

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
FOR
TOPSOIL

1. Description

Topsoil shall consist of a soil conforming to the requirements of these Specifications, obtained from locations indicated on the Plans or approved by the Engineer, and placed in conformity with the provisions and at locations specified.

Suitable topsoil which has been stripped off of excavation and embankment areas of roadway construction projects shall be stockpiled as directed by the Engineer and later used before additional topsoil is hauled on to the work site. Unsuitable material shall not be included in these stockpiles and shall be wasted as directed by the Engineer.

2. Materials

- (a) Topsoil shall consist of the natural loam, sandy loam, silt loam, or clay loam humus-bearing soils adapted to the sustenance of plant life, and such topsoil shall be neither excessively acid or alkaline.
- (b) Topsoil shall be free from foreign material such as hard pan, stones larger than one inch diameter, concrete, cinders, brick asphalt, or other undesirable materials. It shall also be reasonably free from weeds and objectionable plant material.

3. Construction Requirements

- (a) All areas designated to be covered with topsoil shall be undercut or underfilled to such a degree so that when covered to the required depth with topsoil the finished work will be in accordance with the required lines, grades, slopes, and cross sections.

Such work in fill areas shall be considered subsidiary to the item of Topsoil and no additional compensation will be made, nor will allowance be made in the final measurement for the quantities of Grading. (See Standard Specifications for Grading Subsections 4(a) and 4(d).)

- (b) All areas from which topsoil is procured shall be cleared, if necessary, by means of mowing weeds or other vegetation to a height of approximately 6 inches and freed from any litter such as brush, rock, or foreign material of objectionable size or quantity.
- (c) The available humus-bearing soil shall then be stripped off to such depth as available, or as necessary to produce sufficient volumes to cover the designated areas to the required depths, taking all practicable care to avoid incorporation of any of the underlying sterile soil therewith.

The topsoil thus stripped from these areas may be stockpiled on any convenient place on the right-of-way so that it can be reclaimed and spread on the areas designated, or it may be placed directly on the designated areas provided they have been prepared to receive the same.

(d) After the areas upon which the topsoil is to be placed have been prepared and finished to the required lines, grades, slopes, and cross section, the topsoil shall be placed and spread thereon to a uniform depth as shown on the Plans or required in the Contract, or if none is so shown, to a depth of 3 inches.

(e) All clods and lumps shall be broken down by means of harrows, discs or other appropriate equipment to provide a uniformly textured soil.

Rocks, twigs, large clods that will not break down, and other foreign material shall be removed and the entire surface shall be dressed to present a uniform appearance. Rolling will not be required.

(f) If the quantity of topsoil available in the right-of-way is insufficient, the Contractor shall make up the deficiency with topsoil from a source outside the right-of-way.

4. Method of Measurement

(a) Topsoil will be measured for payment by the cubic yard.

(b) The volume of topsoil, in cubic yards, for which payment shall be made shall be computed by multiplying the area of ground actually covered by the nominal depth of topsoil as indicated on the Plans or as directed by the Engineer. No payment shall be made for any area where the average depth in place measured in the field is significantly less than the nominal depth indicated on the Plans or as directed by the Engineer. Payment shall be made only for that yardage actually used and required in accordance with the requirements and provisions set out in these Specifications or as directed by the Engineer.

(c) Topsoil not required, will not be measured for payment.

5. Basis of Payment

This item will be paid for at the Contract unit price per cubic yard for topsoil, complete in place, which price shall be full compensation for all work, materials, labor, maintenance and other incidentals necessary to complete the item, in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.