SECTION 329203X MULCHING

#### PART 1 – GENERAL

**1.1** **DESCRIPTION.** This item provides the Contractor with MAA-approved specifications for mulch and the application of mulch including distribution of mulch and securing of mulched areas. Areas to be mulched will be clearly shown on site plans or otherwise designated by the MAA Engineer.

**PART 2 – PRODUCTS**

**2.1 TYPES OF MULCH**. Acceptable mulch shall be composed of the materials listed below or composed of any locally available materials that are similar to those specified and approved by the MAA Engineer. Low-grade, shalely, soiled, partially rotted hay, straw, or other materials unfit for animal consumption will not be acceptable for use as mulch. Straw or other material that is fresh, excessively brittle, or is in such an advanced stage of decomposition as to smother or retard the planted grass, is not acceptable. Clean, weed-free straw may be used. Mulch materials containing matured seed with the potential to establish and be detrimental to the project or the surrounding area is not acceptable.

**a. Shredded Hardwood Bark**. Shredded hardwood bark shall consist of hardwood tree bark that has been milled and screened to ensure a maximum 4-inch (100-mm) particle size, provide a uniform texture, and be free from sawdust, toxic substances, and other foreign materials.

**b. Wood Chips**. Wood chips shall be produced by a chipping machine to a size specified by the MAA Engineer. Chips may not have been subjected to any conditions that would shorten their useful life or cause them to lose any of their value as mulch. Wood chips shall be free from bark, leaves, twigs, wood shavings, sawdust, toxic substances, and other foreign material.

**c. Wood Cellulose Fiber**. Wood cellulose fiber shall consist of a processed wood product with uniform fiber characteristics. The fiber shall be capable of remaining in a uniform suspension under agitation in water and blending with seed, fertilizer, and other additives to form a homogeneous slurry. The fiber shall perform satisfactorily in hydraulic seeding equipment without clogging or damaging the system. The slurry shall contain a green dye to provide easy visual inspection for uniformity of application.

Certification showing that the fiber material conforms to the following specifications shall be provided by the manufacturer:

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| Wood Cellulose Fiber Requirements |
| Particle Length, in. (mm) | Approximately 1/2 (13) |
| Particle Thickness, in. (mm) | Approximately 1/16 (1.5) |
| Net dry Weight Content | Minimum as stated on bag |
| TAPPI\* T 509, pH | 4.0 to 8.5 |
| Ash Content, TAPPI\* Standard T 413, % max | 7.0 |
| Water Holding Capacity, % min | 90 |

 \*Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry

The material shall be delivered in packages of uniform net weight of 75 lbs (34 kg) or less and shall be clearly labeled with the name of the manufacturer, net weight, and a supplemental statement of the net weight content.

**2.2 INSPECTION**. Within five days after acceptance of the bid, the Contractor shall provide representative samples of mulch material to be used to the MAA Engineer and identify the source of the material and quantities of mulch materials available. The samples provided may be used as standards with the approval of the MAA Engineer and any materials brought on the site that do not meet these standards may be rejected.

**PART 3 – EXECUTION**

**3.1 ADVANCE PREPARATION**. Before spreading mulch, all large clods, stumps, stones, brush, roots, and other foreign material shall be removed from the area to be mulched. Mulch shall be applied immediately after seeding unless otherwise specified. The application and spreading of mulch may be by hand methods, blower, or other mechanical methods, provided a uniform covering is obtained.

**3.2 APPLICATION OF MULCH.** The Contractor shall evenly apply mulch materials to areas indicated by site plans or otherwise designated by the MAA Engineer. Cellulose-fiber or wood-pulp mulch shall be applied at the rate of 1,500 pounds (dry weight) per acre. Mulch may be blown on the slopes and use of cutters in the equipment for this purpose will be permitted to the extent that at least 95 percent of the mulch in place on the slope is 6 inches or more in length. When mulch applied by the blowing methods is cut, the loose depth in place shall be 1 to 2 inches. Cellulose fiber or wood-pulp mulch shall be applied as an aqueous mixture by spraying at the rate of 1,500 pounds (dry weight) per acre using spraying equipment approved by the MAA Engineer.

**3.3 SECURING MULCH**. Mulch shall be held in place by light discing, a thin coating of topsoil, pins, stakes, wire mesh, or other methods approved by the MAA Engineer. If the “peg and string” method is used, the mulch shall be secured with stakes or wire pins driven into the ground on 5-foot centers or less. Binder twine shall be strung between adjacent stakes in straight lines and crossed diagonally over the mulch. The stakes shall be firmly driven nearly flush to the ground to draw the twine down tightly onto the mulch.

**3.4 MAINTENANCE OF MULCHED AREAS.** The Contractor shall care for mulched areas until final acceptance of the project. Care required may consist of providing protection against traffic or other disturbances by placement of warning signs and/or barricades before or immediately after mulching has been completed.

The Contractor may be required to repair or replace any mulching that is defective or becomes damaged before the project is finished and deemed satisfactory by the MAA Engineer. When, in the judgment of the MAA Engineer, defects or damage result from poor workmanship or failure to meet the requirements of the specifications, the cost of the necessary repairs or replacement will be borne by the Contractor. However, once the Contractor has completed the mulching of an area in accordance with the provisions of the specifications and to the satisfaction of the Engineer, no additional work at his expense will be required. Any subsequent repairs and/or replacements deemed necessary by the Engineer may be made by the Contractor and will be paid for as additional or extra work.

#### PART 4 - METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

**4.1** Mulching will be measured in square yards on the basis of the actual surface area acceptably mulched to depths of 1-, 2-, or 4-inch depths.

#### PART 5 - BASIS OF PAYMENT

**5.1** Payment will be made at the contract unit price per square yard for mulching. This price will provide full compensation for furnishing all materials, for placing and anchoring the materials, and for all labor, equipment, tools, and incidentals necessary to complete the item.

Payment will be made under:

Item 329203X.1Mulching – per square yard at 1-inch depth

Item 329203X.2 Mulching – per square yard at 2-inch depth

Item 329203X.3 Mulching – per square yard at 3-inch depth

#### END OF SECTION 329203X