

SECTION 32 92 13
HYDRO-MULCH SEEDING

PART 1 - GENERAL

1.1 DESCRIPTION

- A. The work covered by this section consists of furnishing all plant, labor, materials, equipment, supplies, supervision and tools and performing all work necessary to top soiling, smoothing, seeding, fertilizing, watering, maintenance and cleanups of side slopes, all in accordance with these specifications.
- B. The hydro-mulch seeding operations, together with all necessary related work, shall conform to the requirements specified in this section. The area(s) to be hydro-mulch seeded shall be as shown on the construction drawings.

1.2 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

- A. The unit of measurement for all work performed and materials furnished, as described herein, will be the acre or per station as indicated in the bid documents. Measurement shall be done upon completion of the work performed within the limits shown on the drawings and as described herein. The area measured for payment will be computed to the nearest 1/10-acre or station.
- B. Payment for hydro-mulch seeding will be made at the contract unit price per acre or per station and includes topsoil (when specified), smoothing, mulch, seed fertilizer, watering, maintenance and clean-up. Additional payment shall not be made for those areas that are replanted.

PART 2 – PRODUCTS

2.1 MATERIALS

- A. All seed must meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rules & Regulations as set forth in the Federal Seed Act and the Texas Seed Law.
- B. Type of seed, purity and germination requirements, rate of application and planting dates are as follows:

TABLE 1
 Application Rate-Pounds

<u>TYPE/COMBINATION</u>	PER ACRE	PLANTING DATE
Hulled Common Bermuda Grass 98/88	40	Jan. 1 to Apr. 15
Unhulled Common Bermuda Grass 98/88	40	
Annual Rye Grass, including Gulf	50	Apr. 15 to Oct. 1
Hulled Common Bermuda Grass 98/88	40	
Hulled Common Bermuda Grass 98/88	40	Oct. 1 to Jan. 1
Unhulled Common Bermuda Grass 98/88	40	

- C. Fertilizer shall be water soluble with an analysis of 10 percent nitrogen, 20 percent phosphoric acid and 10 percent potash. Rate of application shall be 500 pounds per acre, except during the period of April 15 through September 1, when the rate shall be reduced to 400 pounds per acre. The fertilizer shall be delivered to the site in bags or other convenient containers, each fully labeled, conforming to the applicable State Fertilizer Laws and bearing the name and warranty of the producer.
- D. Mulch shall be virgin wood cellulose fiber made from whole wood chips. Within the fiber mulch material, at least 20 percent of the fibers will be 10.7 mm in length and 0.27 mm in diameter. Rate of application shall be 2000 pounds per acre. Soil stabilizers such as Terra Type III (or pre-approved equal) shall be applied at a rate of 40 pounds per acre on side slopes and Terra Tack I (or pre-approved equal) shall be applied at a rate of 40 pounds per acre on flatter portions.
- E. Wood cellulose fiber mulch, for use in the grass seed and fertilizer, shall be processed in such a manner that it will not contain germination or growth inhibiting factors. It shall be dyed an appropriate color to allow visual metering of its application. The wood cellulose fibers shall have the property of becoming evenly dispersed and suspended when agitated in water. When sprayed uniformly on the surface of the soil, the fibers shall form a blotter-like ground cover, which readily absorbs water and allows infiltration to the underlying soil. Weight specifications from suppliers for all applications shall refer only to the underlying soil. Weight specifications from suppliers, shall refer only to the air dry weight of the fiber. The mulch material shall be supplied in packages having a gross weight not in excess of 100 pounds and must be marked by the manufacturer to show the dry weight content. Suppliers shall be prepared to certify that laboratory and field testing of their product has been accomplished and that it meets all of the foregoing requirements.
- F. Water shall be free from oil, acid, alkali, salt and other substances harmful to the growth of grass. The water source shall be subject to approval, prior to use.

PART 3 – EXECUTION

3.1 CONSTRUCTION METHODS

- A. **EXECUTION:** Immediately after the finished grade has been approved, begin hydro-mulching operations to reduce erosion and excessive weed growth.

Hydraulic equipment used for the application of fertilizer, seed and slurry of prepared wood fiber mulch shall have a built-in agitation system with an operating capacity sufficient to agitate, suspend and homogeneously mix a slurry containing up to forty (40) pounds of fiber plus a combined total of 70 pounds of fertilizer solids for each 100 gallons of water. The slurry distribution lines shall be large enough to prevent stoppage. The discharge line shall be equipped with a set of hydraulic spray nozzles which provide even distribution of the slurry on the area to be seeded. The slurry tank shall have a minimum capacity of 800 gallons and shall be mounted on a traveling unit, which may either be self-propelled or drawn with a separate unit which will place the slurry tank and spray nozzles within sufficient proximity to the areas to be seeded, so as to provide uniform distribution without waste. The Engineer may authorize equipment with a smaller tank capacity, provided the equipment has the necessary agitation system and sufficient pump capacity to spray the slurry in a uniform coat.

Care shall be taken that the slurry preparation takes place on the site of the work. The slurry preparation should begin by adding water to the tank when the engine is at half throttle. When the water level has reached the height of the agitator shaft, good recirculation shall be established and seed shall be added. Fertilizer shall then be added, followed by wood pulp mulch. The wood pulp mulch shall only be added to the mixture after the seed and when the tank is at least one-third filled with water. The engine throttle shall be opened to full speed when the tank is half filled with water. All the wood pulp mulch shall be added by the time the tank is two-thirds to three-fourths full. Spraying shall commence immediately when the tank is full. The operator shall spray the area with a uniform visible coat, by using the green color of the wood pulp as a guide.

- B. APPLICATION: The contractor shall obtain approval of hydro-mulch area preparation from the Engineer prior to application.

Operators of hydro-mulching equipment shall be thoroughly experienced in this type of application. Apply the specified slurry mix in a motion to form a uniform mat at the specified rate. Operators shall keep the hydro-mulch within the areas designated and keep from contact with other plant material. Immediately after application, thoroughly wash off any plant material, planting areas or paved areas not intended to receive slurry mix.

Keep all paved and planting areas clean during maintenance operations. Contractor shall keep hydro-mulching within the areas designated and keep from contact with other plant material. If in the opinion of the Engineer, unplanted skips and areas are noted after hydro-mulching, the contractor shall be required to seed the unplanted areas with the grasses that were to have been planted at no additional cost to owner.

- C. CONTRACTOR'S MAINTENANCE & GUARANTEE PERIOD: The hydro-mulch seeding shall be adequately watered until established. Any areas damaged by erosion or areas that do not have an acceptable turfing shall be redone to the satisfaction of the Engineer. Maintenance of grass areas shall be for 60 days after the completion of the project and shall consist of watering, weeding, repair of all erosion and reseeding, as necessary to establish a uniform stand of the specified grasses. Contractor shall guarantee growth and coverage of hydro-mulch planting under this contract to the effect that a minimum of 95% of the area planted will be covered with the specified planting after 60 days.

The Contractor shall be responsible for one (1) mowing every two weeks between the months of April to October. The Contractor shall also be responsible for one (1) mowing every three (3) weeks between the months of November to March. In addition, the Contractor shall water the entire sodded and hydro-mulched areas to a saturated depth of one (1) inch at least once a week between the months of April to September and at least once a month between the months of October to March.

The Contractor shall make a second application of specified hydromulch planting those bare areas not meeting specified coverage as determined by the Engineer. Such replanting is to be performed within 60 days of initial application and upon notification by the Engineer to replant.

The Contractor shall apply top dress fertilizer (delayed action), at the rate of 10 pounds per 1000 square feet at 25 days after hydro-mulching of all new lawn areas.

Top dress fertilizer shall be 16-6-8.

Prior to final inspection, the Contractor shall mow the entire right-of-way within the project limits, including weeding around existing structures.

END OF SECTION