

Section 700—Grassing

700.1 General Description

This work includes preparing the ground, furnishing, planting, seeding, fertilizing, sodding, and mulching disturbed areas within the Right-of-Way limits and easement areas adjacent to the right-of-way as shown on the Plans except as designated by the Engineer.

700.1.01 Definitions

General Provisions 101 through 150.

700.1.02 Related References

A. Standard Specifications

[Section 160—Reclamation of Material Pits and Waste Areas](#)

[Section 163—Miscellaneous Erosion Control Items](#)

[Section 718—Wood Fiber](#)

[Section 822—Emulsified Asphalt](#)

[Section 882—Lime](#)

[Section 890—Seed and Sod](#)

[Section 891—Fertilizers](#)

[Section 893—Miscellaneous Planting Materials](#)

B. Referenced Documents

[QPL 33](#)

700.1.03 Submittals

General Provisions 101 through 150.

700.2 Materials

Use materials that meet the requirements of the following Specifications:

Material	Section
Wood Fiber Mulch	718.2
Emulsified Asphalt	822
Agricultural Lime	882.2.01
Seed	890.2.01
Sod	890.2.02
Fertilizer	891.2.01
Plant Topsoil	893.2.01
Mulch	893.2.02
Inoculants	893.2.04
Tackifiers	QPL 33

A. Seeds

Whenever seeds are specified by their common names, use the strains indicated by their botanical names.

B. Water

Obtain the water for grassing from an approved source. Use water free of harmful chemicals, acids, alkalies, and other substances that may harm plant growth or emit odors. Do not use salt or brackish water.

C. Asphalt

Secure the mulch with asphalt made of a homogenous emulsification of a refined petroleum. Ensure that the asphalt can be sprayed on with or without diluting with water.

Use suitable asphalt free of petroleum solvents or other diluting agents that may harm plant growth. Use asphalt according to [Section 822](#). Do not use asphalt that separates after freezing or from any other cause.

D. Fertilizer Mixed Grade

Select fertilizer mixed grade such as 10-10-10, 6-12-12, 5-10-15, or other analysis within the following limits:

- Nitrogen 5 to 10 percent
- Phosphorus 10 to 15 percent
- Potassium 10 to 15 percent

If using mixed grade fertilizer for hydroseeding, ensure that it has the following analysis:

- Nitrogen 5 to 19 percent
- Phosphorus 10 to 19 percent
- Potassium 10 to 19 percent

E. Mulch

Use straw or hay mulch according to [Subsection 700.3.05.G](#).

Use wood fiber mulch in hydroseeding according to [Subsection 700.3.05.F.1](#).

700.2.01 Delivery, Storage, and Handling

General Provisions 101 through 150.

700.3 Construction Requirements

700.3.01 Personnel

General Provisions 101 through 150.

700.3.02 Equipment

Use grassing equipment able to produce the required results.

Never allow the grading (height of cut) to exceed the grassing equipment's operating range.

A. Blower Equipment

When using blower equipment to apply bituminous treated mulch in a single operation, place two or more jets or spray nozzles at or near the end of the discharge spout to eject a uniform coat of mulch.

B. Mulch Material Equipment

Use mulching equipment that uniformly cuts the specified materials into the soil to the required control depth.

C. Rollers

Use at least 12 in (300 mm) diameter rollers with corrugated or notched surfaces. Do not use smooth surface rollers.

D. Hydroseeding Equipment

For hydroseeding equipment, see [Subsection 700.3.05.F](#).

700.3.03 Preparation

General Provisions 101 through 150.

700.3.04 Fabrication

General Provisions 101 through 150.



700.3.05 Construction

Follow the planting zones, planting dates, types of seed, seed mixtures, and application rates described throughout this Section.

In general:

- Obtain the Engineer’s approval before changing the ground cover type.
- Do not use annual rye grass seeds with permanent grassing.
- Follow the planting zones indicated on the [Georgia State Planting Zone Map](#), below.
- Sod may be installed throughout the year, weather permitting.
- For permanent grassing, apply the combined amounts of all seeds for each time period within each planting zone and roadway location listed in the [Seeding Table](#), below. Do not exceed the amounts of specified seed.

Planting Zone Map

SEEDING TABLE

		Pounds (kg) Of Seed Per Acre (hectare)									REQUIRED PERMANENT PLANTING
		Rye Grass, Millet, Cereal Grass (Oats)	Common Bermuda Grass (Hulled)	Common Bermuda Grass (Unhulled)	Tall Fescue	Weeping Love Grass	White Or Crimson Clover	Crown Vetch	Scarified Interstate Lespedeza	Unscarified Interstate Lespedeza	
Planting Zones	Planting Dates										
1	March 1 – May 15		10 (11)	10 (11)	50 (56)						Common Bermuda Grass
1	May 1 – July 31		10 (11)	10 (11)							
1	August 1 – February 28	15 (17)									
1	November 15 – January 31						6 (7)				
2,3,4	February 15 – August 31		10 (11)	10 (11)							
2,3,4	September 1 – February 14	15 (17)									Common Bermuda Grass
2,3,4	November 15 – January 31						6 (7)				

Plant these combinations on back slopes, fill slopes and areas which will not be subject to frequent mowing											
1,2	March 1 – July 31					4 (5)			50 (56)		Interstate Lespedeza Of Crown Vetch
1,2	August 1 – February 28				30 (34)			15 (17)		75 (84)	
3,4	February 15 – August 31					4 (5)			50 (56)		Interstate Lespedeza
3,4	September 1 – February 14	50 (56)								75 (84)	

A. Ground Preparation

Prepare the ground by plowing under any temporary grass areas and preparing the soil as follows:

1. Slopes 3:1 or Flatter

On slopes 3:1 or flatter, plow shoulders and embankment slopes to between 4 in and 6 in (100 mm and 150 mm) deep.

Plow front and back slopes in cuts to no less than 6 in (150 mm) deep. After plowing, thoroughly disk the area until pulverized to the plowed depth.

2. Slopes Steeper Than 3:1

Serrate slopes steeper than 3:1 according to Plan details when required.

On embankment slopes and cut slopes not requiring serration (sufficient as determined by the Engineer), prepare the ground to develop an adequate seed bed using any of the following methods as directed by the Engineer:

- Plow to a depth whatever depth is practicable.
- Use a spiked chain.
- Walk with a cleated track dozer.
- Scarify.

Disking cut slopes and fill slopes is not required.

3. All Slopes

- a. Obstructions
Remove boulders, stumps, large roots, large clods, and other objects that interfere with grassing or may slide into the ditch.
- b. Topsoil
Spread topsoil stockpiled during grading evenly over cut and fill slopes after preparing the ground.
Push topsoil from the top over serrated slopes. Do not operate equipment on the face of completed serrated cuts.

B. Grassing Adjacent to Existing Lawns

When grassing areas adjacent to residential or commercial lawns, the Engineer shall change the plant material to match the type of grass growing on the adjacent lawn. The Contract Unit Price will not be modified for this substitution.

If the Engineer believes bituminous treated mulch would harm other portions of the work, bituminous treated mulch may be substituted with 1,500 lbs/acre (1680 kg/ha) of wood fiber mulch with tackifier.

C. Temporary Grassing

Apply temporary grassing according to [Subsection 163.3.05.F](#) and the following:

- Determine lime requirements by a laboratory soil test.
- Add mulch only if the temporary grass does not provide adequate mulch to meet the requirements of [Subsection 700.3.05.G](#).

In March or April of the year following planting and as soon as the weather is suitable, replace all areas of temporary grass with permanent grass by plowing or overseeding using the no-till method. If the no-till method is used, ensure that temporary grass is less than 3 inches in height (this may be achieved by mowing). Additional mulch will be required only if the temporary grass does not provide adequate mulch to meet the requirements of [Subsection 700.3.05.G](#), “[Mulching.](#)”

Temporary grass, when required, will be paid for according to [Section 163](#).

D. Applying Agricultural Lime and Fertilizer Mixed Grade

Apply and mix lime and fertilizer as follows:

1. Agricultural Lime

Uniformly spread agricultural lime on the ground at the approximate rate determined by the laboratory soil test.

2. Fertilizer Mixed Grade

Uniformly spread the fertilizer selected according to [Subsection 700.2.D](#) over the ground at approximately 1,200 lbs/acre (1350 kg/ha).

If using a higher analysis fertilizer with hydroseeding, apply it at the same rate per acre (hectare) as the standard fertilizer.

3. Mixing

Before proceeding, uniformly work the lime and fertilizer into the top 4 in (100 mm) of soil using harrows, rotary tillers, or other equipment acceptable to the Engineer.

On cut slopes steeper than 3:1, other than serrated slopes, reduce the mixing depth to the maximum practical depth as determined by the Engineer.

Omit mixing on serrated slopes.

E. Seeding

Following is a list of both common names and botanical names for approved seed types. Whenever seeds are specified by the common names, the strains indicated by their botanical name apply.

Common Name	Botanical Name
Annual Ryegrass	Lolium multiflorum
*Bermuda Grass, Common Hulled and Unhulled	Cynodon dactylon
**Crimson Clover	Trifolium incarnatum Var. Reseeding
**Lespedeza Virgata	Lespedeza Ambro Virgata
**Lespedeza Sericea	Lespedeza cuneta, Var. Sericea

Common Name	Botanical Name
**Lespedeza Serala	Lespedeza cuneta, Var. Serala
**Lespedeza Interstate	Lespedeza cuneta, Var. Interstate
**Lespedeza Korean	Lespedeza stipulacea Maxim
Pensacola Bahiagrass	Paspalum notatum, var. Pensacola
Tall Fescue	Festuca arundinacea
Weeping Love Grass	Eragrostis curvula
**White Dutch Clover	Trifolium repens
**Crown Vetch	Coronilla Varia
*Do not use Giant Bermuda Seed (Cynodon species) including NK-37.	
**Requires inoculation.	

Prepare seed and sow as follows:

1. Inoculation of Seed

Inoculate each kind of leguminous seed separately with the appropriate commercial culture according to the manufacturer's instructions for the culture.

When hydroseeding, double the inoculation rate.

Protect inoculated seed from the sun and plant it the same day it is inoculated.

2. Sowing

Weather permitting, sow seed within 24 hours after preparing the seed bed and applying the fertilizer and lime, or sow seed within 24 hours after applying mixed-in-place mulch.

Sow seed uniformly at the rates specified in the [Seeding Table](#). Use approved mechanical seed drills, rotary hand seeders, hydraulic equipment, or other equipment to uniformly apply the seed. Do not distribute by hand.

To distribute the seeds evenly sow seed types separately, except for similarly sized and weighted seeds. They may be mixed and sown together.

3. Rolling

Roll seeded areas before applying mulch, except on steep slopes where rollers cannot operate satisfactorily. On slopes inaccessible to compaction equipment, cover the seeds by dragging spiked chains over them or by using other methods.

Do not sow during windy weather, when the prepared surface is crusted, or when the ground is frozen, wet, or otherwise nontillable.

4. Overseeding

Temporary grass areas that were prepared in accordance with [Subsection 700.3.05.A](#), shall be overseeded using the no-till method. The no-till method is defined by planting permanent grass seeds using a drill-type seeder over existing temporary grass without plowing or tilling soil and in accordance with [Subsection 700.3.05.C](#). This method shall be shown on the Plans or directed by the Engineer before being implemented.

F. Hydroseeding

Hydroseeding may be used on any grassing area. Under this method, spread the seed, fertilizer, and wood fiber mulch in the form of a slurry. Seeds of all sizes may be mixed together. Inoculate the seeds at double the rate for seeds not being hydroseeded. Apply hydroseeding as follows:

1. Use wood fiber mulch as a metering agent and seed bed regardless of which mulching method is chosen. Apply wood fiber mulch at approximately 1,500 lbs/acre (560 kg/ha).
2. Prepare the ground for hydroseeding as for conventional seeding in [Subsection 700.3.05.A](#).
3. Use specially designed equipment to mix and apply the slurry uniformly over the entire seeding area.
4. Agitate the slurry mixture during application.
5. Discharge slurry within one hour after being combined in the hydroseeder. Do not hydroseed when winds prevent an even application.
6. Closely follow the equipment manufacturer's directions unless the Engineer modifies the application methods.

7. Mulch the entire hydroseeded area according to [Subsection 700.3.05.F.1](#), above, and [Subsection 700.3.05.G](#), below.

G. Mulching

Except as noted in [Subsection 700.3.05.B](#) and [Subsection 700.3.05.C](#), apply mulch immediately after seeding areas as follows:

Areas with permanent grass seed and covered with slope mats or blankets will not require mulch.

Evenly apply straw or hay mulch between 3/4 in and 1-1/2 in (20 mm and 40 mm) deep, according to the texture and moisture content of the mulch material.

Mulch shall allow sunlight to penetrate and air to circulate as well as shade the ground, reduce erosion, and conserve soil moisture. If the type of mulch is not specified on the Plans or in the Proposal, use any of the following as specified.

1. Mulch with Binder

Apply mulch with binder regardless of whether using ground or hydroseeding equipment for seeding.

- a. Mulch uniformly applied manually or with special blower equipment designed for the purpose. When using a blower, thoroughly loosen baled material before feeding it into the machine so that it is uniformly coated with binder and broken up.
- b. After distributing the mulch initially, redistribute it to bare or inadequately covered areas in clumps dense enough to prevent new grass from emerging.
Do not apply mulch on windy days.
- c. Apply enough binder to the mulch to hold it in place. Immediately replace mulch that blows away.

When using a power blower to distribute the mulch, spray the binder onto the mulch as the mulch is ejected from the machine. If distributing the mulch by hand, immediately apply the binder uniformly over the mulched areas.

Use one of the following binders:

- Emulsified asphalt, SS-1h or SS-1 ([Section 822](#)): The public, adjacent property, bridges, pavements, curbs, sidewalks, and other existing structures shall be protected from discoloration by the asphalt. Correct discoloration damage at no expense to the Department.
- Tackifier: Use a tackifier listed in the Laboratory Qualified Products Manual may be used at the manufacturer's recommended rates.

2. Mixed-in-Place Mulch

Apply mixed-in-place mulch on flat areas or slopes 3:1 or less and treat as follows:

- a. Immediately work the mulch into the soil with appropriate equipment to produce a loose soil and mulch mixture 3 in to 3.5 in (75 mm to 90 mm) deep.
- b. After mixing mulch and soil and restoring areas to line and grade, seed as specified in this Section.

3. Walked-in-Mulch

Apply walked-in-mulch on slopes ranging in steepness from 5:1 to 2:1 and treat as follows:

- a. Immediately walk it into the soil with a cleated track dozer. Make dozer passes vertically up and down the slope.
- b. Where walked-in-mulch is used, do not roll or cover the seeds as specified in [Subsection 700.3.05.E.3](#).

H. Sod

Furnish and install sod in all areas shown on the Plans or designated by the Engineer.

1. Kinds of Sod

Use only Common Bermudagrass (Cynodon dactylon) or one of the following Bermudagrass varieties:

Tifway 419
Tifway II
Tift 94
Tifton 10
Midlawn
Midiron
GN-1
Vamont

No dwarf Bermuda types shall be used. Sod shall be nursery-grown and be accompanied with a Georgia Department Of Agriculture Live Plant License Certificate or Stamp. Sod shall consist of live, dense, well-rooted material free of weeds and insects as described by the Georgia Live Plant Act.

2. Type And Size Of Sod:

Furnish either big roll or block sod. Ensure that big roll sod is a minimum of 21 inches wide by 52 feet long. Minimum dimensions for block sod are 12 inches wide by 22 inches long. Ensure all sod consists of a uniform soil thickness of not less than 1 inch.

3. Ground Preparation

Excavate the ground deep enough and prepare it according to [Subsection 700.3.05.A](#) to allow placing of sod. Spread soil, meeting the requirements of [Subsection 893.2.01](#), on prepared area to a depth of 4 inches.

4. Application Of Lime And Fertilizer

Apply lime and fertilizer according to [Subsection 700.3.05.D](#) within 24 hours prior to installing sod.

5. Weather Limitation

Do not place sod on frozen ground or where snow may hinder establishment.

6. Install Sod

Install Sod as follows:

- Place sod by hand or by mechanical means so that joints are tightly abutted with no overlaps or gaps. Use soil to fill cracks between sod pieces, but do not smother the grass.
- Stake sod placed in ditches or slopes steeper than 2:1 or any other areas where sod slipping can occur.
- Use wood stakes that are at least 8 in (200 mm) in length and not more than 1 in (25 mm) wide.
- Drive the stakes flush with the top of the sod. Use a minimum of 8 stakes per square yard (meter) to hold sod in place.
- Once sod is placed and staked as necessary, tamp or roll it using adequate equipment to provide good contact with soil.
- Use caution to prevent tearing or displacement of sod during this process. Leave the finished surface of sodded areas smooth and uniform.

7. Watering Sod

After the sod has been placed and rolled or tamped, water it to promote satisfactory growth. Additional watering will be needed in the absence of rainfall and during the hot dry summer months. Water may be applied by Hydro Seeder, Water Truck or by other means approved by the Engineer.

8. Dormant Sod

Dormant Bermuda grass sod can be installed. However, assume responsibility for all sod through establishment and until final acceptance.

9. Establishment

Sod will be inspected by the Engineer at the end of the first spring after installation and at the time of Final Inspection. Replace any sod that is not live and growing. Any cost for replacing any unacceptable sod will be at the Contractor's expense.

I. Application of Nitrogen

Apply nitrogen at approximately 50 lbs/acre (56 kg/ha) when specified by the Engineer after plants have grown to 2 in (50 mm) high.

One application is mandatory and must be applied before Final Acceptance.

Apply nitrogen with mechanical hand spreaders or other approved spreaders capable of uniformly covering the grassed areas. Do not apply nitrogen on windy days or when the foliage is damp.

Do not apply nitrogen between October 15 and March 15 except in Zone 4.

700.3.06 Quality Acceptance

The Engineer may require replanting of an area that shows unsatisfactory growth for any reason at any time.

Except as otherwise specified or permitted by the Engineer, prepare replanting areas according to the Specifications as if they were the initial planting areas. Use a soil test or the Engineer's guidance to determine the fertilizer type and application rate, then furnish and apply the fertilizer.

700.3.07 Contractor Warranty and Maintenance

A. Plant Establishment

Before Final Acceptance, provide plant establishment of the specified vegetation as follows:

1. Plant Establishment

Preserve, protect, water, reseed or replant, and perform other work as necessary to keep the grassed areas in satisfactory condition.

2. Watering

Water the areas during this period as necessary to promote maximum growth.

3. Mowing

Mow seeded areas of medians, shoulders, and front slopes at least every 6 months. Avoid damaging desirable vegetation.

In addition, mow as necessary to prevent tall grass from obstructing signs, delineation, traffic movements, sight distance, or otherwise becoming a hazard to motorists.

Do not mow lespedezas or tall fescue until after the plants have gone to seed.

B. Additional Fertilizer Mixed Grade

Apply fertilizer at approximately 600 lbs/acre (675 kg/ha) each spring after initial plant establishment. Continue annual applications until Final Acceptance. This additional fertilizer will be measured and paid for at the Contract Unit Price for fertilizer mixed grade.

C. Growth and Coverage

Provide satisfactory growth and coverage, ensuring that vegetation growth is satisfactory with no bare spots larger than 1 ft² (0.1 m²). Bare spots shall comprise no more than 1 percent of any given area. An exception is given for seed not expected to have germinated and shown growth at that time.

D. Permissible Modifications

When all Items of the work are ready for Final Acceptance except for newly planted repaired areas or other areas with insufficient grass, the Contractor may fill the eroded areas or treat bare areas with sod obtained, placed, and handled according to [Subsection 700.3.05.H](#).

Carefully maintain the line and grade established for shoulders, front slopes, medians, and other critical areas.

Sod as described above will not be paid for separately, but will be an acceptable substitute for the satisfactory growth and coverage required under this Specification. These areas treated with sod are measured for payment under the Item for which the sod is substituted.

700.4 Measurement

A. Permanent Grassing

Permanent Grassing will be measured for payment by the pound of seed.

B. Mulches

Mulches, including wood fiber mulch, furnished by the Contractor for permanent grassing are not measured for separate payment.

C. Quantity of Sod

Sod is measured for payment by the number of square yards (meters) , surface measure, completed and accepted.

D. Water

Water furnished and applied to promote a satisfactory growth is not measured for payment.

E. Quantity of Lime and Fertilizer Mixed Grade

Lime and fertilizer are measured by the ton (megagram).

F. Quantity of Nitrogen Used for Permanent Grassing

Nitrogen is measured in pounds (kilograms) based on the weight of fertilizer used and its nitrogen content.

G. Replanting and Plant Establishments

No measurement for payment is made for any materials or work required under [Subsection 700.3.06](#) and [Subsection 700.3.07](#).

H. Temporary Grass

Temporary grass is measured for payment by the pound (kilogram) of seed according to [Section 163](#).

700.4.01 Limits

General Provisions 101 through 150.

700.5 Payment

As grassing and planting progress, the Contractor will receive full measurement and payment on regular monthly estimates provided the work complies with the Specifications.

A. Permanent Grassing

Permanent grassing will be paid for at the Contract Price per pound (kilogram) of seed, complete and in place. Payment is full compensation for preparing the ground, seeding, mulching, and providing plant establishment.

B. Fertilizer Mixed Grade

Fertilizer mixed grade will be paid for at the Contract Price per ton (megagram). Payment is full compensation for furnishing and applying the material.

C. Lime

Lime will be paid for at the Contract Price per ton (megagram). Payment is full compensation for furnishing and applying the material.

D. Nitrogen

Nitrogen will be paid for at the Contract Price per pound (kilogram) of nitrogen content. Payment is full compensation for furnishing and applying the material.

E. Sod

Sod will be paid by the square yard (meter) in accordance with the following schedule of payments. Payment is full compensation for ground preparation, including addition of topsoil, furnishing and installing live sod, and for Plant Establishment.

1. 70% of the Contract Price per square yard will be paid at the satisfactory completion of the installation.
2. 20% of the Contract Price will be paid upon satisfactory review of sod which is healthy, weed free and viable at the inspection made at the end of the first spring after installation.,.
3. 10% of the contract price will be paid upon satisfactory review of sod that is healthy, weed free and viable at the Final Acceptance.

F. Temporary Grass

Temporary Grass will be paid for under [Section 163](#).

Payment will be made under:

Item No. 700	Permanent grassing	Per pound (kilogram)
Item No. 700	Agricultural lime	Per ton (megagram)
Item No. 700	Fertilizer mixed grade	Per ton (megagram)
Item No. 700	Fertilizer nitrogen content	Per pound (kilogram)
Item No. 700	Sod	Per square yard (meter)

700.5.01 Adjustments

General Provisions 101 through 150.