# SECTION 329202X SODDING

#### PART 1 – GENERAL

#### 1.1 DESCRIPTION

This item provides standards for furnishing, hauling, and placing approved live sod on prepared areas as indicated on site plans. Sod will only be applied to landscape areas and shall be mowed frequently. All sodding activities shall conform to these specifications at the locations shown on site plans or as directed by the MAA Engineer.

**PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

**2.1 SOD.** Sod furnished by the Contractor shall have a good cover of living or growing grass. This includes grass that is seasonally dormant during the cold or dry seasons and capable of renewing growth after the dormant period. All sod shall be obtained from areas in which the soil is reasonably fertile and contains a high percentage of loamy topsoil. Sod shall be cut or stripped from living, thickly matted turf relatively free of weeds or other undesirable foreign plants, large stones, roots, or other materials that might be detrimental to the development of the sod or to future maintenance. Grass sod shall be Maryland-certified or approved and shall comply with the Maryland Sod Law of the Annotated Code of Maryland (Agricultural Article Sections 9-101 through 9-110). Each load of sod shall bear a Maryland State Approved or Certified label at the time of delivery on the job. Sod shall be either: (1) Bluegrass sod containing not less than 80 percent Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and not more than 20 percent Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*); or (2) certified turf type-tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) sod containing not less than 80 percent certified turf type-tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) grass and not more than 20 percent Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Any vegetation more than 6 inches in height shall be mowed to a height of 3 inches or less before sod is lifted. Sod, including the soil containing the roots and the emergent plant growth, shall be cut uniformly to a thickness not less than that specified in Section 904-3.4.

**2.2 LIME**. Lime shall conform to standards described in Section 903, “Seeding.”

**2.3 FERTILIZER.** Fertilizers and application methods shall conform to the standards previously described in Section 903, “Seeding.”

**2.4 WATER.** All water shall conform to the standards previously described in Paragraph 902-2.4, “Water.”

**2.5 SOILS FOR REPAIR.** All soils for repairs shall conform to the standards previously described in Paragraph 901-2.3, “Soils for Repair.”

**PART 3 – EXECUTION**

**3.1** **GENERAL.** Areas to be sodded shall be clearly indicated by site plans. Areas requiring special ground surface preparation, such as tilling, and those areas in a satisfactory condition that are to remain undisturbed shall also be shown on the plans.

Suitable equipment necessary for proper preparation of the ground surface and for the handling and placing of all required materials shall be on hand, in good condition, and shall be approved by the MAA Engineer before sodding operations begin. The Contractor shall demonstrate to the MAA Engineer, before starting the various operations, that the application of required materials, such as fertilizer and limestone, will be made at the specified rates.

**3.2 ADVANCE PREPARATION.** If the area to be sodded is sparsely vegetated, weedy, barren and unworked, or packed and hard, all existing herbaceous vegetation shall be removed. The soil shall then be scarified or otherwise loosened to a depth of at least 5 inches (125 mm). Clods shall be pulverized, and the top 3 inches (75 mm) of soil shall be worked into a satisfactory bed by discing or use of cultipackers, rollers, drags, harrows, or other equipment approved by the MAA Engineer. The area shall then be properly graded as indicated by site plans.

After grading of areas is complete and prior to the application of fertilizer and limestone, areas to be sodded shall be raked or otherwise cleared of stones larger than 1 inch in diameter, sticks, stumps, and other debris which might interfere with sodding, growth of grasses, or subsequent maintenance of grass-covered areas. If any damage by erosion or other causes has occurred after grading of areas and before beginning the application of fertilizer and ground limestone, the Contractor shall repair such damage. This may include filling gullies, smoothing irregularities, and repairing other incidental damage.

An area to be sodded will be considered a satisfactory seedbed without requiring additional treatment if it recently has been thoroughly loosened and worked to a depth of at least 5 inches as a result of grading operations and, if immediately prior to sodding, the top 3 inches of soil is loose, friable, reasonably free from large clods, rocks, large roots, or other undesirable matter, and is shaped to the required grade. For slope areas steeper than 3:1 (three horizontal to one vertical) the subsoil shall be loosened to a depth of 1 inch. Lime and fertilizer shall be applied within 48 hours after tilling as described in 903-3.3 and 3.4. The sod shall be applied immediately after the lime and fertilizer have been worked into the soil.

**3.3 APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER AND LIME.** Following ground surface preparation, fertilizer shall be uniformly spread as described in Section 903-3.3 at a rate that will provide at least the minimum quantity of fertilizer required. If the use of ground limestone is specified, it shall be spread as described in Section 903-3.3, “Methods of Application”; at a rate that will provide at least the minimum quantity of lime required. These materials shall be incorporated into the soil to a depth of at least 2 inches by discing, raking, or other methods approved by the MAA Engineer. Any stones larger than 1 inch in diameter, large clods, roots, and other litter brought to the surface by this operation shall be removed.

**3.4 OBTAINING AND DELIVERING SOD.** The sod shall be well rooted, grown in the State of Maryland, and field grown for a minimum of 12 months. After inspection and approval of the sod by the MAA Engineer, the sod shall be cut with approved sod cutters to such a thickness that after placement on the prepared bed, but before compaction, it shall have a uniform attached soil thickness of at least 0.75 inch. Sod sections or strips shall be cut in uniform widths of at least 14 inches and in lengths of at least 18 inches, but not to lengths that might inhibit placement without breaking, tearing, or loss of soil. Where strips are required, the sod shall be rolled or folded undamaged, with the grass facing inward. The Contractor may be required to mow high grass before cutting sod.

Sod shall be transplanted within 24 hours from the time of harvest unless circumstances beyond the Contractor’s control make storage necessary. In such cases, sod shall be stacked, kept moist, protected from exposure to the air and sun, and shall be kept from freezing. Sod shall only be harvested and moved when soil moisture conditions are such that favorable results can be expected. Where soil is too dry, permission to cut sod may be granted only after it has been sufficiently watered to moisten the soil to the depth at which the sod will be cut.

**3.5 PLACING SOD.** Sodding shall only be performed during seasons when satisfactory results can be expected. Frozen sod shall not be used and sod shall not be placed upon frozen soil. Sod may be transplanted during periods of drought with the approval of the MAA Engineer, provided the sod bed is watered to moisten the soil to a depth of at least 4 inches immediately prior to laying the sod.

The sod shall be moist and shall be placed on a bed, prepared according to Paragraphs 904-3.2 “Advance Preparation”, and 904-3.3, “Application of Fertilizer and Lime” by hand. Pitchforks shall not be used to handle sod, and dumping from vehicles shall not be permitted. The sod shall be placed carefully by hand, edge to edge and with staggered joints, in rows at right angles to the slopes, starting at the base of the area to be sodded and working upward. The sod shall immediately be pressed firmly into contact with the sod bed by tamping or rolling with approved equipment to provide a true and even surface, and ensure knitting without displacement of the sod or deformation of the surfaces of sodded areas. Where the sod has been displaced during sodding operations, the workmen replacing it shall work from ladders or treaded planks to prevent further displacement. Where the grades are such that the flow of water will be from paved surfaces across sodded areas, the surface of the soil in the sod after compaction shall be set approximately 1.5 inches below the pavement edge. Where the flow will be over the sodded areas and onto the paved surfaces around manholes and inlets, the surface of the soil in the sod after compaction shall be placed flush with pavement edges.

On slopes steeper than 1:2.5 and in V-shaped or flat-bottom ditches or gutters, the sod shall be secured with wooden pegs at least 18 inches long and a cross-sectional area of at least 0.75-square inch, or by other methods of securing sod approved by the MAA Engineer. The pegs shall be driven flush with the surface of the sod. The pegs shall be of sufficient number and at adequate spacing to secure sod from displacement. The use of sod staples or other means of securing the sod from displacement may be approved by the MAA Engineer provided satisfactory results are expected.

**3.6 WATERING.** Adequate water and watering equipment shall be on hand before sodding begins, and sod shall be kept moist until it has become established and its continued growth assured. In all cases, watering shall be done in a manner that will avoid erosion from the application of excessive quantities and will avoid damage to the finished surface.

**3.7 ESTABLISHING TURF**.

**3.7.1 GENERAL.** The Contractor shall provide general care for the sodded areas as soon as the sod has been laid and shall continue to provide such care until final inspection and acceptance of the work.

**3.7.2 PROTECTION.** All sodded areas shall be protected against traffic or other use by warning signs and barricades approved by the MAA Engineer.

**3.7.3 MOWING.** The Contractor shall mow the sodded areas with approved mowing equipment, depending upon climatic and growth conditions and the needs for mowing of specific areas. In the event that weeds or other undesirable vegetation establishes to such an extent that, either cut or uncut, they threaten to smother the sodded species, the weeds shall be mowed and the clippings raked and removed from the area. Spot applications of an appropriate herbicide by a licensed applicator shall be approved by the MAA Engineer to remove invasive species. The appropriate herbicide shall be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the location and type of weed.

**3.7.4 REPAIR.** When the surface has become gullied or otherwise damaged during the period covered by this contract, the affected areas shall be repaired to re-establish the grade and the condition of the soil and shall then be re-sodded as specified in Paragraph 904-3.5, “Placing Sod”, at the Contractor’s expense.

**PART 4 - METHOD OF MEASUREMENT**

**4.4** This item will be measured on the basis of the area in square yards of the surface covered with sod and accepted.

**PART 5 - BASIS OF PAYMENT**

**5.1** This item will be paid for on the basis of the contract unit price per square yard for sodding. The price will provide full compensation for all labor, equipment, material, staking, and incidentals necessary to satisfactorily complete the items as specified.

Payment will be made under:

Item 329202X.1 Sodding—per square yard.

Item 329202X.2 Amendments – per square yard

Item 329202X.3 Fertilizer – per square yard

**END OF SECTION 329202X**