

Comments Received From Industry Review

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These comments are responses to the changes being made to grassing project specs.

Lumping everything under the term "Turf" will make bidding jobs practically impossible. There will be a large margin for error because of different types of grassing and the price variations. If all grassing is combines under "Turf" then sod should be the only grassing option to be used.

570-3.3: Replacing seed and mulch with hydroseeding is not feasible for all projects. For example, hydroseeding is not stable and will not hold in sandy Florida soil. Also, contractors would have to redress often.

Regarding newspaper versus woodfiber, newspaper works just as well and more cost effective and efficient.

570.3-2: Rolled sod should be rolled up and down steep slopes, if unable to roll parallel to the road. If has been proven that rolling sod up and down slopes does not wash if done correctly. Also, not using sod that has been cut longer than 48 hours will result in costly waste of perfectly good sod.

570.3-7: Waiting to fertilize seed and mulch will cause slower growth leaving exposed areas susceptible to erosion. Also, it is more costly to mobilize workers later rather than when seed and mulch is originally done.

981-3.2: All strip sod 16" or narrower should be replaced with 30" or 42" rolled sod to eliminate washing between seams. Wider strips can handle more run-off. Also, biodegradable net that is "preferred" is not even manufactured yet.

981-4: Changing mulch material will be extremely costly. Currently used material such as hay and straw are perfectly effective cost wise and work well under any conditions. Changing this would be very impractical.

Quality control should be the objective of the grassing contractor not DOT. As long as the end result is good coverage and erosion control, the DOT's objective has been met.

Swart's Landscaping, Inc.

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Date: October 10, 2005
To: Duane F. Brautigam, P.E., State Specifications Engineer
From: Andy Swart, Swart's Landscaping, Inc.
Nan Bambara, Swart's Landscaping, Inc.
Subject: Proposed Specifications Change:9810000

981-2 Delete: "noxious weed certification" In this industry seed does not get the same noxious weed certification as sod. It never has & never will. Please don't included this requirement, as it will be impossible to provide. The label of the seed has percentage. This was sufficient before.

981-3.2 Delete: "...except were 6 inch strip sodding is called for..." There is never a call for this on DOT projects.

General is this section, we would like to see addressed a definition of slab sod and rolled sod. The reason is the industry is developing a machine that cuts like it is a slab machine, does not use net under the sod, rolls the pieces into small rolls without a center roll, but it is still laid all by hand. So what would this be called – rolled sod or piece sod. For clarification: the sod is lifted in 24X60 slabs, rolled without net or center rolls, these "mini" rolls are than palletized, and it's laid manually. We want to be certain that this will not be considered "rolled sod".

981-3.3 Delete: 48 hours. It should be 72 hours. Also "A letter of certification from the turf Contractor..." Please insert "or delivery ticket certifying " as to when
.....*****

Jennifer Taylor

File: 9810000 - Turf Materials
Username: Jennifer Taylor
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UserTel: SC373-3471
Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2005
Time: 11:00:20 AM

Comments:

1. Section 981-3.3 Condition.

Will the certification requirement be something that is a signed statement from the Turf supplier or just an employee of the supplier. Because the cut tickets are written by the driver of the sod truck. Will this be one that will be turned in as the sod is placed?

2. Section 981-23 Sod.

Need to refine this to include cost for St. Augustine. Designer needs to identify on plans where St. Augustine goes or we'll keep writing work orders for this.

AGRICULTURAL LAND SERVICES INC.

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Mr. Duane F. Brautigam, State Specifications Engineer
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October 20, 2005

RE: Proposed Specifications Change 9810000.D01 – Turf Material

Dear Mr. Brautigam,

Agricultural Land Services Inc has been performing commercial grassing services for over twenty-five (25) years and has worked on numerous DOT projects. We have some serious concerns as to the proposed specification change referenced above. Specifically, if it is the intention of the proposed change to remove dry hay and straw as a DOT approved mulching material. Dry hay and straw has always been our primary choice for mulching material as it has been proven to be the most effective in providing immediate erosion control during the seed germination period.

With regard to using any derivative of “pine” as mulching material, the potential exists of increasing the ph levels of the soil to be too acidic, thereby prohibiting grass seed germination.

Using chips or bark for mulching over seeded areas can create voids that could prevent the seed from adequately contacting the soil. This, in turn, would prohibit the seed from germinating.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated as the outcome of these proposed changes will adversely impact the effectiveness of seed and mulch projects.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely

Bob Lines, General Manager
Agricultural Land Services Inc.
