

631 Sodding

631.1 Description

- (1) This section describes furnishing and laying live sod on the shoulders, slopes, ditches, or at other designated locations, and constructing sod ditch checks or similar structures as the plans show, the contract specifies or as the engineer directs.

631.2 Materials

631.2.1 Sod

- (1) The sod must consist of a dense, well-rooted growth of permanent and desirable grasses, indigenous to the general locality it is to be placed, that is practicably free from weeds or undesirable grasses. When cutting the sod, the grass should be approximately 2 inches long. If longer, cut the grass to approximately this length and rake the sod free of debris.
- (2) Cut the sod in uniform commercial size strips.
- (3) Make the sod thickness as uniform as possible, approximately 3/4 inch or more, depending on the nature of the sod, so that practicably all of the dense root system is retained, but exposed, in the sod strip and so that handling the sod causes no undue tearing or breaking.
- (4) If the sod is dry such that cutting it causes crumbling or breaking, apply water to it at least 12 hours before cutting to provide well-moistened sod throughout the cut depth.
- (5) Sod provided under the Sod Lawn bid item must have a lush appearance, be dense, have a uniform texture, and be bright in color throughout. The sod must not contain blade widths of 1/4 inch or greater. Provide a weed free sod that contains no more than 3/8 inch of thatch over the base soil. The sod must consist of a blend or mix of at least 4 fine-leaved turf grasses. At least 2/3 of the grasses by weight, as determined by initial seeding proportions, consists of improved/elite type Kentucky bluegrass varieties.
- (6) Under the Sod Erosion Control bid item, provide a low maintenance type, dense, and of uniform texture. Provide a sod free of noxious weeds and that contains a combined total of 3 percent or less grassy weeds, sedges, broadleaf weeds, or coarse grasses. The sod must consist of a blend or mix of at least 4 fine-leaved turf grasses. At least 70 percent of the grasses by weight, as determined by initial seeding proportions, must consist of acceptable low maintenance varieties or species as listed by the UW Extension. The contractor may obtain this list from the UW Madison, horticulture department, turf grass extension.
- (7) The Sod Erosion Control Sandy Soil bid item must conform to requirements for Sod Erosion Control and must be commercially produced on soil having 10 percent or less organic matter by mass.

631.2.2 Water

- (1) Furnish clean water, free of impurities or substances that might injure the sod.

631.3 Construction

- (1) Provide the type of sod the plan designates or the engineer directs consistent with the following criteria:
 1. Under the Sod Lawn bid item, use in areas where the property owner provides necessary maintenance, including mowing, fertilizing, and watering, and where the primary objective is for aesthetics. Do not use in urban or suburban areas where maintenance is limited to mowing by the property owner or municipality.
 2. Under the Sod Erosion Control bid item, use on limited areas of a project where a quick stand of vegetation is needed for erosion control purposes, or in urban or suburban areas where the primary objective is aesthetics, but where maintenance is limited to mowing.
 3. Under the Sod Erosion Control Sandy Soil bid item, use in the same areas as Sod Erosion Control, but where sandy or gravelly soils predominate.

631.3.1 Preparing the Earth Bed

- (1) Before sodding, construct the proposed area to the required cross-section and contour, and round the tops and bottoms of the slopes to a minimum 4-foot radius curve. Ensure that the sodded areas are free from stones, roots, or other undesirable foreign material. Loosen the soil on the sodded area to at least one inch deep and bring it to a reasonably fine granular texture by equipment or hand methods adapted to the purpose.

631.3.2 Placing the Sod

- (1) Moisten the earth bed that the sod is being placed on to the loosened depth, if not naturally sufficiently moist. Do not place frozen sod, nor place sod on frozen soil. Place the sod on the bed within approximately 24 hours after cutting. Lay the sod so that the joints at abutting ends of sod strips are not continuous. Lay each sod strip to abut snugly against the previously laid strip.

- (2) Lay sod in strips of commercial size where possible. Do not lay partial-size strips of sod smaller than 18 inches by 24 inches. When laying the sod, roll it or firmly but lightly tamp with suitable wooden or metal tampers to set or press the sod into the underlying soil.
- (3) At points where water will flow over a sodded area, turn the upper edges of the sod strips into the soil below the adjacent area and place a layer of earth over this juncture. Compact the earth thoroughly so surface water flows over the upper edge of the sod.
- (4) At the limits of sodded areas, if possible, place the end strips to achieve a broken line, and turn the ends of the strips in and treat as described above.

631.3.3 Staking and Cleanup

- (1) On slopes steeper than one unit vertical to 4 units horizontal (1:4), stake the sod, or peg with pieces of plasterers' lath or equivalent stakes, at least 6 inches long, spaced as the soil nature and slope steepness dictate, from 18 to 36 inches apart along the length of the sod strip. If possible, place stakes near the top edge of the sod strip and drive plumb through the sod. After installing, stakes should hold the sod firmly in place and present no danger to pedestrians or mowing crews.
- (2) Stake sod placed in ditches, flumes, or other drainage components, where a concentrated flow of water is expected, regardless of the slope. After completing the surface staking, clear the surface of loose sod, excess soil, or other foreign material.

631.3.4 Fertilizer

- (1) If the contract contains the bid item Fertilizer, then fertilize areas receiving sod according to [629.3.1.1](#) unless otherwise specified.

631.3.5 Watering

- (1) Under the Sod Water bid item, furnish and apply water to sodded areas. After staking and cleanup, moisten the sod thoroughly by sprinkling with water. Keep sodded areas thoroughly moist by watering or sprinkling if rainfall is not sufficient to achieve sod rooting to the earth bed. Water for 30 days after placement or as the engineer directs. Apply water in a manner to preclude washing or erosion.

631.4 Measurement

- (1) The department will measure Sod Lawn, Sod Erosion Control, and Sod Erosion Control Sandy Soil by the square yard acceptably completed.
- (2) The department will measure Sod Water by the 1000 gallons acceptably completed, measured as the volume indicated by engineer-approved meters or by the volume of tanks of known capacity.

631.5 Payment

- (1) The department will pay for measured quantities at the contract unit price under the following bid items:

<u>ITEM NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
631.0300	Sod Water	MGAL
631.1000	Sod Lawn	SY
631.1100	Sod Erosion Control	SY
631.1200	Sod Erosion Control Sandy Soil	SY

- (2) Payment for Sod Lawn, Sod Erosion Control, and Sod Erosion Control Sandy Soil is full compensation for preparing the earth bed; and for furnishing, placing, staking, and rolling the sod. Payment also includes watering if the contract does not contain the Sod Water bid item.
- (3) Payment for Sod Water is full compensation for watering sod.