

TURF CONDITION:

Turf in the mowing area is 75% free of undesired vegetation.

Unwanted vegetation found growing on or out of Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) and Sound Wall greater than 6 inches in length and in 8 separate locations, and / or no more than 7.5 square feet of unwanted vegetation for any 50 square foot area of paved shoulder, pavement Joints, concrete traffic separators, curb/asphalt joints and under guardrail. No vegetation exists causing damage or displacement to the evaluated asset structure. Vegetation damage is defined as defects both greater than 0.5 square feet in area and deeper than 1.5 inches when measured. Vegetation displacement is defined as vertical, horizontal, or lateral movement in an MSE / Sound Wall of more than 1 inch or in a Pavement Structure of more than 2 inches.

Turf Condition – Turf is grass or other vegetation considered desirable for the particular roadside location. Properly maintained and desired vegetation provides a pleasing appearance but, primarily, it presents less chance of shoulder and slope defects (ruts, washouts, wash boarding), thereby, providing a safe recovery area for motoring traffic.

Unwanted Vegetation – This characteristic is the encroachment untreated, unwanted vegetation growing within the right-of-way on MSE, sound walls, paved shoulders, concrete traffic separators, curb/asphalt joints and miscellaneous pavement under guardrail, cable rail, and barrier wall.

Evaluation: Determine the mowing area within the sample point. Turf condition will normally be evaluated within the established mowing limits. Occasionally, mowing limits are changed and areas are left to regenerate. These areas, in the first stages of regeneration, will appear to be within mowing limits and probably will contain undesirable vegetation.

Rate all MSE, sound walls, paved shoulders, and miscellaneous pavement under guardrail (to include cable rail, traffic separators, and barrier wall) within the sample point.

Each MSE and/or sound wall within the sample point shall have no more than 8 separate locations on the wall with untreated vegetation growing greater than 6 inches in length or height.

No unwanted, untreated vegetation is growing out of the paved shoulders for ~~85%~~ more than 7.5 square feet of any 50 square foot area. No unwanted, untreated vegetation is growing on to, or out of miscellaneous pavement under guardrail, cable rail, traffic separators, perimeter, and/or barrier walls, for ~~85%~~ more than 7.5 square feet of any 50 square foot area.

Measure the length of any cracks, joints, and square foot area with untreated vegetation growing out of the pavement in any 50 square foot area. There should not be more than 7.5 square feet of untreated unwanted vegetation growing on the paved shoulder, concrete traffic separators, curb/asphalt joints and/or miscellaneous pavement under guardrail, cable rail, traffic separators, perimeter, and/or barrier walls, for any 50 square foot area.

For purposes of evaluating this characteristic, one linear foot of untreated unwanted vegetation growing in pavement cracks should be calculated as one square foot not meeting desired conditions.

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NOTE: Do not evaluate vegetation designed to grow on or cover sound walls.

When mowing limits have been extended due to adjoining property improvement or new development, a transition period (one rating period) is required to establish desirable turf conditions. Considerations should be given when these situations are encountered

Turf in the mowing area should be 75% free of the following undesired vegetation alone or in combination:

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|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Cogon grass | 6. Ragweed | 11. Sandspur |
| 2. Vaseygrass | 7. Castor Bean | 12. Spanish Needle |
| 3. Johnsongrass | 8. Maiden Cane | 13. Crowsfoot |
| 4. Broomsedge | 9. Rhodesgrass | 14. Tropical Soda Apple |
| 5. Dogfennel | 10. Goosegrass | |

Bare ground is defined as any single area (5 square feet) 95% free of vegetation. Purposely stabilized areas (lime rock, shell, etc.) shall not be considered as bare ground and not included in the turf evaluation.

Turf grasses that appear to be dead may actually be dormant and shall be considered to meet desired maintenance conditions, if in dormant stage.

Calculate the mowing area. Determine the area of undesirable vegetation within the mowing area. Divide the undesirable vegetation area by the total mowing area and multiply by 100. If the resulting percentage is greater than 25%, then the sample does not meet desired maintenance conditions for Turf Condition.

Turf condition does not meet MRP standards when any of the following exist:

- 1) If more than 25% of the undesirable vegetation is present within the mowing limits of the sample.
- 2) If more than 50 cumulative square feet of bare ground is present in the turf evaluation area.

Unwanted Vegetation does not meet MRP standards when any of the following exist:

- 1) When any MSE, and/or sound wall has 8 separate locations with untreated vegetation growing greater than 6 inches in height or length.
- 2) Paved shoulder areas with more than 7.5 square feet of untreated vegetation growing in a 50 square foot area.
- 3) Miscellaneous pavement under guardrail, cable rail, and/or barrier wall has more than 7.5 square feet of untreated vegetation growing in a 50 square foot area.
- 4) No vegetation exists causing damage or displacement to the evaluated asset structure.