NOXIOUS / INVASIVE WEEDS WATCH LIST FOR THE CONTAMINATED SEED LOTS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<i>Andropogon intermedius / Bothriochloa caucasica / Bothriochloa intermedia</i> )	
<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>	Yellow Bluestem
<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Sahara Mustard / Mediterranean Mustard / Prickly Turnip
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass / Downy Brome / Broncoglass / Downy Chess / Soft Chess / Drooping Brome
<i>Cynodon dactylon (syn. Capriola dactylon)</i>	Bermudagrass / Devilgrass
<i>Cenchrus spinifex (syn. Cenchrus incertus / Cenchrus pauciflorus / Cenchrus parviceps)</i>	Field Sandbur / Coastal Sandbur / Common Sandbur
<i>Chorispora tenella</i>	Crossflower / Purple Mustard / Blue Mustard / Musk Mustard / Beanpodded Mustard / Tenella Mustard
<i>Eragrostis lehmanniana</i>	Lehmann Lovegrass
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy Spurge / Green Spurge / Wolf's Milk
<i>Euphorbia prostrata (syn. Chamaesyce prostrata / Euphorbia chamaesyce)</i>	Prostrate Spurge / Prostrate Sandmat / Ground Spurge / Blue Weed
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch Thistle / Cotton Thistle
<i>Pennisetum ciliare (syn. Cenchrus ciliaris)</i>	Buffelgrass / African Foxtail Grass
<i>Physalis spp.</i>	Ground Cherry / Jerusalem Cherry / Strawberry Tomato
<i>Salsola kali subsp. tragus (syn. Salsola iberica)</i>	Russian Thistle / Tumbleweed
<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Japanese Bristlegrass / Giant Foxtail
<i>Setaria pumila (syn. Chaetochloa glauca / Chaetochloa lutescens / Panicum glaucum / Setaria glauca)</i>	Yellow Foxtail / Pigeon Grass / Yellow Bristlegrass
<i>Setaria viridis</i>	Green Bristlegrass / Pigeon Grass / Wild Millet / Green Foxtail
<i>Solanum physalifolium (syn. Solanum physalifolium / Solanum sarachoides / Solanum villosum)</i>	Hoe Nightshade / Argentine Nightshade / Green Nightshade / Hairy Nightshade

The contractor shall provide all seed tag labels to the Engineer. No payment will be made for seed until tag labels and Certificates of Analysis from all seed to be used on the project have been submitted as specified.

**CLASS II SEEDING – NO SUPPLEMENTAL MAN-MADE IRRIGATION IS REQUIRED**

Both the contractor and the seed supplier shall store seed under dry conditions, at temperatures of between 35 °F and 120 °F, and out of direct sunlight. Prior to using the seed, the contractor, as well as seed supplier, shall both provide a certification letter to the Engineer verifying that the seed was stored as specified herein.

Legume seed shall be inoculated with appropriate bacteria cultures approved by the Engineer, in accordance with the culture manufacturer’s instructions.

Tetrazolium staining shall be acceptable to test for germination and hard seed. Cut or fill testing will not be allowed. As directed by the Engineer, seeds with an expiration date past the acceptable test date or not meeting the specified conditions for storage shall be retested by the contractor. The Engineer may perform random sampling of seeds throughout the project. Mixing of the specified seed at the project site shall be under the supervision of the Engineer.

Application rates of seed as specified are for Pure Live Seed (PLS). PLS is determined by multiplying the sum of the percent germination of seeds, including hard or dormant seeds, by the percent purity.

Seed mix species and the PLS rates are shown in Table 1 below:

<b>TABLE 1</b>			
<b>SEED MIX—for All Unpaved Disturbed Areas, Unvegetated Areas, and/or Designated Areas</b>			
<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>PLS Rate (Pounds Per Acre)</b>	<b>Per Pound Value for Substitution (see text)</b>



For each pound of contract-specified seed not provided by the contractor, the value indicated in Table 1 will be deducted from the contract amount. The price per pound for the alternate seed selected by the Department, as specified above, will be determined in accordance with Subsection 109.04(D)(2) of the specifications. No additional adjustments will be made for substituting the alternate seed, the costs being considered as included in the contract item for seeding.

No payment will be made for areas seeded with unapproved seed. No payment will be made for areas seeded until the entire approved seed mix (including all authorized seed substitutions/adjustments) is executed.

**2.03 Tacking Agent:**

Tacking agent shall be a naturally occurring organic compound, and shall be non-toxic. The tacking agent shall be a product typically used for binding soil and mulch in seeding or erosion control operations. Approved types shall consist of mucilage or gum by dry weight as active ingredient obtained from guar or plantago. The tacking agent shall be labeled indicating the type and mucilage purity.

The contractor shall have the tacking agent swell volume tested by an approved testing laboratory using the USP method. The standard swell volume shall be considered as 30 milliliters per gram. Material shall have a swell volume of at least 24 milliliters per gram. Certified laboratory test results for homogenous consistency shall be furnished to the Engineer for each shipment of tacking agent to be used on project areas. Tacking agent rates shall be adjusted to compensate for swell volume variation. Material tested with lesser swell volume shall have the tacking agent rate increased by the same percentage of decrease in swell volume from the standard 30 milliliters per gram. Material tested with greater volume may reduce tacking agent rates by the same percentage of increase in swell volume from the standard 30 milliliters per gram. Tacking agent shall be pure material without starches, bentonite, or other compounds that would alter the swell volume test results of mucilage, or the effectiveness of the tacking.

**2.04 Thermally-Refined Wood Fiber:**

Wood cellulose fiber mulch shall conform to the requirements of Subsection 805-2.03 of the Standard Specifications, except as modified herein, and shall be from thermo-mechanically processed wood, processed to contain no growth germination inhibiting factors. The mulch shall be from virgin wood manufactured and processed so the fibers will remain in uniform suspension in water under agitation to form homogenous slurry. Paper products will not be considered as virgin wood. The thermally-refined wood fiber mulch shall have the properties shown in Table 2 below:

<b>TABLE 2</b>	
Virgin Wood Cellulose Fiber	90% min.
Recycled Cellulose Fiber	10% max.
Ash Content	0.8% +/-0.3%

pH	4.5 +/-1.0
Water Holding Capacity	10 : 1 (water : fiber) Min.

**2.05 Weed Free Straw Mulch:**

**(A) General:**

Straw mulch including barley straw shall conform to the requirements of Subsection 805-2.03 of the Standard Specifications, except as modified herein, and shall be from the current season's crop. A letter of certification from the supplier shall be required stating that the straw was baled less than twelve (12) months from the delivery date. Additionally, a bill of sale for straw material shall be presented for a Construction PLA's evaluation within context from reliable sources through the Engineer.

All straw, including hydraulically applied straw, shall be free from noxious weeds in compliance with the standards and procedures of the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) or the Arizona Crop Improvement Association (ACIA). The contractor shall provide documentation, including a transit certificate, and appropriate labels and/or marking twine, from the ACIA or NAWMA that straw materials to be used for mulch are free of noxious weeds. The straw shall be accompanied by the certification, labels and/or marking twine at the time of delivery to the project site. Straw delivered to the project without such information will be rejected, and promptly removed from the project.

Rye straw and oat straw will not be acceptable.

**(B) Weed Free Straw Mulch for Hydraulic Application:**

Hydraulically applied straw mulch shall be wheat, barley, or rice straw processed to various particle sizes, mixed with water and tacking material, and applied as a non-clogging slurry using a hydroseeder. A minimum of 70 percent (70%) of the wheat, barley, or rice straw in the mix shall be not less than 1/2 inch ± 1/4 inch in length. Straw particles may be longer provided that the particles can be used with the selected hydroseeder without clogging. Hydraulically applied straw mulch, as furnished by the manufacturer, may contain up to ten (10) percent paper or cotton materials in dry weight. Hydraulically applied straw mulch shall also contain 20 percent (20%) of wood fiber in dry weight. The combined dry weight percentage of paper, cotton, and wood fiber materials together shall be not less than 15 percent (15%) nor more than 30 percent (30%) of the hydraulically applied straw mulch. The date of installation of hydraulically applied straw mulch cover shall be less than twelve (12) months from the date of production. The date of production of hydraulically applied straw mulch material shall be presented for a Construction PLA's verification through the Engineer. All hydraulically applied straw mulch material shall also meet the requirements of Subsection 805-2.05 (A) stated above.

**2.06 Slow-release Chemical Fertilizer and Sulfur:**



Chemical fertilizer shall conform to the requirements of Subsection 805-2.06 of the specifications and shall be the kind hereafter specified. Fertilizer shall be composed of a mixture of one part sulfur-coated urea 25-4-8, one part monammonium phosphate 11-52-0, and one part methylene urea 38-0-0. The sulfur-coated urea, a blended fertilizer 25-4-8, shall have approximately 80 percent (80%) of the nitrogen defined as slow release, and contain five (5) percent Iron, ten (10) percent sulfur and trace amounts of zinc and manganese. The result shall be a 24-18-2 chemical blended fertilizer, as specified herein.

In addition to the fertilizer mixture, agricultural sulfur compounds, comprised of between 80 percent (80%) and 96 percent (96%) sulfur, shall be applied at the rate specified in Section 3.02. Chemical fertilizer and sulfur shall not be applied for the seeding area below the OHWM.

## **2.07 Water:**

Water shall be free of oil, acid, salts or other substances which are harmful to plants. All non-potable water shall be tested for its suitability for seeding/planting with the water quality-related concerns of salinity, pathogens and contaminants. The water quality testing result shall be presented for a Construction PLA's evaluation through the Engineer. An Arizona Guide to Water Quality and Uses (web link: <https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1610.pdf>) Figure 8, Water Quality and Uses Triangle shall be considered as reference for testing result evaluation and approval.

Water Quality Standards for seeding on construction projects that reach or exceed one-contiguous-acre ( $\geq 1$  contiguous acre) permit threshold soil/ground disturbance defined under current Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) and/or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CGP:

- (A) On Arizona Non-Native Americans Land (**Non-Tribal**), water quality for seeding construction within 0.25-mile buffer zones of Impaired and/or Outstanding Arizona Waters (OAWs) shall meet the standards of current AZPDES CGP, as well as requirements of these Special Provisions.

The web link of ADEQ's eMaps within the State of Arizona:

<http://qisweb.azdeq.gov/arcgis/emaps/?topic=impaired>

- (B) Water quality for seeding construction within Arizona Native Americans Land (**Tribal**) shall meet the standards of EPA-established or approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) under current NPDES CGP, as well as requirements of these Special Provisions.

The web link of EPA-established or approved TMDLs within the State of Arizona:

[https://iaspub.epa.gov/waters10/attains\\_index.control?p\\_area=AZ](https://iaspub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_index.control?p_area=AZ)

The source of water shall be approved by a Construction PLA through the Engineer prior to use.

**2.08 Compost:**

Compost in bulk or furnished in containers or bags, shall consist of composted organic vegetative materials and may contain worm castings. No animal manures or city biosolids shall be used in the composting or added to the compost. Prior to being furnished on the project, compost samples shall be tested for the specified microbiological and nutrient conditions, including maturity and stability, by a testing laboratory approved for testing of organic materials. During pre-activity seeding construction meeting, compost test written results submitted to the Engineer for approval shall be within nine (9) months from the date of the official lab test.

Compost material shall be dark brown in color with the parent material composted and no longer visible. The structure shall be a mixture of fine and medium size particles and humus crumbs. The maximum particle size shall be within the capacity of the contractor's equipment for application to the constructed slopes. The odor shall be that of rich humus with no ammonia or anaerobic odors.

Bulk Compost shall also meet the requirements of Table 3:

<b>TABLE 3</b>	
Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)	Greater than <b>45</b> meq/100 g
Carbon : Nitrogen Ratio (C : N)	Less than 20 : 1
pH (of extract)	5.0 – 8.5
Organic Matter Content	Greater than 30%
Total Nitrogen (not added)	Greater than 1%
Micronutrients (added)	S, Ca, Mg, Na, Fe, Al, Mn, Cu, Zn, B
Maturity Index	Greater than 50% on Maturity Index at a 10 : 1 ratio
Stability Indicator, CO <sub>2</sub> Evolution: Biologically Available C (BAC)	Less than 4mg CO <sub>2</sub> -C/g OM/day is desirable. From 4 through 8mg CO <sub>2</sub> -C/g OM/day is acceptable. Greater than 8mg CO <sub>2</sub> -C/g OM/day is <u>not</u> acceptable.
The CEC lab testing method shall refer to EPA9081 at the web link: <a href="http://epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/9081.pdf">http://epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/9081.pdf</a>	

Bulk compost is preferred and shall be applied to areas designated for seeding at the specified rate of 15 cubic yards per acre prior to final tillage for incorporation into the soil seedbed. Unless otherwise approved by the Engineer, bulk compost shall be engaged to all areas where equipment can be operated for final tillage in order to incorporate into the soil seedbed. Bulk compost may be substituted with hydraulically applied compost for small sized projects that cover less than five (< 5) acres of Class II Seeding as evaluated by a Construction PLA, as well as approved by the Engineer.

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The volume of bulk compost shall be measured and documented for a Construction PLA's verification and approval through the Engineer.

In areas where bulk compost cannot be applied by broadcast methods, compost shall be applied hydraulically as per the approval of the Engineer. Hydraulically applied compost shall be applied at the rate of 3,000 pounds per acre to mini-benched slopes or on other approved areas for incorporation into the soil seedbed. For seeding areas 3:1 and flatter where bulk compost cannot be employed, hydraulically applied compost shall be utilized at the rate of 3,000 pounds per acre as per the approval of the Engineer. Hydraulically applied compost may also be combined with soil amendments and fertilizer in the same slurry under the approval of the Engineer. Seed shall be employed separately after the implementation of hydraulically applied compost and prior to the final mulch cover.

The weight of hydraulically applied compost shall be measured and documented for a Construction PLA's verification and approval through the Engineer.

Hydraulically applied compost shall meet the requirements of Table 4 below:

<b>TABLE 4</b>	
Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)	Greater than <b>55</b> meq/100 g *
Carbon : Nitrogen Ratio (C : N)	Less than 20 : 1
pH (of extract)	5.0 – 8.5
Organic Matter Content	Greater than 35%
Total Nitrogen (not added)	Greater than 1%
Micronutrients (added)	S, Ca, Mg, Na, Fe, Al, Mn, Cu, Zn, B
Stability Indicator, CO <sub>2</sub> Evolution: Biologically Available C (BAC)	Less than 4mg CO <sub>2</sub> -C/g OM/day is desirable. From 4 through 8mg CO <sub>2</sub> -C/g OM/day is acceptable. Greater than 8mg CO <sub>2</sub> -C/g OM/day is <u>not</u> acceptable.
Moisture Content by Weight	From 15% through 25%
The CEC lab testing method shall refer to EPA9081 at the web link: <a href="http://epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/9081.pdf">http://epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/9081.pdf</a>	

\* When CEC is from 50 meq/100 g through 55 meq/100 g, in order to be approved, the contractor may add 100 pounds additional Hydraulically Applied Compost per acre to compensate for the lower-than-standard CEC value.

Compost shall not be applied for the seeding area below the OHWM. The choice between bulk compost and hydraulically applied compost shall be evaluated, as well as coordinated by a Construction PLA according to specific project conditions with the approval of the Engineer.

**2.09 Soil Conditioners:**

Soil conditioners, when required, will be as shown in the Special Provisions.

**3.0 Construction Requirements:**

**3.01 General:**

**Seeding Operations:**

At least two (2) weeks prior to beginning seeding, the contractor shall complete and submit a batch mix and seed application form to the Engineer for approval. The batch mix form will be supplied by the Engineer.

After acceptance of the form stated above, the Engineer and contractor in coordination with Construction PLA shall determine a half-acre (0.5 acre) sample demonstrative area to be seeded and mulched prior to applying seed to the remainder of the project. Both regular straw mulch and hydraulically applied straw mulch shall be applied to the sample demonstrative area, as determined during on-site pre-activity seeding construction meeting. Both straw mulches shall be representative of the materials proposed for use on the project. If the seeding and mulching procedures, as well as outcomes are acceptable by a Construction PLA, the contractor shall begin seeding operations as specified herein. Photographic Documentation of half-acre (0.5 acre) sample demonstrative seeded/mulched area shall be recorded and submitted to a Construction PLA, as comparative standard representation (mandatory visual reference) for Seeding Acceptance under Subsection 3.07 stated below.

The contractor shall notify the Engineer at least two (2) days prior to commencing any phase of seeding operations for the remainder of the project.

The equipment and methods used to distribute seeding materials shall provide an even and uniform application of seed, mulch, and other materials at the specified rates.

It is the contractor's responsibility to furnish all suitable equipment for soil tillage, seeding, and mulching at no additional cost to the Department.

Unless specified otherwise in the Special Provisions, seeding operations shall not be performed on undisturbed soil outside the clearing and grubbing limits of the project or on steep rock cuts.

The contractor shall coordinate the seeding operations with the grading operations to determine mobilization frequency as embankment and cut slopes are finished throughout the duration of the project. Seeding shall be done during suitable weather and soil conditions (soil-water and soil-temperature regimes) for tillage and placement of materials. Seeding operations shall not be performed when wind exceeds ten (10) miles per hour or, if in the opinion of the Engineer, conditions would prevent uniform application of materials or would carry seeding materials into areas not designated for seeding. If wind exceeds ten (10) miles per hour, the seeding operation shall be evaluated by a Construction PLA and

approved by the Engineer. If approved, the contractor shall perform seeding operation close to the ground surface with a hydro-seeding hose and hand-held hose-end sprayer nozzle or other equivalently effective seeding methods to guarantee all seeding materials are applied on the target area without being blown away by wind. The contractor is responsible to protect ambient air and water quality during seeding operation.

The contractor shall not expose an area greater than 750,000 square feet ( $\leq 17.22$  acre) at any one location within the project limits until the seeding proposed for that portion of the project has been installed and accepted by the Engineer. Seeding shall be accomplished within 14 days after slopes and disturbed areas have been completed. Seeding operations shall comply with Subsection 104.09 and the applicable portions of Section 203 of the specifications, and as directed by the Engineer.

Frequent mobilizations may be required to accomplish seeding as specified herein. The Department will consider the cost of such multiple mobilizations to be included in the price bid for the seeding. No adjustments will be made to the contract for the number of seeding mobilization activities. Should the contractor fail to provide seeding for a sub-area as specified herein, the Engineer will immediately notify the contractor of such non-compliance. Should the contractor fail to immediately remedy the unstabilized area, the Engineer may suspend work until such seeding stabilization has been completed, or proceed to provide the necessary seeding stabilization. The entire cost of such work will be deducted from the monies due or to become due to the contractor. In addition, no adjustment to the contract time will be made for suspensions resulting from the contractor's failure to provide seeding for a sub-area within the time periods specified herein.

### **3.02 Tillage:**

Where equipment can operate, the area to be seeded shall be prepared with a ripper bar, chisel plow, or with other devices to provide thorough soil cultivation to the depth specified below. It is the contractor's responsibility to furnish all suitable equipment for soil tillage at no additional cost to the Department.

Where equipment is not suitable for operation, hand tillage and/or other manual methods shall be utilized as approved by the Engineer. Tillage depth shall follow the requirements specified herein in accordance with assessment/measurement from a Construction PLA, as well as acceptance by the Engineer.

For areas too steep to be prepared for seeding after the slope has been completed, as determined by the Engineer, tillage shall be accomplished with appropriate equipment as the slope is being constructed. On slope areas, all tillage shall be horizontal and parallel to the contours of the areas involved in order to create a roughened surface condition to reduce stormwater runoff velocity and volume. All seeded areas suitable for tillage shall be pre-tilled to promote on-site stormwater infiltration and alleviate stormwater surface runoffs, as a part of stormwater peak flow and Volume Reduction Approaches (VRAs). All project areas eroded shall be restored to the specified condition, grade, and slope as directed prior to seeding.

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Cut slopes shall be prepared with ridges and deep tillage, or shall be mini-benched so as to detain rainwater/moisture close to its source. On fill slopes, the operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to form minor ridges thereon to assist in retarding runoff associated erosion/pollution and favor germination of the seed through detaining rainwater/moisture close to its source.

Except as specified herein, slopes shall be constructed in accordance with Subsection 203-3.03(B) of the specifications. Cut slopes flatter than 3:1 (horizontal to vertical) shall be tilled a minimum of 12 inches in depth, and fill slopes flatter than 3:1 shall be tilled to a six-inch minimum depth. All slopes steeper than 3:1, and areas which could potentially be affected by underground utilities, shall be tilled to a minimum six (6) inches in depth, and left in a roughened surface condition as they are constructed.

Tillage shall be a minimum of two (2) inches in depth for the first ten (10) feet from the toe of AC wedge including shoulder build-up areas (edge of pavement build-up areas) or from the outside edge of curb and gutter.

Care shall be taken during the seeding operations to prevent damage to existing trees and shrubs in the seeding area in accordance with the requirements of Subsection 107.11 of the specifications.

Tillage may require passing the equipment over the area several times to provide thorough soil cultivation. Furrows from tillage shall be no more than 12 inches apart. No work shall be done when the moisture content of the soil is unfavorable to tillage.

All competitive vegetation shall be uprooted prior to seeding and the soil shall be left in a friable roughened surface condition free of clods or large stones over four (4) inches in any dimension, and other foreign material that would interfere with the seeding operation. Exposed stones larger than four (4) inches shall be removed and disposed of in an approved manner prior to grading and seeding. Invasive and non-native weed species shall be eradicated according to MISCELLANEOUS WORK (CONTROL OF NOXIOUS PLANTS) of these Special Provisions.

Regardless of the method of seeding application, all areas prepared with tilling shall have chemical fertilizer and soil amendments (sulfur and compost) uniformly applied and incorporated (disked) into the soil prior to final tillage and seeding.

Chemical fertilizer and sulfur shall be applied at the rate of 200 pounds each per acre. Bulk compost shall be applied at the rate of 15 cubic yards per acre.

Unless otherwise approved by the Engineer, bulk compost shall be applied using broadcast methods to all areas where equipment can be operated. For areas where bulk compost cannot be applied by broadcast methods, as evaluated by a Construction PLA and determined by the Engineer, compost shall be applied hydraulically at the rate specified in Section 2.08 above. Hydraulically applied compost shall not be combined with seed and/or final mulch cover in the same slurry. However, sulfur and fertilizer may be utilized together with hydraulically applied compost in the same slurry with the approval of the Engineer.

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Slopes 3:1 and flatter shall have fertilizer, sulfur, and compost tilled/disked into a minimum of the top four (4) inches of the surface. Slopes steeper than 3:1 shall have fertilizer, sulfur, and compost uniformly broadcast for incorporation into the soil as directed by the Engineer. Unless otherwise operated together with hydraulically applied compost for the approved locations, fertilizer and sulfur shall not be applied hydraulically to areas for seeding.

For mini-benched slopes, fertilizer, compost, and sulfur shall be applied at the specified rates with no tillage or incorporation.

Seeding shall not initiate until all tillage areas and/or mini-benched slopes are accomplished as approved by a Construction PLA through the Engineer.

**3.03 Seeding:**

**(A) General:**

Drill seeding with straw mulch shall be considered as the preferred method of seed application when practicable. Unless otherwise approved by the Engineer, drill seeding shall be used for all areas with slopes of 3:1 or less.

Hydroseeding shall be the alternative method for seed distribution for slopes in excess of 3:1, and where drill seeding is not practicable or suitable for soil conditions and seed types, as determined by the Engineer.

Seeds not suitable for drill seeding and hydroseeding methods shall be broadcast manually. Areas to be seeded manually shall be completed after the final soil tillage and prior to any drill or hydroseeding.

Regardless of the seeding method(s), the contractor is responsible to guarantee intimate seed-soil contact. Seed application on top of straw mulch cover or hydraulically applied straw mulch cover shall be rejected.

Final straw mulch cover or hydraulically applied straw mulch cover shall be applied on all seeded areas, as specified in Sections 3.04 and/or 3.05, within 24 hours of seed application. Seeding application shall be accomplished prior to installation of straw mulch cover or hydraulically applied straw mulch cover. Combining the seed application process with the mulching process will not be acceptable. By implementing Low Impact Development (LID) source-control measure, the contractor shall install final straw mulch cover or hydraulically applied final straw mulch cover to minimize raindrop splash erosion and wind erosion/dust, as close as possible at the source of disturbance to protect all seeded areas. Thermally-refined wood fiber shall not be utilized solely as final mulch cover to protect all seeded areas. Seeds shall be neither exposed nor visible after the installation of straw mulch cover or hydraulically applied straw mulch cover.

Unless otherwise specified in the Special Provisions, Class II seeding areas shall not be watered after planting.

**(B) Drill Method:**

After the tillage and incorporation of fertilizer, sulfur, and compost is completed and accepted by the Engineer, seed shall be planted with a drill seeder capable of accurately metering the specific seed mix. Use of a drill seeder shall not damage the prepared seedbed, and shall provide a soil cover over the planted seed.

Seed shall be planted approximately 1/4 inch deep, with a maximum depth of 1/2 inch. The distance between the furrows produced using the drill process shall not be more than eight (8) inches. If the furrow openers on the drill exceed eight (8) inches, the area shall be drilled twice. Seeding shall be done with grass seeding equipment with double disc openers, depth bands, packer wheels or drag chains, rate control attachments, seed boxes with agitators and separate boxes for small seed. Seed of different sizes shall be sowed from at least two (2) separate boxes adjusted or set to provide the planting rate as specified.

**(C) Hydroseed Method:**

Areas and seed types not suitable for drill-seeding, as determined by the Engineer, shall be hydroseeded. The contract-specified seed shall be applied in a slurry containing 200 pounds of thermally-refined wood fiber and a minimum of 40 pounds tacking agent per acre. Seed shall not be in the slurry for more than 30 minutes. Hydroseeded areas shall have 100 percent (100%) coverage from all directions as evaluated by a Construction PLA, as well as approved by the Engineer. Hydroseeded areas shall also be mulched, as specified in Sections 3.04 or 3.05, within 24 hours of application of the seed.

**(D) Manual Application:**

Manually applied seeds shall be broadcast evenly to produce uniform distribution over the seeded areas.

**3.04 Applying Straw Mulch:**

**(A) General:**

Within 24 hours after each area is planted, straw mulch shall be uniformly applied at the minimum rate of 2 1/2 tons per acre for areas to be crimped and tacked, and minimum two (2) tons per acre for tacked-only areas. Except for edge of pavement build-up areas, and unless otherwise specified by the Engineer, straw mulch shall be applied to all seeded areas. Areas to receive hydraulically applied straw mulch, if directed by the Engineer, shall be mulched in accordance with Section 3.05.

During seeding and mulching operations, care shall be exercised to prevent drift and displacement of materials. Mulch material which is placed upon trees and shrubs, roadways, structures, and upon any areas where mulching is not specified, or which is placed in excessive depths on mulching areas, shall be removed as directed. Mulch materials which are deposited in a matted condition shall be loosened and uniformly spread to the specified depth over the mulching areas. Any unevenness in materials shall be immediately corrected by the contractor. In addition, the contractor shall minimize



production of dust or other airborne particulate matter during application of straw mulch, either by moistening the straw, modifying equipment with misters, or through other means approved by the Engineer.

Except as specified in the next paragraph, straw mulch applied to seeded areas shall be immediately affixed by crimping and tacking after application. No mulch shall be applied to seeding areas which cannot be crimped and/or tacked by the end of each day. Any drifting or displacement of mulch before crimping and/or tacking shall be corrected by the contractor at no additional cost to the Department.

Crimping shall not be required for areas that are steeper than 3:1. Crimping may also be waived, when specifically directed by the Engineer, for drill seeded or hydroseeded areas with rocky conditions or other areas deemed unsuitable by the Engineer for crimping. Straw mulch applied to such areas shall only be tacked, as specified in Subsection 3.04(C) below.

Prior to the application of a tacking agent, protective covering shall be placed on all structures and objects where stains would be objectionable. All necessary precautions shall be taken to protect the traveling public and vehicles from damage due to drifting spray.

**(B) Anchorage by Crimping:**

Except as specified above in 3.04(A), crimping shall be required for all straw mulched areas. Straw mulch shall be anchored into the soil with a heavy disc. Discs shall be flat and serrated, with at least 1/4 inch thickness having dull edges, and spaced no more than nine (9) inches apart. Straw mulch shall be anchored to a depth of at least two (2) inches and shall not be covered with an excessive amount of soil. Anchoring operations shall be across the slopes where practical, with no more than two (2) passes of the anchoring equipment. Immediately following the crimping operation, the crimped area shall be tacked as specified in Subsection 3.04(C) below.

**(C) Anchorage by Tacking:**

Straw mulch shall be anchored by tacking, using a slurry consisting of a minimum of 150 pounds of tacking agent, 500 pounds of thermally refined wood fiber mulch, and 300 gallons of water per acre. The contractor may increase the quantities of components to ensure the stability of the straw mulch to provide erosion control during the 45 calendar-day maintenance period at no additional cost to the Department.

**3.05 Hydraulically Applied Straw Mulch with Tacking Agent:**

Areas seeded but not practical for straw mulch, as determined by the Engineer, shall have hydraulically applied straw mulch with tacking agent applied at the variable rates shown in the Table 5 below.

<b>TABLE 5</b>			
<b>Slope (H:V)</b>	<b>Hydraulically Applied Straw Mulch</b>	<b>Tacking Agent (pounds pure</b>	<b>Thermally-Refined Wood Fiber</b>

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	(pounds per acre – dry weight)	mucilage per acre – dry weight)	(pounds per acre – dry weight)
Flat to 6:1	2,000	150	400
From greater than 6:1 to 3:1	2,500	150	500
Greater than 3:1	3,000	200	600
Erosive Soil Slopes or Highly Erosive Areas*	3,500	250	700
* As determined by Engineer			

The contractor shall submit a batch (tank) mix quantity schedule for mulch application to the Engineer for approval prior to mixing hydraulically applied straw mulch, thermally-refined wood fiber, and tacking agent in a slurry. Batch mixing and coverage will be monitored throughout the seeding operations. The contractor shall coordinate the mixing and application operations with the Engineer in advance of all mixing. Fertilizer or seed shall not be mixed into any slurry for temporary erosion control mulch application.

**3.06 Shoulder Build-up Areas – Edge of Pavement Build-up Areas:**

Seeding shall be applied to all new earthen and milled asphaltic concrete edge of pavement build-up areas. Edge of pavement build-up areas shall be tilled two (2) inches deep from the toe of AC wedge to the toe of the edge of pavement build-up area prior to seeding.

After the two-inch tillage is complete, compost, fertilizer, seeding, and mulching shall be done in three (3) separate steps. For the first step, fertilizer and compost shall be broadcast evenly over both types of edge of pavement build-up areas. For the next step, seed shall be applied by hydroseeding for both types of areas. For the third step, seeded edge of pavement build-ups comprised of milled asphaltic concrete shall have hydraulically applied straw mulch and tacking agent applied, and earthen edge of pavement build-up areas shall have straw mulch or hydraulically applied straw mulch applied, with a tacking agent in either case. No crimping shall be required.

The application rate of hydraulically applied straw mulch and tacking agent shall be as specified in Table 5 above.

**3.07 Seeding Acceptance:**

After application the Engineer will inspect seeded areas or sub-areas for conformance to the contract requirements. The contractor shall correct, to the satisfaction of the Engineer, any areas not conforming to the specifications. The 45-calendar-day seeding maintenance period will begin upon acceptance of the area by a Construction PLA through the Engineer.

The contractor shall maintain and stabilize each area or sub-area, including edge of pavement build-up areas, for a minimum period of 45 calendar days after application of the seeding and mulching materials as evaluated by a Construction PLA, as well as approved

by the Engineer. Any areas damaged from erosion, or that have less than 90 percent (< 90%) of remaining final mulch cover, shall be re-seeded, re-mulched, and re-tacked at no additional cost to the Department. The Construction PLA shall assess the seeded area in comparison to the pre-established half-acre (0.5 acre) sample demonstrative area for Class II Seeding to determine the necessity of re-seeding, re-mulching, and re-tacking.

Except for projects with Landscape Establishment, seeding shall be completed, including the 45-calendar-day maintenance period, prior to final acceptance, or sooner if required in the SWPPP or elsewhere in the contract documents. Seeding used as part of a landscape project shall be completed, including the 45-calendar-day maintenance period, before the end of the Construction Phase.

**4.0 Method of Measurement:**

Seeding (Class II) will be measured by the acre, to the nearest one acre of ground surface seeded. Measurements will be along the ground surface for the areas seeded and mulched, as approved by the Engineer.

**5.0 Basis of Payment:**

During pre-activity construction meeting, the contractor in conjunction with Engineer shall verify and be in agreement with the quantity of seeding areas as evaluated by a Construction PLA. The quantity of areas to be seeded shall be in compliance with environmental requirements.

The accepted quantities for Seeding (Class II), measured as provided above, will be paid in two (2) phases corresponding to the application stage and the 45 calendar-day maintenance stage.

Upon completion of the application stage through evaluation by a Construction PLA and acceptance by the Engineer in the presence of contractor, the contractor will be paid 70 percent (70%) of the contract bid price per acre for the completed work. Such price will be considered full compensation for furnishing and applying the contract-specified seed mix, fertilizers, soil amendments, tillage, mulch materials, and tacking agent, all required testing, and all equipment and labor required to complete the work as specified herein.

Upon completion of the 45 calendar-day maintenance stage, and final acceptance by a Construction PLA through the Engineer, the contractor will be paid 30 percent (30%) of the contract bid price per acre for the completed work. Such price will be considered full compensation for seeding maintenance, including all equipment, labor, and materials required to correct deficiencies in seeded, mulched areas, as specified herein.

No measurement or payment will be made for the mobilizations required to apply and stabilize the seeding for each area or sub-area, as specified herein, the cost being considered as included in the contract price for Seeding (Class II).

An adjustment to the contract will be made if a contractor-requested seed substitution is approved as specified in Subsection 2.02(B) above.