Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

September 2, 2026

Daniel Holt, PE, PTOE
Director, Project Delivery
Director, Technical Services
FHWA
400 West Washington Street, Suite 4200
Orlando, FL 32801

Re: State Specifications Office
Section: 981
Proposed Specification: **981 Turf Materials**

Dear Mr. Holt:

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

The changes are proposed by Jason Russell to clarify sod materials requirements and certifications.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks (10 business days). Comments should be sent via email daniel.strickland@dot.state.fl.us.

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at (850) 414-4130.

Sincerely,

Signature on File

Daniel Strickland, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer

DS/am
Attachment
cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

TURF MATERIALS
(REV 6-23-26)

ARTICLE 981-1 is deleted and the following substituted:

981-1 General.

The types of seed and sod ~~will~~may be specified in the Contract Documents. All seed and sod shall meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and all applicable state laws, and shall be approved by the Engineer before installation.

All seed, sod and mulch shall be free of noxious weeds and exotic pest plants, plant parts or seed listed in the Current FISC List of Invasive Plant Species from the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC, https://www.floridainvasives.org/index.cfm/). Any plant officially listed as being noxious or undesirable by any Federal Agency, any agency of the State of Florida or any local jurisdiction in which the project is being constructed shall not be used. Any such noxious or invasive plant or plant part found to be delivered in seed, sod or mulch will be removed by the Contractor at their expense and in accordance with the law.

All materials shall meet plant quarantine and certification entry requirements of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry Rules.

SUBARTICLE 98-3.3 is deleted and the following substituted:

981-3.3 Condition and Certification: The sod shall be sufficiently thick to secure a dense stand of live turf. The sod shall be live, fresh and uninjured, at the time of planting. It shall have a soil mat of sufficient thickness adhering firmly to the roots to withstand all necessary handling. It shall be planted within 48 hours after being cut and kept moist from the time it is cut until it is planted. No sod which has been cut for more than 48 hours may be used unless specifically authorized by the Engineer. ~~A letter of certification from the turf Contractor as to when the sod was cut, and what type, shall be provided to the Engineer upon delivery of the sod to the job site.~~Provide a letter from the turf supplier certifying the sod meets the requirements of this Section, including a minimum of the following details:

1. Type of sod.
2. Sod is free of noxious weeds and/or exotic pest plants.
3. Date sod was cut.
4. Sod netting is biodegradable within one year of installation.

The source of the sod may be inspected and approved by the Engineer prior to being cut for use in the work.

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