

SECTION 736 SODDING

736.01 Description. This work consists of preparing the ground area, and furnishing and placing approved sod.

MATERIALS.

736.02 Sod. Sod shall be well rooted from high quality seed of known origin and native to the locality of the work. The Department reserves the right to visit the proposed sod source prior to the granting of a source approval. Sod shall be stripped, delivered, and laid within a period of 36 hours. Sod stripped and delivered but not laid within this period shall be re-inspected and approved by the Engineer prior to use.

Creeping Red Fescue	(Festuca rubra L. subsp. Rubra)	10%
Chewing Fescue	(Festuca rubra L. subsp. commutata Gavd.)	20%
Hard Fescue	(Festuca longifolia Thuill.)	55%
Kentucky Bluegrass	(Poa pratensis L.)	15%

If Fine Fescue-Bluegrass sod is used, it shall contain the following percentages by weight in the blend:

The varietal makeup of the Fine Fescue-Bluegrass sod must be submitted to the Engineer for approval prior to the actual cutting and lifting of the sod.

Sod shall be free of objectionable grassy and broadleaf weeds. Sod shall be considered free of such weeds if less than five such plants are found per 100 ft² (10 m²) of area. Sod shall not be acceptable if it contains any of the following weeds: common bermudagrass (wiregrass), quackgrass, Johnsongrass, poison ivy, nutsedge, nimblewill, Canadian thistle, bindweed, bentgrass, wild garlic, ground ivy, perennial sorrel, or brome grass.

Sod shall be reasonably free of thatch, diseases, nematodes, and soil-borne insects. All sod must display the official State Certification tags of the state from which the sod originated. The same shall apply to all sod shipped intra-state with prior inspection and tagging through the Delaware State Department of Agriculture.

736.03 Water. Water shall conform to the requirements of [Section 803](#).

CONSTRUCTION METHODS.

736.04 Cutting Sod. Before stripping, sod shall be mowed uniformly at a height of 1 to 220 (25 to 65 mm). Sod shall be machine cut at a uniform soil thickness of 5/8 " 30 (16 " 6 mm), at the time of cutting. Measurement for thickness shall exclude top growth and thatch. The sod pad size shall be cut to a minimum uniform width of 120 (300 mm) and a minimum length of 120 (300 mm).

736.05 Placing. Sod shall be placed only when the soil is moist and favorable to growth. Sod shall not be placed between November 1 and April 1, unless weather and soil conditions are considered favorable and permission is granted.

736.06 Preparation of Grade. The area to be sodded shall be shaped and finished to the lines and grades indicated on the Plans, and the surface loosened prior to placing the sod. The Contractor shall water the slope before the sod is placed.

736.07 Laying the Sod. The sod shall be placed on the prepared surface with the edges in close contact. Each strip or section of sod shall be fitted and tamped into place with hand tampers of not less than 100 in⁵ (64 000 mm⁵) in area.

After slopes of either cuts or fills have been shaped to conform to the finished grade and cross-section shown on the Plans, the shoulders and toes of the slope shall be rounded off to a 5N (1.5 m) radius, or as otherwise indicated in the Plans.

On all slopes, sod shall be laid with the long edges parallel to the contour starting at the bottom of the slope. Successive strips shall be neatly matched, and all joints staggered or broken. When placing sod in drainage ditches, the length of the strip shall be laid parallel to the direction of the flow of the water. Where the sod may be displaced during sodding operations, the workers, when replacing it, shall work from ladders or treated planks to prevent further displacement.

Each strip or section of sod placed on slopes 1:2 (vertical to horizontal) and steeper, and surface drainage V-shaped or flat bottom ditches or gutters, shall be staked securely with at least two stakes or pins spaced not more than 24O (600 mm) apart with the flat side against the slope. Stakes shall either be wood wedges or T-shaped wire pins. Wood wedges shall be 2 by 1 by 6O (13 by 25 by 150 mm) to 2 by 1 by 12O (13 by 25 by 300 mm), as required by soil conditions, and driven so that the last 1O (25 mm) remains above the top of the sod. T-shaped wire pins shall be machine bent from 15O (380 mm) pieces of 8 gage (4.1 mm) low carbon bright steel with a 8O (200 mm) leg, a 4O (100 mm) head, and a 1O (25 mm) secondary drive and driven flush with the top of the sod.

When sodding adjacent to a sidewalk, curb, pavement, or retaining walls, sufficient allowance shall be made in grading for the thickness of the sod, so that when placed, the sod shall be flush with the tops of such structures. The sod shall be tamped to ensure tight joints and a smooth level surface. As the top of the slope is reached, the sod shall be trimmed to a line placed at a fixed distance from the break of the bank and along the entire length of the cut or fill. The top of the bank shall have been previously graded, so that the sod, when applied, comes flush with the average level of the top of the bank. All surfaces shall be uniform in appearance and reasonably true to line and grade.

The Contractor shall water the sod immediately after placement to a depth sufficient so that the underside of the new sod pads and soil immediately below the sod are thoroughly wet. The sod shall be kept moist until growth is established. All sod in which shrinking, burning, or turning brown occurs shall be rejected, removed, and replaced.

A satisfactory stand of grass from sod, as determined by the Engineer, shall be required. To be acceptable, a stand of grass from sod must display an even flush of growth and show evidence of soil surface contact, minimal undermining, and minimal erosion.

736.08 Method of Measurement. The quantity of sodding will be measured in square yards (square meters) along the surface of the area of sod placed and accepted.

736.09 Basis of Payment. The quantity of sodding will be paid for at the Contract unit price per square yard (square meter). Price and payment will constitute full compensation for furnishing all materials, including sod; for grading, rounding the shoulders and toes of slopes, hauling, laying, and tamping; for all watering until final acceptance; and for all labor, equipment, tools, and incidentals required to complete the work.