

SECTION 32 90 00  
PLANTINGS

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

This work consists of furnishing and installing all planting materials required for landscaping hereinafter specified in locations as shown.

**1.2 EQUIPMENT**

Maintain all equipment, tools and machinery while on the project in sufficient quantities and capacity for proper execution of the work.

**1.3 RELATED WORK**

- A. Section 31 20 00, EARTH MOVING, Stripping Topsoil and Stock Piling.
- B. Section 01 45 29, TESTING LABORATORY SERVICES, Topsoil Testing.
- C. Section 31 20 00, EARTH MOVING, Topsoil Materials.
- D. Section 32 84 00, PLANTING IRRIGATION.

**1.4 SUBMITTALS**

- A. Samples: Submit the following samples for approval before work is started:

Organic Mulch	2.3 kg (5 pounds) of each type to be used.
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- B. Certificates of Conformance or Compliance: Before delivery, notarized certificates attesting that the following materials meet the requirements specified shall be submitted to the COTR for approval:

- 1. Plant Materials (Department of Agriculture certification by State Nursery Inspector declaring material to be free from insects and disease).
- 2. Fertilizers.
- 3. Peat
- 4. Membranes

- C. Manufacturer's Literature and Data:

- 1. Metal edging
- 2. Antidesiccant
- 3. Erosion control materials
- 4. Pre-emergent herbicide

- D. Soil laboratory testing results and any soil amendment recommendations from the Contractor.

**1.5 DELIVERY AND STORAGE**

- A. Delivery:

1. Notify the COTR of the delivery schedule in advance so the plant material may be inspected upon arrival at the job site. Remove unacceptable plant material from the job site immediately.
2. Protect plants during delivery to prevent damage to root balls or desiccation of leaves. Protect trees during transport by tying in the branches and covering all exposed branches.
3. The use of equipment such as "tree spades" is permitted provided the plant balls are sized in accordance with ANSI Z60.1 and tops are protected from damage.
4. Deliver fertilizer to the site in the original, unopened containers bearing the manufacturer's warranted chemical analysis, name, trade name or trademark, and in conformance to state and federal law. In lieu of containers, fertilizer may be furnished in bulk and a certificate indicating the above information shall accompany each delivery.

B. Storage:

1. Keep fertilizer in dry storage away from contaminants.
2. Store plants not installed on the day of arrival at the site as follows:
  - a. Shade and protect plants from the wind when stored outside.
  - b. Heel in bare root plants.
  - c. Protect plants stored on the project from drying out at all times by covering the balls or roots with moist sawdust, wood chips, shredded bark, peat moss, or other similar mulching material.
  - d. Keep plants, including those in containers, in a moist condition until planted, by watering with fine mist spray.

**1.6 PLANTING INSTALLATION SEASONS AND CONDITIONS**

- A. Perform operations within the following dates: From March 15 or as soon as the soil is thawed and workable to June 15 for spring and from August 15 to October 15 for fall but not before irrigation system installed, tested, and approved.
- B. No work shall be done when the ground is frozen, snow covered, too wet or in an otherwise unsuitable condition for planting. Special conditions may exist that warrants a variance in the specified planting dates or conditions. Submit a written request to the COTR stating the special conditions and proposal variance.

#### **1.7 PLANT ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD**

- A. The Establishment Period for plants and turf shall begin immediately after installation, with the approval of the COTR, and continue until the date that the Government accepts the project or phase for beneficial use and occupancy. During the Plant and Turf Establishment Period the Contractor shall:
1. Water all plants to maintain an adequate supply of moisture within the root zone. An adequate supply of moisture is the equivalent of 25 mm (1 inch) of absorbed water per week either through natural rainfall or augmented by periodic watering. Apply water at a moderate rate so as not to displace the mulch or flood the plants and turf.
  2. Prune plants and replace mulch as required.
  3. Replace and restore stakes, guy wires, and eroded plant saucers as required.
  4. In plant beds and saucers, remove grass, weeds, and other undesired vegetation, including the root growth, before they reach a height of 75 mm (3 inches).
  5. Spray with approved insecticides and fungicides to control pests and ensure plant survival in a healthy growing condition, as directed by the COTR.
  6. Remove plants that die during this period and replace each plant with one of the same size and species.

#### **1.8 PLANT WARRANTY**

- A. A One Year Plant and Turf Warranty will begin on the date that the Government accepts the project or phase for beneficial use and occupancy. The Contractor shall have completed, located, and installed all plants according to the plans and specifications. All plants are expected to be living and in a healthy condition at the time of final inspection.
- B. The Contractor will replace any dead plant material immediately. A one year warranty for the plants that were replaced, will begin on the day the work is completed.
- C. Replacement of relocated plants, that the Contractor did not supply, is not required unless they die from improper handling and care during transplanting. Loss through Contractor negligence requires replacement in kind and size.
- D. The Government will reinspect all plants at the end of the One Year Warranty. The Contractor will replace any dead, missing, or defective

plant material immediately. The Warranty will end on the date of this inspection provided the Contractor has complied with the work required by this specification. The Contractor shall also comply with the following requirements:

1. Replace dead, missing or defective plant material prior to final inspection.
2. Mulch and weed plant beds and saucers. Just prior to this inspection, treat these areas to a second application of approved pre-emergent herbicide.
3. From plants having been installed for one year, remove stakes, guy wires and any required tree wrappings.
4. Complete remedial measures directed by the COTR to ensure plant and turf survival.
5. Repair damage caused while making plant or turf replacements.

#### **1.9 APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS**

- A. The publications listed below, form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referenced in the text by basic designation only.
- B. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Publications:  
ANSI Z60.1-1996.....Nursery Stock  
ANSI Z133.1-2000.....Tree Care Operations-Pruning, Trimming,  
Repairing, Maintaining, and Removing Trees and  
Cutting Brush- Safety Requirements
- C. Hortus Third, A Concise Dictionary of Plants Cultivated in the U.S. and Canada, Wiley Publishers, 1976.
- D. American Society For Testing And Materials (ASTM) Publications:  
C136-05(Rev. A).....Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates  
C516-80(Rev. 2002).....Vermiculite Loose Fill Thermal Insulation  
C549-81(Rev. 2002).....Perlite Loose Fill Insulation  
D977-98(Rev. 2003).....Emulsified Asphalt (AASHTO M140 1988)  
D2028-97(Rev. 2004).....Cutback Asphalt (Rapid-curing Type)  
D2103-97(Rev. 2003).....Polyethylene Film and Sheeting
- E. Turf Producers International:  
Guideline Specifications to Turfgrass Sodding 1995 ed.
- F. U. S. Department of Agriculture Federal Seed Act of August 9, 1939:  
53 Stat. 1275.....Rules and Regulations
- G. American Wood Preservative Association (AWPA):

C2-02.....Lumber, Timbers, Bridge Ties and Mine Ties,  
Pressure Treatment

## **PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

### **2.1 GENERAL**

All plant material will conform to the varieties specified or shown in the plant list and be true to botanical name as listed in Hortus Third.

### **2.2 PLANTS**

- A. Plants shall be in accordance with ANSI Z60.1, except as otherwise stated in the specifications or shown on the plans. Where the drawings or specifications are in conflict with ANSI Z60.1, the drawings and specification shall prevail.
- B. Provide well-branched and formed planting stock, sound, vigorous, and free from disease, sunscald, windburn, abrasion, harmful insects or insect eggs with healthy, normal, and unbroken root systems. Provide trees, deciduous and evergreen, that are single trunked with a single leader, unless otherwise indicated, display no weak crotches. Provide symmetrically developed deciduous trees and shrubs of uniform habit of growth, with straight boles or stems and free from objectionable disfigurements, and evergreen trees and shrubs with well developed symmetrical tops with typical spread of branches for each particular species or variety. Provide ground cover and vine plants with the number and length of runners for the size specified, and the proper age for the grade of plants specified. Provide vines and ground cover plants well established in removable containers, integral containers, or formed homogeneous soil sections. Plants shall have been grown under climatic conditions similar to those in the locality of the project. Spray all plants budding into leaf or having soft growth with an anti-desiccant at the nursery before digging.
- C. The minimum acceptable sizes of all plants, measured before pruning with branches in normal position, shall conform to the measurements designated. Plants larger in size than specified may be used with the approval of the COTR, with no change in the contract price. When larger plants are used, increase the ball of earth or spread of roots in accordance with ANSI Z60.1.
- D. Provide nursery grown plant material conforming to the requirements and recommendations of ANSI Z60.1. Dig and prepare plants for shipment in a manner that will not cause damage to branches, shape, and future development after planting.

- E. Balled and burlapped (B&B) plant ball sizes and ratios will conform to ANSI Z60.1, consisting of firm, natural balls of soil wrapped firmly with burlap or strong cloth and tied.
- F. Bare-root (BR) plants shall have the root system substantially intact, but with the earth carefully removed. Cover roots with a thick coating of mud by "puddling" after the plants are dug.
- G. Container grown plants shall have sufficient root growth to hold the earth intact when removed from containers, but shall not be root bound.
- H. Make substitutions only when a plant (or its alternates as specified) is not obtainable and the COTR authorizes a change order providing for use of the nearest equivalent obtainable size or variety of plant having the same essential characteristics with an equitable adjustment of the contract price.
- I. When existing plants are to be relocated, ball sizes shall conform to requirements for collected plants in ANSI Z60.1, and plants shall be dug, handled, and replanted in accordance with applicable sections of these specifications.

### **2.3 LABELS**

Each plant, or group and bundles or containers of the same species, variety, and size of plant, shall be legibly tagged with a durable, waterproof and weather-resistant label indicating the correct plant name and size specified in the plant list. Labels shall be securely attached and not be removed.

### **2.4 TOPSOIL**

- A. Topsoil shall be a well-graded soil of good uniform quality. It shall be a natural, friable soil representative of productive soils in the vicinity. Topsoil shall be free of admixture of subsoil, foreign matter, objects larger than 25 mm (one inch) in any dimension, toxic substances, weeds and any material or substances that may be harmful to plant growth and shall have a pH value of not less than 5.0 nor more than 7.5.
- B. Obtain material from stockpiles established under Section 31 20 00, EARTH MOVING, subparagraph, Stripping Topsoil, that meet the general requirements as stated above. Amend topsoil not meeting the pH range specified by the addition of pH Adjusters.
- C. If sufficient topsoil is not available on the site to meet the depth as specified herein, the Contractor shall furnish additional topsoil. At least 10 days prior to topsoil delivery, notify the COTR of the source(s) from which topsoil is to be furnished. Obtain topsoil from

well drained areas. Additional topsoil shall meet the general requirements as stated above and comply with the requirements specified in Section 01 45 29, TESTING LABORATORY SERVICES. Amend topsoil not meeting the pH range specified by the addition of pH adjusters.

## **2.5 SOIL CONDITIONERS**

- A. Peat shall be a natural product of peat moss and composted leaf humus, derived from a fresh-water site conforming to Fed. Spec. Q-P-166, except as otherwise specified. Peat shall be shredded and granulated to pass through a 13 mm (1/2 inch) mesh screen and conditioned in storage piles for at least six months after excavation.
- B. Coarse Sand  
Coarse concrete sand, ASTM C-33 Fine Aggregate, shall be clean, sharp, free of limestone, shale and slate particles and of toxic materials.
- C. Perlite shall conform to ASTM C549.
- D. Vermiculite shall be horticultural grade and free of any toxic materials and conform to ASTM C516.
- E. Pine Bark shall be horticultural-grade milled pine bark, with 80 percent of the material by volume sized between 0.1 and 15.0 mm (.004in. and .59in.).
  - 1. Pine bark shall be aged sufficiently to break down all woody material. Pine bark shall be screened
  - 2. pH shall range between 4.0 and 7.0.
  - 3. Submit manufacturer's literature for approval.
- F. Organic Matter shall be commercially prepared compost, composted sufficiently to be free of all woody fibers, seeds, and leaf structures, and free of toxic and nonorganic matter.
- G. Fertilizer: Agricultural fertilizer of a formula indicated by the soil test. Fertilizers shall be organic, slow-release compositions whenever applicable

## **2.6 PLANTING SOIL MIXTURE**

The planting soil mixture shall be composed of (2) parts topsoil, and (1) part peat or composted leaf humus.

## **2.7 PLANT FERTILIZER**

- A. Provide plant fertilizer that is commercial grade and uniform in composition and conforms to applicable state and federal regulations.
- B. For new plant material, provide packet, tablet, or pellet forms of slow release fertilizers, bearing the manufacturer's warranted statement of analysis as noted on Planting Detail drawing.

- C. For existing trees, provide granular fertilizer bearing the manufacturer's warranted statement of analysis. Granular fertilizer shall contain a minimum percentage by weight of \_\_\_\_\_ nitrogen (of which 50 percent shall be organic), \_\_\_\_\_ available phosphoric acid, and \_\_\_\_\_ potash.

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Check with County Extension Agent on analysis based on soil test.

## **2.8 MEMBRANES**

- A. Landscape Fabric shall be a spunbonded polyester fabric weighing 18 grams per square meter ( $\frac{3}{4}$  oz per sq. yd) and with a 9,000 liter per minute flow rate per sq. meter (225 gal. per minute flow rate per sq. ft.)

## **2.9 MULCH**

- A. Mulch shall be free from deleterious materials and shall be stored as to prevent inclusion of foreign material.
- B. Inert mulch materials shall be riverbank stone and shall range in size from 25 mm (one inch) to 65 mm (2-1/2 inches) in accordance with ASTM C 136.
- C. Organic mulch materials shall be straw and double shredded hardwood:
1. Straw for lawn seed bed mulch shall be stalks from oats, wheat, rye, barley, or rice that are free from noxious weeds, mold or other objectionable material. Straw shall be in an air-dry condition and suitable for placing with blower equipment.
- B. Erosion control blanket material shall be cellulose fiber blanket bonded to 6 mm (1/4 inch) square plastic net weighing 10 kg/100 m<sup>2</sup> (20 pounds per 1000 square feet) in 1250 mm (50 inch) wide rolls.

## **2.10 TREE WRAP**

- A. Crinkle Paper Tree wrap shall be two thicknesses of crinkled paper cemented together with a layer of bituminous material. Wrapping material shall be a minimum of 100 mm (4 inches) in width and have a stretch factor of 33-1/3 percent. Twine for tying shall be lightly tarred medium or coarse sisal yarn.

## **2.11 STAKES AND GUYING WIRES**

- A. Provide stakes for tree support of rough sawn wood, free from knots, rot, cross grain, or other defects that would impair the strength. Stakes shall be a minimum of 50 mm by 50 mm (2 inches by 2 inches).
- B. Guying wire shall be 2.7 mm (12 gage) annealed galvanized steel.



- C. Hose chafing guards shall be new or used 2-ply reinforced rubber or plastic hose of all the same color on the project.

#### **2.12 WATER**

Water shall not contain elements toxic to plant life.

#### **2.13 ANTIDESICCANT**

Antidesiccant shall be an emulsion specifically manufactured for agricultural use that will provide a protective film over plant surfaces permeable enough to permit transpiration.

#### **2.14 HERBICIDES**

All herbicides shall be properly labeled and registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Keep all herbicides in the original labeled containers indicating the analysis and method of use.

### **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

#### **3.1 LAYOUT**

Stake plant material locations and bed outlines on project site for approval by the COTR before any plant pits or beds are dug. The COTR may approve adjustments to plant material locations to meet field conditions.

#### **3.2 EXCAVATION FOR PLANTING**

- A. Prior to excavating for plant pits and bed, verify the location of any underground utilities. Damage to utility lines will be repaired at the Contractor's expense. Where lawns have been established prior to planting operation, cover the surrounding turf before excavations are made in a manner that will protect turf areas. Barricade existing trees, shrubbery, and beds that are to be preserved in a manner that will effectively protect them during the project construction.
- B. Remove rocks and other underground obstructions to a depth necessary to permit proper planting according to plans and specifications. Where underground utilities, construction, or solid rock ledges are encountered, the COTR may select other locations for plant material.
- C. Dig plant pits by any approved method so that they have vertical sides and flat bottoms. When pits are dug with an auger and the sides of the pits become glazed, scarify the glazed surface. Size the plant pits as shown, otherwise, the minimum allowable dimensions of plant pits shall be regardless of width, 150 mm (6 inches) deeper for shrubs and 225 mm (9 inches) deeper for trees than the depth of ball or root spread; for

ball or root spread up to 600 mm (2 feet), pit diameters shall be twice the ball or root spread; for ball or root spread from 600 to 1200 mm (2 to 4 feet), pit diameters shall be 600 mm (2 feet) greater; for ball or root spread over 1200 mm (4 feet), pit diameters shall be 1-1/2 times the ball or root spread.

- D. Where ground cover and planting beds occur in existing turf areas, remove turf to a depth that will ensure the removal of the entire root system, with additional bed preparation as specified in the next paragraph.
- E. Where existing soil is to be used in place, till new ground cover and plant beds to a depth of 100 mm (4 inches). Spreadpeat uniformly over the bed to depth of 50 mm (2 inches) and thoroughly incorporate it into the existing soil to a depth of 100 mm (4 inches) using a roto-tiller or similar type of equipment to obtain a uniform and well pulverized soil mix. During tillage operations, remove all sticks, stones, roots, and other objectionable materials. Bring plant beds to a smooth and even surface conforming to established grades.
- F. In areas of new grading where existing soil is being replaced for the construction of new ground cover and plant beds, remove 100 mm (4 inches) of existing soil and replace with topsoil. Plant beds shall be brought to a smooth and even surface conforming to established grades. Till 50 mm (2 inches) of peat into the topsoil as specified.
- G. Using topsoil, form earth saucers or water basins for watering around plants. Basins to be 2" high for shrubs and 4" high for trees.
- H. Treat plant saucers, shrub, and ground cover bed areas, prior to mulching, with an approved pre-emergent herbicide. Plant ground cover in areas to receive erosion control material through the material after material is in place.

### **3.3 SETTING PLANTS**

- A. Handle balled and burlapped and container-grown plants only by the ball or container. Remove container-grown plants in such a way to prevent damage to plants or root system. Set plants plumb and hold in position until sufficient soil has been firmly placed around the roots or ball. Set plants so that the root crown is 1" higher than the surrounding grade. Plant ground cover plants after the mulch is in place. Avoid contaminating the mulch with the planting soil. Add slow release packet, tablet or pellet fertilizer as each plant is installed as per manufacturer's recommendation for method of installation and quantity.

- B. Backfill balled and burlapped and container-grown plants with planting soil mixture as specified to approximately half the depth of the ball and then tamp and water. For balled and burlapped plants, carefully remove excess burlap and tying materials and fold back. Where plastic wrap or treated burlap is used in lieu of burlap, completely remove these materials before backfilling. Tamp and water remainder of backfill Planting Soil Mixture; then form earth saucers or water basins around isolated plants with topsoil.
- C. Plant bare-root stock arranging the roots in a natural position. Remove damaged roots with a clean cut. Carefully work Planting Soil Mixture in among the roots. Tamp and water the remainder of Planting Soil Mixture; then form earth saucers or water basins around isolated plants with topsoil.

### **3.4 TRUNK WRAPPING**

Wrap the trunks of deciduous trees immediately after planting. Wrap the trunks of deciduous trees, 40 mm (1-1/2 inches) or greater in caliber with the specified material beginning at the base and extending to the first branches. Remove wrapping after one year. When using Crinkled Paper Wrap, securely tie wrapping at the top and bottom and at 450 mm (18 inch) maximum intervals with twine.

### **3.5 STAKING AND GUYING**

- A. Stake and guy plants as shown on the drawings and as specified.
- B. Drive stakes vertically into the ground to a depth of 800 to 900 mm (2-1/2 to 3 feet) in such a manner as not to injure the ball or roots, unless otherwise shown on the drawings.
- C. Remove stakes and guy wires after one year.

### **3.6 MULCHING PLANTS**

- A. Mulch within 48 hours after planting and applying a pre-emergent herbicide. Do not mulch in ground cover areas that shall have organic material placed before planting.
- B. Placing Inert Material: Place Landscape fabric with edges lapped 150 mm to 300 mm (6 inches to 12 inches). Spread mulch to a uniform thickness over the membrane as shown.
- C. Placing Organic Material: Spread a mulch of double-shredded hardwood to a uniform minimum thickness of 50 mm (2 inches).
- D. Keep mulch out of the crowns of shrubs and off buildings, sidewalks, light standards, and other structures.

### **3.7 PRUNING**

- A. Prune new plant material in the following manner: Remove dead, broken and crossing branches. Prune deciduous trees and shrubs to reduce total amount of anticipated foliage by 1/4 to 1/3 while retaining typical growth habit of individual plants with as much height and spread as is practicable. Make cuts with sharp instruments as close as possible to the branch collar. Do not make flush cuts. Do not make "Headback" cuts at right angles to line of growth. Do not pole trees or remove the leader. Remove trimmings from the site. Paint cuts 13 mm (1/2 inch) in diameter and larger with the specified tree wound dressing.

### **3.8 TILLAGE FOR PLANT BEDS**

Thoroughly till the soil to a depth of at least 100 mm (4 inches) by scarifying, disking, harrowing, or other approved methods. This is particularly important in areas where heavy equipment has been used, and especially under wet soil conditions. Remove all debris and stones larger than 25 mm (one inch) remaining on the surface after tillage in preparation for finish grading. To minimize erosion, do not till areas of 3:1 slope ratio or greater. Scarify these areas to a 50 mm (one inch) depth and remove debris and stones.

### **3.9 FINISH GRADING**

After tilling the soil for bonding of topsoil with the subsoil, spread the topsoil evenly to a minimum depth of (6-inches). Incorporate topsoil at least (2 to 3 inches) into the subsoil to avoid soil layering. Do not spread topsoil when frozen or excessively wet or dry. Correct irregularities in finished surfaces to eliminate depressions. Protect finished topsoil areas from damage by vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Complete lawn work only after areas are brought to finished grade. emulsion, twine, or netting. When asphalt emulsion is used, apply either simultaneously or in a separate application. Take precautionary measures to prevent asphalt materials from marking or defacing structures, pavements, utilities, or plantings.

### **3.10 EROSION CONTROL MATERIAL**

- A. Install and maintain erosion control material meeting the requirements of this specification on the designated areas as shown and specified. Prepare, fertilize and vegetate the area(s) to be covered, as specified, before the erosion material is placed. Immediately following the planting operations, lay the material evenly and smoothly and in contact

with the soil throughout. Omit the straw mulch from all seeded areas receiving the erosion control material.

- B. For waterways, unroll the material in the direction of waterflow. When two or more strips are required to cover a ditch area, they shall overlap at least 100 mm (4 inches). In case a strip is to be spliced lengthwise, the ends of the strips shall overlap at least 150 mm (6 inches) with the upgrade section on top.
- C. When using erosion control material on slopes, place the material either horizontally or vertically to the slope with the edges and ends of adjacent strips butted tightly against each other.
- D. Staple each strip in three rows (each edge and center with the center row alternately spaced) with staples spaced not more than 1200 mm (4 feet) longitudinally. When using two or more strips side by side on slopes, use a common row of staples on the adjoining strips. Staple all end strips at 300 mm (one foot) intervals at the end. Firmly embed staples in the underlying soil.
- E. Maintenance shall consist of repairs made necessary by erosion, wind, or any other cause. Maintain, protect, repair, or replace the erosion control material until the Termination of the Plant and Warranty Period.

### **3.11 RESTORATION AND CLEAN-UP**

Where existing or new turf areas have been damaged or scarred during planting and construction operations, restore disturbed area to their original condition. Keep at least one paved pedestrian access route and one paved vehicular access route to each building clean at all times. In areas where planting and turf work have been completed, clear the area of all debris, spoil piles, and containers. Clear all other paved areas when work in adjacent areas is completed. Remove all debris, rubbish and excess material from the station.

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