



## Florida Department of Transportation

**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

**STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS**  
SECRETARY

December 23, 2009

Monica Gourdine  
Program Operations Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Re: Office of Design, Specifications  
Section 570  
Proposed Specification: 5700000 Performance Turf

Dear Ms. Gourdine:

We are resubmitting, for your approval, two copies of the above referenced Supplemental Specification.

These changes were proposed by Paul Steinman to delete mowing and litter removal from Section 570 and update the section to current practices. Litter removal and mowing will be addressed in Section 107.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks. Comments should be sent via Email to ST986RP or rudy.powell@dot.state.fl.us.

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call Rudy Powell, State Specifications Engineer at 414-4280.

Sincerely,

Signature on File

Rudy Powell, Jr., P.E.  
State Specifications Engineer

RP/ft  
Attachment

cc: Gregory Jones, Chief Civil Litigation  
Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.  
State Construction Engineer

**PERFORMANCE TURF.**

~~(REV 9-11-067-17-0910-14-09) (FA 9-13-06) (1-07)~~

SECTION 570 (Pages ~~664-667~~717 - 722) is deleted and the following substituted:

**SECTION 570  
PERFORMANCE TURF**

**570-1 Description.**

Establish a growing, healthy turf over all areas designated on the plans. Use sod in areas designated on the plans to be sodded. Use seed, hydroseed, bonded fiber matrix, or sod in all other areas. Maintain turf areas until final acceptance of all contract work in accordance with Section 5-11.

**570-2 Materials.**

Meet the following requirements:

- Turf Materials .....Section 981
- Fertilizer .....Section 982
- Water.....Section 983

**570-3 Construction Methods.**

**570-3.1 General:** Incorporate turf installation into the project at the earliest practical time.

Shape the areas to be planted to the plan typical sections and lines and grade shown in the Contract Documents.

Except in areas where the Contract Documents requires specific types of grass to match adjoining private property, any species of grass designated in Section 981 may be used. Use the methods and materials necessary to establish and maintain the initial grassing until acceptance of the Contract work in accordance with 5-11. All of the permanent grassing material shall be in place prior to final acceptance.

The Department will only pay for replanting as necessary due to factors determined by the Engineer to be beyond control of the Contractor.

Complete all grassing on shoulder areas prior to the placement of the friction course on adjacent pavement.

**570-3.2 Seeding:** At the Contractor’s option, wildflower seed may be included in the turf seeding operation or performed separately from the turf seeding.

Use of compost meeting the requirements of Section 987 as mulch is acceptable unless otherwise specified.

**570-3.3 Sod:** Place the sod on the prepared surface, with edges in close contact. Do not use sod which has been cut for more than 48 hours.

Place the sod to the edge of all landscape areas as shown in the plans and as shown in the Design Standards.

Peg sod at locations where the sod may slide. Drive pegs through sod blocks into firm earth, flush with the sod soil surface, at intervals approved by the Engineer. The work and materials for pegging of sod as directed by the Engineer will be paid for as Unforeseeable Work.

Place rolled sod parallel with the roadway and cut any exposed netting even with the sod edge.

Monitor placed sod for growth of pest plants and noxious weeds. If pest plants and/or noxious weeds manifest themselves within 30 days of placement of the sod during the months April through October, within 60 days of placement of the sod during the months of November through March treat affected areas by means acceptable to the Department at no expense to the Department. If pest plants and/or noxious weeds manifest themselves after the time frames described above from date of placement of sod, the Engineer, at his sole option, will determine if treatment is required and whether or not the Contractor will be compensated for such treatment. If compensation is provided, payment will be made as Unforeseeable Work as described in 4-4.

Remove and replace any sod as directed by the Engineer.

**570-3.4 Hydroseeding:** Use equipment specifically designed for mixing the ~~wood fiber~~ *mulch*, seed, fertilizer, tackifier and dye, and applying the slurry uniformly over the areas to be hydroseeded.

Use *mulch that* ~~wood fiber that is made of 100% hardwood or softwood and does not contain reprocessed wood or paper fibers. Ensure that a minimum of 50% of the fibers are equal to or greater than 0.15 inch in length and a minimum of 50% of the fibers will be retained on a twenty-five mesh screen.~~

Mix fertilizer as required into the hydroseeding slurry.

~~Mix seed into the slurry at rates in accordance with Design Standards,~~

Index 104.

Ensure that the dye does not contain growth or germination inhibiting chemicals.

When polyacrylamide is used as part of hydroseeding mix, only anionic polymer formulation with free acrylamide monomer residual content of less than 0.05% is allowed. Cationic polyacrylamide shall not be used in any concentration. Do not spray polyacrylamide containing mixtures onto pavement. These may include tackifiers, flocculants or moisture-holding compounds.

**570-3.5 Bonded Fiber Matrix (BFM):** Meet the minimum physical and performance criteria of this Specification for use of BFM in hydroseeding operations or temporary non-vegetative erosion and sediment control methods.

Provide evidence of product performance testing, manufacturer's certification of training and material samples to the Engineer at least seven calendar days prior to installation.

~~Ensure that the BFM is composed of long strand, thermally processed wood fibers held together by crosslinked hydro colloid tackifier (>10%), which, upon drying becomes water insoluble and non-dispersible. Ensure that the BFM contains biodegradable dye to aid in uniform application of the material and that the resulting matrix performs in a manner equal or superior to biodegradable erosion control blankets (ECBs). Provide documentation *to the Engineer* of manufacturer's testing at an independent laboratory ~~to the Engineer~~, demonstrating superior performance of BFM as measured by reduced water runoff, reduced soil loss and faster seed germination in comparison to erosion control blankets.~~

Use only BFMs that contain all components pre-packaged by the manufacturer to assure material performance. Deliver materials in UV and weather

resistant factory labeled packaging. Store and handle products in strict compliance with the manufacturer's directions.

When polyacrylamide is used as part of hydroseeding mix, only anionic polymer formulation with free acrylamide monomer residual content of less than 0.05% is allowed. Cationic polyacrylamide shall not be used in any concentration. Do not spray polyacrylamide containing mixtures onto pavement. These may include tackifiers, flocculants or moisture-holding compounds.

Meet the following requirements after application of the formed matrix:

Ensure that the tackifier does not dissolve or disperse upon re-wetting.

Ensure that the matrix has no gaps between the product and the soil and that it provides 100% coverage of all disturbed soil areas after application.

~~Ensure that the matrix has a minimum water holding capacity of 1.2 gal/lb.~~

Ensure that the matrix has no germination or growth inhibiting properties and does not form a water-repelling crust.

Ensure that the matrix is comprised of materials which are 100% biodegradable and 100% beneficial to plant growth.

Mix and apply the BFM in strict compliance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Apply the BFM to geotechnically stable slopes at the manufacturer's recommended rates.

Degradation of BFM will occur naturally as a result of chemical and biological hydrolysis, UV exposure and temperature fluctuations. Re-application, as determined by the Engineer, will be required if BFM-treated soils are disturbed or water quality or turbidity tests show the need for an additional application. The work and materials for re-application, will be paid for as Unforeseeable Work.

**570-3.6 Watering:** Water all turf areas as necessary to produce a healthy and vigorous stand of turf. Ensure that the water used for turf irrigation meets the requirements of Section 983.

**570-3.7 Fertilizing:** Fertilize as necessary based on soil testing performed in accordance with Section 162. Refer to Section 982 for fertilizer rates.

For bid purposes, base estimated quantities on an initial application of 265 lbs/acre and one subsequent application of 135 lbs/acre of 16-0-8.

#### **570-4 Turf Establishment.**

Perform all work necessary, including watering and fertilizing, to sustain an established turf until final acceptance, at no additional expense to the Department. Provide the filling, leveling, and repairing of any washed or eroded areas, as may be necessary.

Established turf is defined as follows:

Established root system (leaf blades break before seedlings or sod can be pulled from the soil by hand).

No bare spots larger than one square foot.

No continuous streaks running perpendicular to the face of the slope.

No bare areas comprising more than 1% of any given 1,000 square foot area.

No deformation of the turf areas caused by mowing or other Contractor equipment.

Monitor turf areas and remove all competing vegetation, pest plants, and noxious weeds (as listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, Category I “List of Invasive Species”, Current Edition, www.fleppc.org). Remove such vegetation regularly by manual, mechanical, or chemical control means, as necessary. When selecting herbicides, pay particular attention to ensure use of chemicals that will not harm desired turf or wildflower species. Use herbicides in accordance with 7-1.7.

~~Take responsibility for litter removal and mowing turf (including undisturbed areas within the project limits) until final acceptance. Begin mowing new turf after establishment of a healthy root system. Mow all turf to the height of not less than 6 inches. Mow the sodded areas when competing vegetation height exceeds 20 inches in height. Do not mow wildflower areas until at least three weeks after the peak of the bloom period and do not mow lower than 6 inches. Do not use selective herbicides in wildflower areas. Take responsibility for litter removal and mowing turf within the project limits in accordance with Section 107.~~

If at the time that all other work on the project is completed, but all turf areas have not met the requirements for established turf set forth in 570-4, continuously maintain all turf areas until the requirements for established turf set forth in 570-4 have been met.

During the entire establishment period and until turf is established in accordance with this specification, continue inspection (~~once every seven days and after each 1/2 inch of rain~~) and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation control items in accordance with Section 104. Take responsibility for the proper removal and disposal of all erosion and sedimentation control items after turf has been established.

Notify the Engineer, with a minimum of seven calendar days advance notice, to conduct inspections of the turf at approximate 90-day intervals during the establishment period to determine establishment. Results of such inspections will be made available to the Contractor within seven calendar days of the date of inspection. Determination of an established turf will be based on the entire project and not in sections.

Upon the determination by the Engineer that the requirements of 570-4 have been met and an established turf has been achieved and all erosion and sedimentation control items have been removed, the Engineer will release the Contractor from any further responsibility provided for in this Specification.

The Contractor’s establishment obligations of this specification will not apply to deficiencies due to the following factors, if found by the Engineer to be beyond the control of the Contractor, his Subcontractors, Vendors or Suppliers:

- a. Determination that the deficiency was due to the failure of other features of the Contract.
- b. Determination that the deficiency was the responsibility of a third party performing work not included in the Contract or its actions.

The Department will only pay for replanting as necessary due to factors determined by the Department to be beyond the control of the Contractor.

#### **570-5 Responsible Party.**

For the purposes of this Specification, the Contractor shall be the responsible party throughout construction and establishment periods.

Upon final acceptance of the Contract in accordance with 5-11, the Contractor's responsibility for maintenance of all the work or facilities within the project limits of the Contract will terminate in accordance with 5-11; with the sole exception that the facilities damaged due to lack of established turf and the obligations set forth in this Specification for Performance Turf shall continue thereafter to be responsibility of the Contractor as otherwise provided in this Section.

#### **570-6 Disputes Resolution.**

The Contractor and the Department acknowledge that use of the Statewide Disputes Review Board is required and the determinations of the Statewide Disputes Review Board for disputes arising out of the Performance Turf Specification will be binding on both the Contractor and the Department, with no right of appeal by either party, for the purposes of this Specification.

Any and all Statewide Disputes Review Board meetings after final acceptance of the Contract in accordance with 5-11 shall be requested and paid for by the Contractor. The Department will reimburse the Contractor for all fees associated with meetings.

#### **570-7 Failure to Perform.**

Should the Contractor fail to timely submit any dispute to the Statewide Disputes Review Board, refuse to submit any dispute to the Statewide Disputes Review Board, fail to provide an established turf in accordance with 570-4 within one-year of final acceptance of the Contract in accordance with 5-11, or fail to compensate the Department for any remedial work performed by the Department in establishing a turf and other remedial work associated with lack of an established turf, including but not limited to, repair of shoulder or other areas due to erosion and removal of sediments deposited in roadside ditches and streams, as determined by the Statewide Disputes Review Board to be the Contractor's responsibility, the Department shall suspend, revoke or deny the Contractor's certificate of qualification under the terms of Section 337.16(d)(2), Florida Statutes, until the Contractor provides an established turf or *makes* full and complete payment for the remedial work ~~made to~~ *performed by* the Department. In no case shall the period of suspension, revocation, or denial of the Contractor's certificate of qualification be less than six (6) months. Should the Contractor choose to challenge the Department's notification of intent for suspension, revocation or denial of qualification and the Department's action is upheld, the Contractor shall have its qualification suspended for a minimum of six (6) months or until the remedial action is satisfactorily performed, whichever is longer.

#### **570-8 Method of Measurement.**

The quantities to be paid for will be plan quantity in square yards based on the area shown in the plans, completed and accepted.

#### **570-9 Basis of Payment.**

Prices and payments will be full compensation for all work and materials specified in this Section.

Payment will be made under:

Item No. 570- 1- Performance Turf - per square yard.

**PERFORMANCE TURF.**  
**(REV 10-14-09)**

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- Turf Materials .....Section 981
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Complete all grassing on shoulder areas prior to the placement of the friction course on adjacent pavement.

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**570-3.3 Sod:** Place the sod on the prepared surface, with edges in close contact. Do not use sod which has been cut for more than 48 hours.

Place the sod to the edge of all landscape areas as shown in the plans and as shown in the Design Standards.

Peg sod at locations where the sod may slide. Drive pegs through sod blocks into firm earth, flush with the sod soil surface, at intervals approved by the Engineer. The work and materials for pegging of sod as directed by the Engineer will be paid for as Unforeseeable Work.

Place rolled sod parallel with the roadway and cut any exposed netting even with the sod edge.

Monitor placed sod for growth of pest plants and noxious weeds. If pest plants and/or noxious weeds manifest themselves within 30 days of placement of the sod during the months April through October, within 60 days of placement of the sod during the months of November through March treat affected areas by means acceptable to the Department at no expense to the Department. If pest plants and/or noxious weeds manifest themselves after the time frames described above from date of placement of sod, the Engineer, at his sole option, will determine if treatment is required and whether or not the Contractor will be compensated for such treatment. If compensation is provided, payment will be made as Unforeseeable Work as described in 4-4.

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Use mulch that does not contain reprocessed wood or paper fibers. Ensure that 50% of the fibers will be retained on a twenty-five mesh screen.

Mix fertilizer as required into the hydroseeding slurry.

Ensure that the dye does not contain growth or germination inhibiting chemicals.

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