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USACE / NAVFAC / AFCEA / NASA UFGS 32 92 23 (April 2006)  
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Preparing Activity: NAVFAC Replacing without change  
UFGS-02922 (May 2004)

UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

References are in agreement with UMRL dated April 2009

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SECTION 32 92 23

SODDING  
04/06

\*\*\*\*\*

NOTE: This guide specification covers the requirements for sod.

Edit this guide specification for project specific requirements by adding, deleting, or revising text. For bracketed items, choose applicable items(s) or insert appropriate information.

Remove information and requirements not required in respective project, whether or not brackets are present.

Comments and suggestions on this guide specification are welcome and should be directed to the technical proponent of the specification. A listing of technical proponents, including their organization designation and telephone number, is on the Internet.

Recommended changes to a UFGS should be submitted as a Criteria Change Request (CCR).

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NOTE: The following information shall be shown on the project drawings:

1. Clearly indicate all areas to be sodded and if more than one type of sod is specified, delineate areas for each type.

2. All draft sod specifications shall be submitted to the cognizant Landscape Architect/Natural Resources Specialist for review to ensure that the specifications are in accordance with environmental conditions peculiar to the project areas.

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PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 REFERENCES

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**NOTE: This paragraph is used to list the publications cited in the text of the guide specification. The publications are referred to in the text by basic designation only and listed in this paragraph by organization, designation, date, and title.**

**Use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature when you add a RID outside of the Section's Reference Article to automatically place the reference in the Reference Article. Also use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature to update the issue dates.**

**References not used in the text will automatically be deleted from this section of the project specification when you choose to reconcile references in the publish print process.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referred to within the text by the basic designation only.

ASTM INTERNATIONAL (ASTM)

ASTM C 602 (2007) Agricultural Liming Materials  
ASTM D 4427 (2007) Peat Samples by Laboratory Testing  
ASTM D 4972 (2001; R 2007) pH of Soils

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL (TPI)

TPI GSS (1995) Guideline Specifications to Turfgrass Sodding

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

DOA SSIR 42 (1996) Soil Survey Investigation Report No. 42, Soil Survey Laboratory Methods Manual, Version 3.0

1.2 DEFINITIONS

1.2.1 Stand of Turf

100 percent ground cover of the established species.

1.3 RELATED REQUIREMENTS

[Section 31 00 00 EARTHWORK], [Section 32 84 24 IRRIGATION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS], [Section 32 96 00 TRANSPLANTING EXTERIOR PLANTS], [Section 32 92 19 SEEDING], [Section 32 92 26 SPRIGGING], [Section 32 93 00 EXTERIOR

PLANTS], and Section 32 05 33 LANDSCAPE ESTABLISHMENT applies to this section for pesticide use and plant establishment requirements, with additions and modifications herein.

1.4 SUBMITTALS

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**NOTE: Review submittal description (SD) definitions in Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES and edit the following list to reflect only the submittals required for the project. Submittals should be kept to the minimum required for adequate quality control.**

**A "G" following a submittal item indicates that the submittal requires Government approval. Some submittals are already marked with a "G". Only delete an existing "G" if the submittal item is not complex and can be reviewed through the Contractor's Quality Control system. Only add a "G" if the submittal is sufficiently important or complex in context of the project.**

**For submittals requiring Government approval on Army projects, a code of up to three characters within the submittal tags may be used following the "G" designation to indicate the approving authority. Codes for Army projects using the Resident Management System (RMS) are: "AE" for Architect-Engineer; "DO" for District Office (Engineering Division or other organization in the District Office); "AO" for Area Office; "RO" for Resident Office; and "PO" for Project Office. Codes following the "G" typically are not used for Navy, Air Force, and NASA projects.**

**Choose the first bracketed item for Navy, Air Force and NASA projects, or choose the second bracketed item for Army projects.**

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Government approval is required for submittals with a "G" designation; submittals not having a "G" designation are [for Contractor Quality Control approval.][for information only. When used, a designation following the "G" designation identifies the office that will review the submittal for the Government.] The following shall be submitted in accordance with Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES:

**SD-03 Product Data**

**Fertilizer**

Include physical characteristics, and recommendations.

**SD-06 Test Reports**

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**NOTE: In states that require certification, adjust testing requirements to suit local conditions.**

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Topsoil composition tests (reports and recommendations).

SD-07 Certificates

[Nursery] [Sod farm] certification for sods. Indicate type of sod in accordance with TPI GSS.

1.5 DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

1.5.1 Delivery

1.5.1.1 Sod Protection

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**NOTE: If sod is to be delivered in quantity over considerable distance, specify trucking in vans equipped with temperature control.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Protect from drying out and from contamination during delivery, on-site storage, and handling.

1.5.1.2 [Fertilizer] [Gypsum] [Sulfur] [Iron] [and] [Lime] Delivery

Deliver to the site in original, unopened containers bearing manufacturer's chemical analysis, name, trade name, trademark, and indication of conformance to state and federal laws. Instead of containers, [fertilizer] [gypsum] [sulphur] [iron] [and] [lime] may be furnished in bulk with certificate indicating the above information.

1.5.2 Storage

1.5.2.1 Sod Storage

Lightly sprinkle with water, cover with moist burlap, straw, or other approved covering; and protect from exposure to wind and direct sunlight until planted. Provide covering that will allow air to circulate so that internal heat will not develop. Do not store sod longer than 24 hours. Do not store directly on concrete or bituminous surfaces.

1.5.2.2 Topsoil

Prior to stockpiling topsoil, treat growing vegetation with application of appropriate specified non-selective herbicide. Clear and grub existing vegetation three to four weeks prior to stockpiling topsoil.

1.5.2.3 Handling

Do not drop or dump materials from vehicles.

1.6 TIME RESTRICTIONS AND PLANTING CONDITIONS

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**NOTE: Check with the local Agriculture County Extension Service to determine proper planting seasons for species specified.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

1.6.1 Restrictions

Do not plant when the ground is [frozen,] [snow covered,] muddy, or when air temperature exceeds [32] [\_\_\_\_] degrees Celsius [90] [\_\_\_\_] degrees Fahrenheit.

1.7 TIME LIMITATIONS

1.7.1 Sod

Place sod a maximum of thirty six hours after initial harvesting, in accordance with TPI GSS as modified herein.

PART 2 PRODUCTS

2.1 SODS

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NOTE: The specific species and varieties used should be based on recommendations of the local Agriculture County Extension Service Office. Modify sod thickness as required for species specified. State certified is usually more stringently monitored than State approved, and therefore more expensive.**  
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2.1.1 Classification

Nursery grown, certified as classified in the TPI GSS. Machine cut sod at a uniform thickness of 19 mm 3/4 inch within a tolerance of 6 mm 1/4 inch, excluding top growth and thatch. Each individual sod piece shall be strong enough to support its own weight when lifted by the ends. Broken pads, irregularly shaped pieces, and torn or uneven ends will be rejected.[Wood pegs and wire staples for anchorage shall be as recommended by sod supplier.]

2.1.2 Purity

Sod species shall be genetically pure, free of weeds, pests, and disease.

2.1.3 Planting Dates

Lay sod from [\_\_\_\_] to [\_\_\_\_] for warm season spring planting and from [\_\_\_\_] to [\_\_\_\_] for cool season fall planting.

2.1.4 Composition

2.1.4.1 Proportion

Proportion grass species as follows.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Percent:
[____]	[____]	[____]
[____]	[____]	[____]

[2.1.4.2 Sod Farm Overseeding

At the sod farm provide sod with overseeding of [annual rye grass seed][\_\_\_\_][type recommended by seed producer].

]2.2 Wildflower Sod

\*\*\*\*\*
NOTE: The specified species and varieties used should be based on recommendations of the local Agriculture County Extension Service Office. State certified is usually more stringently monitored than State approved, and therefore more expensive.
\*\*\*\*\*

2.2.1 Classification

[Certified,] [Field grown] wildflower sod, machine cut at a uniform thickness of [25] [\_\_\_\_] mm ([one] [\_\_\_\_] inch) [one] [\_\_\_\_] inch within a tolerance of 6 mm (1/4 inch) 1/4 inch, excluding top growth. Top growth shall be a maximum height of [75] [\_\_\_\_] mm ([3] [\_\_\_\_] inches) [3] [\_\_\_\_] inches. Each individual wildflower sod piece shall be strong enough to support its own weight when lifted by the ends. Broken pads, irregular shaped pieces, and torn or uneven ends will be rejected. [Wood pegs and wire staples for anchorage on slope conditions, three to one or greater, shall be used as recommended by wildflower sod supplier.]

2.2.2 Composition

Proportion wildflower species as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Botanical Name, Common Name, Percent. Each cell contains a blank bracketed line [\_\_\_\_].

]2.3 TOPSOIL

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NOTE: If topsoil properties are included in another section of Division 2, delete this paragraph and include a cross-reference to the appropriate section. Otherwise, select appropriate paragraphs on topsoil. Check with the local Agriculture County Extension Service Office for soil properties appropriate for the plant materials to be planted. Where suitable topsoil is available within limits of the work area, stripping and stockpiling of topsoil should be included in the applicable section of Division 2 of the specification. If suitable topsoil is not available within the limits of the work area, it should generally be the Contractor's option to either treat the soil of the graded areas with fertilizer and supplements so as to be conducive to turf establishment and maintenance, or to transport topsoil to the project site. Modify pH range for specified turf and geographical requirements.
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2.3.1 On-Site Topsoil

Surface soil stripped and stockpiled on site and modified as necessary to meet the requirements specified for topsoil in paragraph entitled "Composition." When available topsoil shall be existing surface soil stripped and stockpiled on-site in accordance with Section [31 00 00 EARTHWORK][31 23 00.00 20 EXCAVATION AND FILL].

2.3.2 Off-Site Topsoil

Conform to requirements specified in paragraph entitled "Composition." Additional topsoil shall be [furnished by the Contractor] [obtained from topsoil borrow areas indicated].

2.3.3 Composition

Containing from 5 to 10 percent organic matter as determined by the [topsoil composition tests](#) of the Organic Carbon, 6A, Chemical Analysis Method described in [DOA SSIR 42](#). Maximum particle size, [19 mm 3/4 inch](#), with maximum 3 percent retained on [6 mm 1/4 inch](#) screen. The pH shall be tested in accordance with [ASTM D 4972](#). Topsoil shall be free of sticks, stones, roots, and other debris and objectionable materials. Other components shall conform to the following limits:

Silt	[25-50][7 to 17][_____] percent
Clay	[10-30][4 to 12][_____] percent
Sand	[20-35][70 to 82][_____] percent
pH	[5.5 to 7.0][_____]
Soluble Salts	[600] [_____] ppm maximum

2.4 SOIL CONDITIONERS

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**NOTE: Prior to including these provisions in project specifications, perform tests of on-site topsoil to determine its suitability and the possible need of pH adjusters or soil conditioners.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Add conditioners to topsoil as required to bring into compliance with "composition" standard for topsoil as specified herein.

2.4.1 Lime

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**NOTE: Use ASTM C 602 calcium carbonate equivalent (C.C.E.) as specified in Table 1: for burnt lime, C.C.E. shall not be less than 140 percent; for hydrated lime, C.C.E. shall not be less than 110 percent; and for limestone, C.C.E. shall not be less than 80 percent.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Commercial grade [hydrate] [or] [burnt] limestone containing a calcium carbonate equivalent (C.C.E.) as specified in [ASTM C 602](#) of not less than [\_\_\_\_\_] percent.

2.4.2 Aluminum Sulfate

Commercial grade.

2.4.3 Sulfur

100 percent elemental

2.4.4 Iron

100 percent elemental

2.4.5 Peat

Natural product of [peat moss] derived from a freshwater site and conforming to [ASTM D 4427] [as modified herein]. Shred and granulate peat to pass a 12.5 mm 1/2 inch mesh screen and condition in storage pile for minimum 6 months after excavation.

2.4.6 Sand

Clean and free of materials harmful to plants.

2.4.7 Perlite

Horticultural grade.

2.4.8 Composted Derivatives

Ground bark, nitrolized sawdust, humus or other green wood waste material free of stones, sticks, and soil stabilized with nitrogen and having the following properties:

2.4.8.1 Particle Size

Minimum percent by weight passing:

4.75 mm No. 4 mesh screen	95
2.36 mm No. 8 mesh screen	80

2.4.8.2 Nitrogen Content

Minimum percent based on dry weight:

Fir Sawdust	0.7
Fir or Pine Bark	1.0

2.4.9 Gypsum

Coarsely ground gypsum comprised of calcium sulfate dihydrate 91 percent, calcium 22 percent, sulfur 17 percent; minimum 96 percent passing through 850 micrometers 20 mesh screen, 100 percent passing thru 970 micrometers 16 mesh screen.

2.4.10 Calcined Clay

Calcined clay shall be granular particles produced from montmorillonite clay calcined to a minimum temperature of 650 degrees C. 1200 degrees F. Gradation: A minimum 90 percent shall pass a 2.36 mm No. 8 sieve; a

minimum 99 percent shall be retained on a 0.250 mm No. 60 sieve; and a maximum 2 percent shall pass a 0.150 mm No. 100 sieve. Bulk density: A maximum 640 kilogram per cubic meter 40 pounds per cubic foot.

## 2.5 FERTILIZER

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**NOTE: Check with the local Agriculture County  
Extension Service Office for recommended fertilizer  
mixture for local conditions.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

### 2.5.1 Granular Fertilizer

[Organic][synthetic], granular controlled release fertilizer containing the following minimum percentages, by weight, of plant food nutrients:

[\_\_\_\_\_] percent available nitrogen  
[\_\_\_\_\_] percent available phosphorus  
[\_\_\_\_\_] percent available potassium  
[\_\_\_\_\_] percent sulfur  
[[\_\_\_\_\_] percent iron]

## 2.6 WATER

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NOTE: When water is Government furnished, locate  
the source. Recycled or reclaimed irrigation water  
may be available through a tertiary treatment plant  
on or off site. It is preferred that this type of  
water be used for irrigation whenever possible.  
Check project specific conditions.**

**Unless otherwise directed, water shall be the  
responsibility of the Contractor. Water source  
shall be potable or non-potable. If non-potable  
edit specification accordingly. Source of water  
shall be approved by the Contracting Officer and  
shall be of suitable quality for irrigation,  
containing no elements toxic to plant life.**

**Coordinate information presented here with Section  
01 50 00.00 20, TEMPORARY FACILITIES AND CONTROLS.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Source of water shall be approved by Contracting Officer and of suitable quality for irrigation containing no element toxic to plant life.

## PART 3 EXECUTION

### 3.1 PREPARATION

#### 3.1.1 EXTENT OF WORK

Provide soil preparation (including soil conditioners), fertilizing, and sodding of all newly graded finished earth surfaces, unless indicated otherwise, and at all areas inside or outside the limits of construction that are disturbed by the Contractor's operations.

3.1.2 Soil Preparation

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NOTE: Elevation of subgrade will vary depending upon the needs for additional topsoil, sod, or other treatment.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Provide 102 mm<sup>4</sup> inches of [off-site topsoil][on-site topsoil] to meet indicated finish grade. After areas have been brought to indicated finish grade, incorporate [fertilizer] [pH adjusters] [soil conditioners] into soil a minimum depth of [100] [\_\_\_\_\_] mm [4] [\_\_\_\_\_] inches by disking, harrowing, tilling or other method approved by the Contracting Officer. Remove debris and stones larger than 19 mm 3/4 inch in any dimension remaining on the surface after finish grading. Correct irregularities in finish surfaces to eliminate depressions. Protect finished topsoil areas from damage by vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

[3.1.2.1 Soil Conditioner Application Rates

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NOTE: Check with the local Agriculture County Extension Service and specify amounts applicable for the project area.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Apply soil conditioners at rates as determined by laboratory soil analysis of the soils at the job site. For bidding purposes only apply at rates for the following:

[Lime [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per 1000 square feet.]]

[Sulfur [ [\_\_\_\_\_] kg per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per acre ] [ [\_\_\_\_\_] kg per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per 1000 square feet.]]

[Iron [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per 1000 square feet.]]

[Aluminum Sulfate [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per 1000 square feet.]]

[Peat [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yard per acre ] [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yards per 1000 square feet.]]

[Sand [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yard per acre ] [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yards per 1000 square feet.]]

[Perlite [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yard per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yards per 1000 square feet.]]

[Compost Derivatives [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yard per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per 100 square meters [\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yards per 1000 square feet.]]

[Calcined Clay [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yard per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yards per 1000 square feet.]]

[Gypsum [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yard per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic meters per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] cubic yards per 1000 square feet.]]

]3.1.2.2 Fertilizer Application Rates

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NOTE: Check with the local Agriculture County Extension Service and specify amounts applicable for the project area.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Apply fertilizer at rates as determined by laboratory soil analysis of the soils at the job site. For bidding purposes only apply at rates for the following:

[Organic Granular Fertilizer [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per acre] [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per 1000 square feet.]]

[Synthetic Granular Fertilizer [ [\_\_\_\_\_] kg per square meter[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per acre ] [[\_\_\_\_\_] kg per 100 square meters[\_\_\_\_\_] pounds per 1000 square feet.]]

]3.2 SODDING

3.2.1 Finished Grade and Topsoil

\*\*\*\*\*  
**NOTE: Coordinate the placement of topsoil with Section 31 00 00 EARTHWORK. Coordinate the topsoil requirements with Sections 32 92 91, SEEDING; 32 92 26, SPRIGGING; and 32 93 00, EXTERIOR PLANTS.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Prior to the commencement of the sodding operation, the Contractor shall verify that finished grades are as indicated on drawings; the placing of topsoil, smooth grading, and compaction requirements have been completed in accordance with Section [31 00 00 EARTHWORK][31 23 00.00 20 EXCAVATION AND FILL].

The prepared surface shall be a maximum 25 mm1 inch below the adjoining grade of any surfaced area. New surfaces shall be blended to existing areas. The prepared surface shall be completed with a light raking to remove from the surface debris and stones over a minimum 16 mm5/8 inch in any dimension.

3.2.2 Placing

Place sod a maximum of 36 hours after initial harvesting, in accordance with TPI GSS as modified herein.

### 3.2.3 Sodding Slopes and Ditches

For slopes 2:1 and greater, lay sod with long edge perpendicular to the contour. For V-ditches and flat bottomed ditches, lay sod with long edge perpendicular to flow of water. [Anchor each piece of sod with wood pegs or wire staples maximum 600 mm 2 feet on center.] [On slope areas, start sodding at bottom of the slope.]

### 3.2.4 Finishing

After completing sodding, blend edges of sodded area smoothly into surrounding area. Air pockets shall be eliminated and a true and even surface shall be provided. Frayed edges shall be trimmed and holes and missing corners shall be patched with sod.

### 3.2.5 Rolling

Immediately after sodding, firm entire area except for slopes in excess of 3 to 1 with a roller not exceeding [134] [\_\_\_\_\_] kg per m [90] [\_\_\_\_\_] pounds for each foot of roller width.

### 3.2.6 Watering

Start watering areas sodded as required by daily temperature and wind conditions. Apply water at a rate sufficient to ensure thorough wetting of soil to minimum depth of [150] [\_\_\_\_\_] mm [6] [\_\_\_\_\_] inches. Run-off, puddling, and wilting shall be prevented. Unless otherwise directed, watering trucks shall not be driven over turf areas. Watering of other adjacent areas or plant material shall be prevented.

## 3.3 PROTECTION OF TURF AREAS

Immediately after turfing, protect area against traffic and other use.

### [3.4 RENOVATION OF EXISTING TURF AREA

#### [3.4.1 Aeration

Upon completion of weed eradication operations and Contracting Officer's approval to proceed, aerate turf areas indicated, by approved device. Core, by pulling soil plugs, to a minimum depth of [\_\_\_\_\_] mm [\_\_\_\_\_] inches. [Leave all soil plugs, that are produced, in the turf area.] [Remove all debris generated during this operation off site.] [After aeration operations are complete, topdress entire area [6.35 mm 1/4 inch] [12.70 mm 1/2 inch] depth with the following mixture:

[[\_\_\_\_\_] percent sand]  
[[\_\_\_\_\_] percent humus]  
[[\_\_\_\_\_] percent gypsum]  
[[\_\_\_\_\_] percent organic fertilizer]  
[[\_\_\_\_\_] percent synthetic fertilizer]

Blend all parts of topdressing mixture to a uniform consistency throughout.] Keep clean at all times at least one paved pedestrian access route and one paved vehicular access route to each building. Clean all soil plugs off of other paving when work is complete.

][3.4.2 Vertical Mowing

Upon completion of aerating operation and Contracting Officer's approval to proceed, vertical mow turf areas indicated, by approved device, to a depth of [6 mm1/4 inch] [13 mm1/2 inch] above existing soil level, to reduce thatch build-up, grain, and surface compaction. Keep clean at all times at least one paved pedestrian access route and one paved vehicular access route to each building. Clean other paving when work is complete. Remove all debris generated during this operation off site.

][3.4.3 Dethatching

Upon completion of aerating operation and Contracting Officer's approval to proceed, dethatch turf areas indicated, by approved device, to a depth of [6 mm1/4 inch] [13 mm1/2 inch] below existing soil level, to reduce thatch build-up, grain, and surface compaction. Keep clean at all times at least one paved pedestrian access route and one paved vehicular access route to each building. Clean other paving when work is complete. Remove all debris generated during this operation off site.

]]3.5 RESTORATION

Restore to original condition existing turf areas which have been damaged during turf installation operations. Keep clean at all times at least one paved pedestrian access route and one paved vehicular access route to each building. Clean other paving when work in adjacent areas is complete.

-- End of Section --