



STANDARD SPECIFICATION

Grassed Areas

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1.0 FERTILISING AND SEEDING

- 1.1 Grassed areas shall have adequate top soil with a minimum compacted and settled depth of 150mm. Any compacted subsoil shall be ripped, preferably during the summer period, to a depth of 30cm, with rip lines no more than 1 metre apart, then rolled before any laying of topsoil is undertaken.
- 1.2 Top soil shall be friable, contain organic matter suitable to support plant life and have less than 2% by weight of unwanted materials such as stones (no larger than 12mm in diameter in the top 50mm) or other inorganic material.
- 1.3 All grass areas are to be levelled prior to fertilising and seeding.
- 1.4 Grass areas are to be sown with a good quality, slow growing turf rye grass such as Arena SR4500 unless otherwise specified by the Parks Advisor.
- 1.5 All rye grass seed used shall have an endophyte level of greater than or equal to 80%, a purity of more than or equal to 99% and a germination final count of more than or equal to 90%.
- 1.6 The area for seeding shall be free of all weed species.
- 1.7 The seed shall be applied and cultivated to 20mm depth so that the minimum of seed is exposed. The seeded ground shall be levelled and lightly consolidated to ensure good soil/seed contact.
- 1.8 Areas to be newly sown for grass shall be fertilised to maintain a pH range of 6.0 to 6.5. A soil test should be carried out to determine the composition and type of fertiliser and/or lime that is to be applied. Note that a soil test may be required prior to pricing.
- 1.9 Two applications of fertiliser are to be carried out. The first application shall be undertaken when sowing grass seed using a suitable starter fertiliser such as di-ammonium phosphate (D.A.P.) at a rate of 25g/m² and second application four to six weeks after grass growth has commenced with a suitable maintenance fertiliser, such as Cropmaster 20.
- 1.10 For large areas of lawn, grass seed shall be undersown for better strike and reduced loss to birds at a rate of 400kg/ha.
- 1.11 All newly grass seeded areas are to be rolled with a Cambridge roller (or similar roller to minimise compaction) after seeding. A traditional small steel drum may be used for grass berms next to concrete edges to minimise marking of concrete surfaces.
- 1.12 First mowing of newly sown grass areas can be undertaken when 50% of the grass coverage has reached a height of 10cm using a rotary mower.

2.0 TURF SUPPLY AND LAYING

- 2.1 The turf grass mix shall be as specified by the Parks Advisor. The turf shall be sufficiently fibrous for turves to hold together when handled, but excess fibre or thatch is undesirable.
 - 2.2 Turf should be of good quality, free of weeds and pests and of a minimum thickness of 20mm.
 - 2.3 The Parks Advisor may request to inspect the turves prior to them being lifted.
 - 2.4 Turf shall be delivered to the site, kept damp and installed within 36 hours of lifting.
 - 2.5 While carrying out the work, the Contractor shall protect the existing subsoil structures and prevent excessive soil structural damage.
 - 2.6 Turf shall be laid on topsoil that has been cultivated to a depth of 25mm to form a fine even bed.
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- 2.7 Turf shall be handled with care and laid in a stretcher bond pattern. The turf shall be laid from planks working over turves previously laid.
- 2.8 Slow release fertiliser shall be applied as specified to the turf prior to watering.
- 2.9 The turves shall be thoroughly watered until the turf mat and top 50mm of soil is wet. After allowing a "soaking in" period, the turf should be lightly and evenly rolled so that the turf mat and the soil surface are thoroughly bonded.
- 2.10 Any inequalities in finished levels owing to variation in turf thickness or uneven consolidation of soil shall be adjusted by raking and/or packing fine soil under the turf, not by topdressing the turf surface.

3.0 HYDROSEEDING

- 3.1 The hydroseeding mulch shall be a mixture of the specified seed, wood-fibre based mulch, fertiliser and a binding agent. The percentage of wood-fibre in the hydroseeding mulch shall be no less than 75%.
- 3.2 The hydroseeding shall be applied to a minimum depth of 5mm. Application rates for high profile areas shall be no less than 200kg/1000m².
- 3.3 Products such as "Hydra red" or an equivalent are acceptable hydroseeding mulches.
- 3.4 Hydroseeding shall be applied using a suitable pumping system with mixing abilities, to prevent settling between applications.
- 3.5 All existing site features, such as paths and fences, shall be protected during hydroseeding application. Any overspray shall be removed promptly.
- 3.6 A low-pressure system shall be used to avoid surface rilling or erosion.

4.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 The Contractor shall ensure that all requirements of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 are complied with.
 - 4.2 If working on the road verge, the Contractor shall have in place an approved Traffic Management Plan.
 - 4.3 The Contractor shall be solely responsible for public safety within and around the site and shall provide all necessary warning devices, barricades and personnel to ensure adequate safety, protection and warning to any person or vehicle or any property within and around the site.
 - 4.4 The Parks Advisor shall be entitled to inspect the site and all plant and equipment at any time to ensure the Contractor is complying with its obligations under Section 4.0.
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5.0 MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATIONS

- 5.1 Grassed areas may be required to be maintained for a minimum period of 12 months after sowing to ensure dense, even turf coverage has been established.
- 5.2 The lawn shall be an even sward of vegetation at a uniform height with a healthy colour throughout. The lawn shall be free from hollows arising from uneven consolidation of the ground and from stones or similar debris.
- 5.3 The specified grasses shall be evenly distributed across the lawn and the entire ground surface covered. The grass sward shall not contain any non-specified grasses or weeds.
- 5.4 All grass areas, once established, shall be mown to a minimum height of 25mm and a maximum height of 50mm unless otherwise specified by the Parks Advisor.
- 5.5 Grass areas shall be maintained at no less than 90% weed free.
- 5.6 Areas where grass coverage does not exceed 95% shall be re-sown.
- 5.7 The contractor shall rectify any damage to turf or surrounding areas including scalping, wheel rutting and damage caused by faulty machinery and sub-contractors.
- 5.8 Damage caused to fixed objects is to be noted and made good at the Contractor's cost.
- 5.9 Any cuttings that fly onto footpaths or surfaces other than the grassed area shall be removed prior to leaving the site. Grass clippings are to be evenly distributed over the grass area or removed.

6.0 CONTRACT AUDITING

- 6.1 The Council will audit compliance with the contract by both site inspections and checking of associated documentation to the extent necessary to ensure the work is completed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and to the Council's standards.
- 6.2 The Contractor shall notify the Parks Advisor at least one working day prior to commencing various stages of the works. This is to enable audit inspections required by the contract to be performed.
- 6.3 The Parks Advisor shall send the Contractor a copy of an audit carried out, with any areas of concern identified.
- 6.4 The minimum level of inspection shall be as follows:
- The Contractor shall supply certificates to the Parks Advisor verifying seed used is the mixture specified by the Parks Advisor and which give descriptions of purity, % germination and endophyte content. The seed should be no more than one year old.
 - Prior to seeding to check levelling of surface and ground preparation.
 - On completion of the required works after the first mow.
 - Once during the maintenance period to ensure maintenance conditions are being adhered to.
 - Upon notification from the Contractor that the maintenance period has ended and the assets are ready to be jointly signed off.
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