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SECTION 02485

GRASSING

PART 1 – PRODUCTS

1.01 MATERIALS GENERAL:

A. The Contractor shall, at the time of delivery, furnish the Engineer invoices of all materials, received in order that the application rate of materials may be determined.

1.02 FERTILIZER:

A. 10-10-10, commercial fertilizer of accepted type, conforming to state fertilizer laws.

1.03 LIME:

A. Lime shall be agricultural grade, ground limestone and shall conform to the requirements of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Lime to be added based on soil tests.

1.04 SEED:

A. All seed shall conform to all State Laws and to all requirements and regulations of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

B. The several varieties of seed shall be individually packaged or bagged, and tagged to show name of seed, net weight, origin, germination, lot number, and other information required by the Department of Agriculture.

C. The Engineer reserves the right to test, reject, or accept all seed before seeding.

D. Mixtures of different types of seed called for in the seeding schedule shall be weighted and mixed in the proper proportions at the site of the work in the presence of the Engineer.

1.05 SEEDING SCHEDULE:

A. Hulled Bermuda Seeds are to be used at a rate of 40 pounds per acre, and at a depth of 1/4 to 1/8 inch. Pure line seed to be 82% by weight, with a maximum weed seed of 0.50%.

B. In shaded areas, or other areas as directed by the Owner or Engineer, the Contractor shall use a mixture of hulled Bermuda seed at a rate of 25 pounds per acre and carpet seed at a rate of 30 pounds per acre.

C. Temporary grassing shall consist of annual rye grass seed at a rate of 75 pounds per acre.

D. In areas where existing grasses are to be matched, the Contractor shall sow the seed at the rate recommended by the seed distributor.

1.06 STRAW MULCH:

A. Straw mulch material shall consist of straw or hay. Straw shall be stalks of wheat, rye, barley, oats, or other accepted straw. Hay shall consist of timothy, peavine, alfalfa, coastal bermuda or other grasses from accepted sources. These materials shall be reasonably dry and shall be reasonably free from mature seed-bearing stalks, roots, or bulblets or Johnson Grass, Nutgrass, Sandbur, Wild Garlic, Wild Onion, Wild Mustard, Crotolaria, Pigweed, Witchweed and Coclebur. The Contractor shall also comply with all State and Federal domestic plant quarantine regulations.

1.07 EXCELSIOR MULCH:

A. Excelsior mulch shall consist of wood fibers cut from sound, green timber. The average length of the fibers shall be 4 to 6 inches. The cut shall be made in such a manner as to provide maximum strength of fiber, but at a slight angle to the natural grain of the wood so as to cause splintering of the fibers when weathering in order to provide adherence to each other and to the soil.

1.08 WOOD CELLULOSE FIBER MULCH:

A. Wood cellulose fiber mulch shall be made from wood chips particles manufactured particularly for discharging uniformly on the ground surface when dispersed by a hydraulic water sprayer. It shall remain in uniform suspension in water under agitation and blend with grass seed and fertilizer to form a homogenous slurry. The mulch fibers shall intertwine physically to form a strong moisture holding mat on the ground surface and allow rainfall to percolate the underlying soil. The mulch shall be heat processed so as to contain no germination or growth-inhibiting factors. It shall be dyed (non-toxic) an appropriate color to facilitate metering of material.

B. Suppliers shall be prepared to certify that laboratory and field testing of their project has been accomplished, and that it meets all of the foregoing requirements based upon such testing.

C. Weight specifications for this material from suppliers and for all applications shall refer only to air dry weight of fiber material. Absolute air dry weight is

based on the normal weight standard of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry for wood cellulose and is considered equivalent to 10% moisture. Each package of the cellulose fiber shall be marked by the manufacturer to show the air dry weight content.

1.09 SOD:

A. Sod shall be densely rooted, good quality centipede grass, free from noxious weeds. The sod shall be obtained from areas where the soil is reasonably fertile. The sod shall be raked free of all debris and the grass mowed to two inches before cutting. The sod shall contain practically all of the dense root system and not be less than one (1) inch thick. Sod shall be cut in uniform strips not less than twelve (12) inches in width and not less than twenty-four (24) inches in length.

1.10 PRODUCT REVIEW:

A. The Contractor shall provide the Engineer with a complete description of all products before ordering. The Engineer will review all products before they are ordered.

PART 2 - EXECUTION

2.01 STAND OF GRASS:

A. Before acceptance of the seeding performed for the establishment of permanent vegetation, the Contractor will be required to produce a satisfactory stand of perennial grass whose root system shall be developed sufficiently to survive dry periods and the winter weather and be capable of re-establishment in the spring.

B. Before acceptance of the seeding performed for the establishment of temporary vegetation, the Contractor will be required to produce a stand of grass sufficient to control erosion for a given area and length of time before the next phase of construction or the establishment of permanent vegetation is to commence.

2.02 SEEDING DATES AND RATES OF APPLICATION:

A. Seeding shall be performed during the periods and at the rates specified in the seeding schedules. Seeding work may, at the discretion of the Contractor, be performed throughout the year using the schedule prescribed for the given period. Seeding work shall not be conducted when the ground is frozen or excessively wet. The Contractor will be required to produce a satisfactory stand of grass regardless of the period of the year the work is performed.

2.03 PREPARATION:

A. The areas to be seeded or sodded shall be made smooth and uniform and shall conform with the finished grade and cross section shown on the plans or as otherwise designated. Minor shaping and smoothing of uneven and rough areas outside the graded section shall be performed as directed by the Engineer in order to provide for more effective erosion control and for ease of subsequent mowing operations.

B. The areas to be grassed, if not loose, shall be loosened to a minimum depth of 3 inches before agricultural lime, fertilizer, seed or sod is applied. The areas to be seeded shall be cleared of stones larger than 2-1/2-inches, in any dimension, roots, and other debris.

2.04 APPLYING LIME AND FERTILIZER:

A. Following advance preparation and placing selected material for shoulders and slopes when called for in the contract, lime if called for based on soil tests and fertilizer shall be spread uniformly over the designated areas and shall be thoroughly mixed with the soil to a depth of approximately 2 inches. Fertilizer shall be applied at the rate of 500 pounds per acre for the initial application, unless otherwise directed by the Engineer. Lime shall be applied at the rate determined by the soil test. Unless otherwise provided, lime will not be applied for temporary seeding. In all cases where practicable, acceptable mechanical spreaders shall be used for spreading fertilizer. On steep slopes subject to slides and inaccessible to power equipment, the slopes shall be adequately scarified. Fertilizer may be applied on steep slopes by hydraulic methods as a mixture of fertilizer and seed. When fertilizer is applied in combination seed and fertilizer drills, no further incorporation will be necessary. The fertilizer and seed shall be applied together when the method of seeding (Wood Cellulose Fiber Mulch) is used. Any stones larger than 2-1/2 inches in any dimension, larger clods, roots, or other debris brought to the surface shall be removed.

2.05 SEEDING:

A. Seed shall be sown within 24 hours following the application of fertilizer and lime and preparation of the seedbed as specified in Section 2.04. Seed shall be uniformly sown at the rate specified by the use of acceptable mechanical seed drills. Rotary hand seeders, power sprayers or other satisfactory equipment may be used on steep slopes or on other areas that are inaccessible to seed drills.

B. The seeds shall be covered and lightly compacted by means of a cultipacker or light roller if the drill does not perform this operation. On slopes inaccessible to

compaction equipment, the seed shall be covered by dragging spiked chains, by light harrowing or by other satisfactory methods.

C. Apply water with fine spray immediately after each area has been sown.

D. Do not sow seed when ground is too dry, during windy periods or immediately following a rain.

E. All seeded areas seeded with permanent grasses shall be uniformly mulched in a continuous blanket immediately following seeding and compacting operations, using at least 2 tons of straw per acre.

2.06 SEEDING (EXCELSIOR MULCH):

A. Seed shall be sown as specified in Section 2.05. Within 24 hours after the covering of seed, excelsior mulch shall be uniformly applied at the rate of 2 tons per acre. The mulch may be applied hydraulically or by other acceptable methods. Should the mulch be placed in a dry condition, it shall be thoroughly wetted immediately after placing. The Engineer may require light rolling of the mulch to form a tight mat.

2.07 SEEDING (WOOD CELLULOSE FIBER MULCH):

A. After the lime has been applied and ground prepared as specified in Section 2.04, wood cellulose fiber mulch shall be applied at the rate of 1,500 pounds per acre in a mixture of seed and fertilizer. Hydraulic equipment shall be used for the application of fertilizer, seed and slurry of the prepared wood pulp. This equipment shall have a built-in agitation system with an operating capacity sufficient to agitate, suspend, and homogeneously mix a slurry of the specified amount of fiber, fertilizer, seed and 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 will provide an even distribution of the slurry on the various areas to be seeded. The slurry tank shall have a minimum capacity of 1,000 gallons.

The seed, fertilizer, wood pulp mulch, and water shall all be combined into the slurry tank for distribution of all ingredients in one operation by the hydraulic seeding method specified herein. The materials shall be combined in a manner recommended by the manufacturer. The slurry mixture shall be so regulated that the amounts and rates of application shall result in a uniform application of all materials at rates not less than the amount specified. Using the color of the wood pulp as a guide, the equipment operator shall spray the prepared seedbed

with a uniform visible coat. The slurry shall be applied in a sweeping motion, in an arched stream so as to fall like rain, allowing the wood fibers to build upon each other until an even coat is achieved.

2.08 SODDING:

A. Sod shall be placed between March 1st and December 1st.

B. Sod shall be placed within 48 hours of cutting.

C. Sod shall be moist when laid and placed on moist ground. The sod shall be carefully placed by hand, beginning at the toe of slopes and working upwards. The length of the strips shall be at right angles to the flow of surface water. All joints shall be tightly butted and end joints shall be staggered at least 12 inches. The sod shall be immediately pressed firmly into the ground by tamping or rolling. Fill all joints between strips with fine screened soil. Sod on slopes shall be pegged with sod pegs to prevent movement. The sod shall be watered, mowed, weeded, repaired or otherwise maintained, to insure the establishment of a uniform healthy stand of grass until acceptance.

2.09 MAINTENANCE:

A. Maintain seeded and sodded surfaces until final acceptance.

B. Maintenance shall consist of providing protection against traffic, watering to ensure uniform seed germination and to keep surface of soil damp, and repairing any areas damaged as a result of construction operations or erosion.

2.10 ACCEPTANCE:

A. Before release of the performance bond on the seeding and sodding performed for the establishment of permanent vegetation, the Contractor will be required to produce a satisfactory stand of perennial grass whose root system shall be developed sufficiently to survive dry periods and the winter weather and be capable of reestablishment in the spring.

END OF SECTION