

Origination Form

Specifications

Submittal Information			
Name:	Jason Russell	Standard Specification Section:	981
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Date:	2026-06-23T14:41:21Z	Associated Specs:	N/A

Summary:

Clarifying sod materials requirements and certifications.

Justification:

Clarification of sod material requirements.

Do the changes affect other types of specifications?

Neither

List Specifications Affected:

Other Affected Documents/Offices	Contacted	Yes/No
Other Standard Plans		No
Florida Design Manual		No
Structures Manual		No
Basis of Estimates Manual		No
Approved Product List		No
Construction Office		No
Maintenance Office		No
Materials Manual		No
Traffic Engineering Manual		No

Are changes in line with promoting and making progress on improving safety, enhancing mobility, inspiring innovation, and fostering talent; explain how?

Revisions to this specification is critical to ensure that accurate information and instructions are communicated to the Contractor and industry partners and its representatives, to therefore, improve safety, enhance mobility, inspire innovation, and foster talent.

What financial impact does the change have; project costs, pay item structure, or consultant fees?

The revisions have no financial impact.

What impact does the change have on production or construction schedules?

The revisions have no impact on production or construction schedules.

How does this change improve efficiency or quality?

The revisions improve efficiency and quality by providing clear and specific instructions to the Districts/Contractors.

Which FDOT offices does the change impact?

Design and Construction

What is the impact to districts with this change?

The revisions provide clarification and detail.

Does the change shift risk and to who?

There is no shift in risk.

Provide summary and resolution of any outstanding comments from the districts or industry.

Comments and Responses are available on the Track the Status of Revisions hyperlink located on the Specifications landing page: <https://www.fdot.gov/specifications/default.shtm>

What is the communication plan?

Through the established specification revision process (e.g., Internal and Industry Review)

What is the schedule for implementation?

The Standard Specifications eBook and Workbook are effective July 1st every year.

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.