SECTION 329200

TURF AND GRASSES

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***NOTE TO SPECIFIER***

*Use this Specification Section for Mail Processing Facilities.*

***This is a Type 2 Specification with primarily editable text; therefore, most of the text can be edited, but there is some required text which is noted within the Section with a “Note to Specifier.” Do not revise these paragraphs without an approved Deviation from USPS Headquarters, Facilities Program Management, through the USPS Project Manager.***

*For Design/Build projects, do not delete the Notes to Specifier in this Section so that they may be available to Design/Build entity when preparing the Construction Documents.*

*For the Design/Build entity, this specification is intended as a guide for the Architect/Engineer preparing the Construction Documents.*

*The MPF specifications may also be used for Design/Bid/Build projects. In either case, it is the responsibility of the design professional to edit the Specifications Sections as appropriate for the project.*

*Text shown in brackets must be modified as needed for project specific requirements.* *See the “Using the USPS Guide Specifications” document in Folder C for more information.*

*The last date that USPS revised this standard specification section occurs in two places, at the end of this section and in the Table of Contents. If the date in this section matches the date in the Table of Contents, then you are using the latest version. Do not delete or revise the “last revised” date at the end of the section during the development of the Project Manual.*

*The footer in this section should be edited to replace the text, “USPS MPF SPECIFICATION” with the project name, and the blank date in the center should be replaced with the submission date, for interim design reviews, or the issue date of the completed Project Manual.*

**See Handbook AS-503, Standard Design Criteria, Modules 1 and 2A, 1-2.6, for more information regarding landscaping.**

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1. GENERAL
   1. SUMMARY
      1. Section Includes:
         1. Seed.
         2. Sod.
         3. Sprigs.
         4. Mulches.
         5. Asphalt Adhesive.
         6. Water.
         7. Erosion Control Material.
      2. Related Documents: The Contract Documents, as defined in Section 011000 - Summary of Work, apply to the Work of this Section. Additional requirements and information necessary to complete the Work of this Section may be found in other documents.
      3. Related Sections:
         1. Section 311000 - Site Clearing: Mulch from recycled site debris.
         2. Section 312000 - Earth Moving: Topsoil material.
         3. Section 313200 - Soil Stabilization: Stabilization materials and procedures.
         4. Section 312500 - Erosion and Sedimentation Controls: Slope and erosion protection materials.
         5. Section 329200 - Plants: Planting materials.
         6. Section 092900 - Gypsum Board: Soil amendment from recycled scrap gypsum.
   2. REFERENCES
      1. American Society For Testing and Materials (ASTM):
         1. ASTM C 602 - Specification for Agricultural Liming Materials.
         2. ASTM D 977 - Specification for Emulsified Asphalt.
      2. American Sod Producers Association (ASPA):
         1. ASPA STSMT - Specification for Turfgrass Sod Materials and Transplanting/Installing.
   3. SUBMITTALS
      1. Section 013300 - Submittal Procedures: Procedures for submittals.
         1. Assurance/Control Submittals:
            1. Certificates:

Submit certificate from seed supplier for each grass-seed mixture stating the botanical and common name and percentage by weight of each species and variety, and percentage of purity, germination, and weed seed. Include the year of production and date of packaging.

Submit certificate from sod supplier for each seed mixture, identifying sod source, including name and telephone number of supplier.

* + 1. Section 017704 - Closeout Procedures and Training: Procedures for closeout submittals.
       1. Operation and Maintenance Data: Include maintenance instructions, cutting method and maximum grass height, types of application frequency, and recommended coverage of fertilizer for one full growing cycle.
  1. QUALITY ASSURANCE
     1. Regulatory Requirements: Conform to applicable requirements of the Local and State Department of Agriculture Extension Service of the state in which the project is located.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

**REQUIRED**: Do not revise ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS without an approved Deviation from USPS Headquarters, Facilities Program Management, through the USPS Project Manager.

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1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

* + 1. Resource Management:
       1. Renewable Resources: Plants specified are indigenous, low maintenance varieties, tolerant of site's existing soils and climate without supplemental irrigation or fertilization once established.
          1. Soil amendments: No chemical fertilizers; use organic/natural matter to support establishment of indigenous plants; use inorganic materials such as sand or gypsum to improve workability and drainage of soil as appropriate to indigenous plants.
          2. Mulch: Provide organic mulch products.
       2. Recycled Content:
          1. Wood fiber mulch: Provide products manufactured from 100 % post-consumer paper content and yard trimming composts.
          2. Mulch from recycled site debris: Coordinate with Section 311000 - Site Clearing to identify and prepare suitable organic debris for use as mulch on site.
          3. Soil amendment from recycled scrap gypsum: Coordinate with Section 092900 - Gypsum Board to prepare scrap gypsum board for use as soil amendment.

1. PRODUCTS
   1. SEED

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for classification appropriate for location of Project Site.

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* + 1. Classification:
       1. [State-Certified] [State Approved] of latest season's crop delivered in original sealed packages bearing producer's guaranteed analysis for percentages of mixtures, purity, germination, weed seed content, and inert material.
       2. Label in conformance with applicable state seed laws.
       3. Wet, moldy, or damaged seed will be rejected.
  1. SOD

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for classification appropriate for location of Project Site.

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* + 1. Classification:
       1. [Nursery grown] [Field] [Certified] as classified in ASPA STSMT.
       2. Machine cut sod at a uniform thickness of 3/4 inch with a tolerance of 1/4 inch, excluding top growth and thatch. Each individual sod piece capable of supporting its own weight when lifted by ends.
       3. Broken pads, irregularly shaped pieces, torn or uneven ends will be rejected.
       4. Wood pegs and wire staples for anchorage as recommended by sod supplier.
  1. SPRIGS
     1. Healthy living stems, stolons, or rhizomes and attached roots of locally adapted grass without adhering soil, including two to three nodes, from 4 to 6 inches long, obtained from heavy and dense sod.
        1. Provide sprigs which have been grown under climatic conditions similar to those in locality of Project Site.
        2. Coordinate harvesting and planting operations to prevent exposure of sprigs to sun for more than 30 minutes before covering and moistening.
        3. Sprigs containing weeds or other detrimental material or that are heat damaged will be rejected.
  2. MULCHES
     1. Provide mulch free from noxious weeds, mold, and other deleterious materials.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 1: Use paragraph below when STRAW is selected for Project.

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* + 1. Straw: Stalks from oats, wheat, rye, barley, or rice. Air-dry condition of proper consistency for placing with commercial mulch blowing equipment.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 2: Use paragraph below when HAY is selected for Project.

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* + 1. Hay: Use only marsh hay for lawn areas. Air-dry condition of proper consistency for placing with commercial mulch blowing equipment.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 3: Use paragraph below when WOOD FIBER is selected for Project.

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* + 1. Wood Cellulose Fiber:
       1. Processed to contain no growth or germination-inhibiting factors, dyed with non toxic, biodegradable dye to an appropriate color to facilitate visual metering of materials application.
       2. Composition on air-dry weight basis: 9 to 15 percent moisture, pH range from 3.5 to 5.0
       3. Use with hydraulic application of grass seed and fertilizer.
       4. Provide organic mulch products manufactured from 100 percent post-consumer paper content and yard trimming composts.
       5. Manufacturers:
          1. National Fiber, Belcher, MA, (800) 282-7711 or (413) 283-8747.
          2. Wood Recycling Inc., Woburn, MA, (800) 982-8732 or (617) 937-0855.
          3. Section 016000 - Product Requirements: Product options and substitutions. Substitutions: Permitted.
  1. STABILIZING MATERIALS
     1. Specified in Section 313200.
     2. Asphalt Adhesive: ASTM D 977, Grade RS-1. Use with straw or hay mulch.
     3. Cellulose Fiber: Use for anchoring straw. Fiber binding shall be applied at a net dry weight of 750 pounds per acre. Cellulose fiber may be mixed with water. Mixture shall contain maximum of 50 pounds of cellulose fiber per 100 gallons of water.
     4. Mulch Netting: Stake light weight plastic netting over the mulch according to manufacturer's recommendations. Stakes shall be driven to ground level.
  2. WATER
     1. Suitable quality for irrigation.
  3. EROSION CONTROL MATERIAL
     1. Specified in Section 312500.
     2. Net: Heavy, twisted jute mesh, plastic mesh, biodegradable paper fabric with knitted yarns, or standard weave burlap.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for BLANKET type selected for Project.

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* + 1. Blanket: [Fiber] [Excelsior] [ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ].
  1. TOPSOIL
     1. Topsoil:

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for percentage of organic matter appropriate to establishment of plants selected for Project.

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* + - 1. Containing organic matter as needed to support establishment of plants; minimum [ \_\_ ] percent and maximum [ \_\_\_ ] percent organic matter as determined by soil testing service. Maximum particle size, 3/4 inch, with maximum 3 percent retained on 1/4 inch screen.
      2. Component Percentages:
         1. Silt: 25 to 50
         2. Clay: 10 to 30
         3. Sand: 20 to 30
         4. pH: 5.5 to 7.0
         5. Soluble Salts: 600 ppm maximum

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below to include additional inorganic material such as gypsum as needed to improve workability and drainage of soil and as appropriate to establishment of plants selected for Project.

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* + - * 1. Gypsum: [ \_\_\_\_ ] to [ \_\_\_\_ ].
        2. pH: 5.5 to 7.0.
  1. pH ADJUSTERS
     1. Lime:
        1. Material: ASTM C 602, Class T, agricultural commercial grade ground limestone containing not less than 50 percent of total oxides.
        2. Gradation: Minimum 75 percent passing 100 mesh sieve and 100 percent passing 20 mesh sieve.
     2. Ferrous Sulfate: Commercial Grade.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit FERTILIZER below for type of fertilizer appropriate for specific soil conditions at Project Site.

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* 1. FERTILIZER
     1. Bonemeal: Commercial, raw, finely ground; minimum 4 percent nitrogen and 20 percent phosphoric acid.
     2. Superphosphate: Commercial-Grade complete fertilizer of neutral character consisting of fast-and-slow-release nitrogen, 50 percent derived from natural organic sources of urea-form, phosphorous, and potassium in following composition:

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 1: Use paragraph below when fertilizer COMPOSITION IS SPECIFIED. Edit for composition.

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* + - 1. Composition: [1] [ \_\_\_ ] pound per [1000] [ \_\_\_ ] square feet of actual nitrogen, [4] [ \_\_\_ ] percent phosphorous, and [2] [ \_\_\_ ] percent potassium, by weight.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 2: Use paragraph below when fertilizer COMPOSITION IS DETERMINED BY "Report of Subsurface Investigation" prepared by the Geotechnical Engineer.

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* + - 1. Composition: Nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in amounts recommended in soil reports from a qualified soil-testing agency.
    1. Slow-Release Fertilizer: Granular fertilizer consisting of 50 percent water-insoluble nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in the following composition:

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 1: Use paragraph below when fertilizer COMPOSITION IS SPECIFIED. Edit for composition.

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* + - 1. Composition: [20] [ \_\_\_ ] percent nitrogen, [10] [ \_\_\_ ] percent phosphorous, and [10] [ \_\_\_ ] percent potassium, by weight.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 2: Use paragraph below when fertilizer COMPOSITION IS DETERMINED BY "Report of Subsurface Investigation" prepared by the Geotechnical Engineer.

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* + - 1. Composition: Nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in amounts recommended in soil reports from qualified soil-testing agency.

1. EXECUTION
   1. EXAMINATION
      1. Section 017300 - Execution: Verification of existing conditions before starting work.
      2. Verification of Conditions: Verify that field measurements, surfaces, and conditions are as required, and ready to receive Work.
      3. Report in writing to Contracting Officer prevailing conditions that will adversely affect satisfactory execution of the Work of this Section. Do not proceed with Work until unsatisfactory conditions have been corrected.
      4. By beginning Work, Contractor accepts conditions and assumes responsibility for correcting unsuitable conditions encountered at no additional cost to the United States Postal Service.
   2. PREPARATION OF SUBSOIL
      1. Prepare subsoil to eliminate uneven areas and low spots. Maintain lines, levels, profiles, and contours. Make changes in grade gradual. Blend slopes into level areas.
      2. Remove foreign materials, weeds, and undesirable plants and their roots. Remove contaminated subsoil.
      3. Scarify subsoil to a depth of 3 inches where topsoil is to be placed. Repeat cultivation in areas where equipment, used for hauling and spreading topsoil, has compacted subsoil.
      4. Place topsoil as specified in Section 312000.
   3. FERTILIZING
      1. Apply fertilizer in accordance with manufacturer's published instructions.
      2. Apply after smooth after smooth raking of topsoil and prior to roller compaction.
      3. Do not apply fertilizer at same time or with same machine as will be used to apply seed.
      4. Mix thoroughly into upper 2 inches of topsoil.
      5. Lightly water to aid the dissipation of fertilizer.
      6. No chemical fertilizers.
   4. SEEDING
      1. Sow one-half of seed in one direction and remainder at right angles to first sowing.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for depth selected.

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* + 1. Cover seed to average depth of [1/2] [ \_\_\_ ] inch by means of spike-tooth harrow, cultipacker, or other recommended device.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for selected Seeding and depth selected.

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* + 1. Drill Seeding:
       1. Use [cultipacker seeders] [grass seed drills] [ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ].
       2. Drill seed uniformly to an average depth of [1/2][ \_\_\_ ] inch and at a rate of [ \_\_\_ ] pounds per 1,000 square feet.
    2. Hydroseeding:
       1. Mix seed, fertilizer, and wood cellulose fiber in required amount of water to product a homogeneous slurry. Add wood cellulose fiber after seed, water, and fertilizer have been thoroughly mixed and apply at the rate of 200 pounds per acre dry weight.
       2. Hydraulically spray material on ground to form a blotter-like cover impregnated uniformly with grass seed.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for depth application rate selected.

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* + - 1. Immediately following application of slurry mix, make separate application of wood cellulose mulch at the rate of [800] [1,000] pounds, dry weight, per acre.
      2. Apply cover so that rainfall or applied water will percolate to underlying soil.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for application rate selected.

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* + 1. Mulch:
       1. Spread evenly at rate of [ \_\_\_ ] tons per acre.
       2. Anchor by crimping mulch with serrated disc, or by spraying asphalt emulsion on mulched surface.
       3. Take precautionary measures to prevent asphalt materials from marking of defacing structures, pavements, utilities, or plantings.
    2. Rolling:
       1. Immediately after seeding, firm entire area except for slopes in excess of 3 to 1 with a roller not exceeding 90 pounds for each foot of roller width.
       2. If seeding is performed with cultipacker-type seeder or hydroseeding, rolling may be eliminated.
    3. Erosion Control Material: Install in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
  1. SODDING
     1. Placing:
        1. Place a maximum of 20 hours after initial harvesting, in accordance with ASPA GSS as modified herein.
        2. Thoroughly moisten areas to be sodded immediately prior to placing.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for sod spacing and overseeding locations selected.

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* + 1. Spot Sodding:
       1. Cut sod into plugs 2 inches square or 2 inches in diameter. Place individual pieces on [ \_\_ ] inch centers and press firmly into soil by foot pressure or by tamping.
       2. Overseed for erosion control on [all] [3 to 1 or greater slopes and drainage ways in] spot sodded areas.
       3. Place seed, as specified above, at the rate of [ \_\_\_\_ ] pounds per 1,000 square feet.
    2. Slopes and Ditches:
       1. For slopes 2:1 and greater, lay with long edge parallel to slope.
       2. V-ditches and flat bottomed ditches, lay with long edge perpendicular to flow of water.
       3. Anchor each piece of sod with wood pegs or wire staples maximum 2 feet on center.
       4. On slope areas, start sodding at bottom of slope.
    3. Finishing: After completing sodding, blend edges of sodded area smoothly into surrounding area.
    4. Watering: Start immediately after completing each day's sodding. Apply at a rate sufficient to ensure thorough wetting of soil to minimum depth of 4 inches.
  1. SPRIGGING
     1. Rate:
        1. Perform a maximum 36 hours after initial harvesting. Inspect sprigs for heat damage during planting operation.
        2. Plant groups of sprigs at 12 inch maximum intervals. Limit interval between dropping sprigs and covering with soil to 10 minutes.
     2. Planting:

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 1: Use paragraph below when BROADCAST method is selected.

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* + - 1. Broadcast sprigs by hand, manure spreader, or other suitable devices over prepared surface. Force sprigs into soil to a depth of approximately 4 inches with disk harrow or other recommended equipment.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 2: Use paragraph below when FURROW PLANTING method is selected.

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* + - 1. Plant sprigs in furrows spaced a maximum 12 inches apart. Immediately after opening furrows, place sprigs. Fill furrows so that surface is flush with designated grade and a live portion of each sprig is exposed.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

OPTION 3: Use paragraph below when FLUSH PLANTING method is selected.

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* + - 1. Plant to a depth of approximately 4 inches and cover sprigs so that surface is flush with designated grade and a live portion of each sprig is exposed.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for OVERSEEDING rate selected.

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* + 1. Overseeding: Broadcast additional seed as specified above, at the rate of [ \_\_\_ ] pounds per 1000 square feet.
    2. Rolling: Immediately after completion of sprigging operations and additional seeding, if required, roll planted area with cultipacker or roller not exceeding 90 pounds for each foot of roller width.
    3. Watering: Apply at time of sprigging operations at a rate sufficient to ensure thorough wetting of soil to a depth of 4 inches.

3.7 CLEANING AND PROTECTION

* + 1. Remove soil and debris created by lawn work from paved areas. Clean wheels of vehicles before leaving site to avoid tracking soil onto surface of roads, walks, or other paved areas.
    2. Immediately after seeding, sodding or sprigging, protect the area against traffic or other use.
    3. Restore existing lawn and grass areas which have been damaged during execution of this work to original condition.
    4. Keep one paved pedestrian access route and one paved vehicular access route to each building clean at all times. Clean other paving when work in adjacent areas is complete.
  1. ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD
     1. Definitions:
        1. Lawns and grasses establishment period will be in effect until lawns and grasses have been mowed 3 times.
        2. Stand of lawn and grass is 95 percent ground cover of established species.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for grass average height and fertilizer type selected.

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* + 1. Maintenance During Establishment Period:
       1. Mow lawns and grassed areas to an average height of [ \_\_\_ ] inches whenever average height of grass becomes [ \_\_\_ ] inches.
       2. Promotion of growth: Mow, remove excess clippings, eradicate weeds, water, fertilize, overseed, and perform other operations necessary to promote growth.
       3. Post-fertilize areas with [commercial grade] [controlled release] fertilizer approximately [ \_\_\_ ] days after planting and at intervals of [ \_\_\_ ] weeks thereafter until accepted. Apply fertilizer uniformly at the rate of [ \_\_\_ ] pounds per 1,000 square feet.
  1. FINAL INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE
     1. Final Inspection and Acceptance:
        1. Final inspection will be made upon written request from the Contractor at least 10 days prior to last day of lawn and grasses establishment period.

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**NOTE TO SPECIFIER**

Edit paragraph below for application rate selected.

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* + - 1. Final acceptance will be based upon a satisfactory stand of lawns and grasses as defined in the paragraph entitled, "Establishment Period." [Prior to final acceptance apply [ [ \_\_ ] pounds per 1,000 square feet] ] [ [ \_\_\_ ] pounds per acre] ] of controlled release fertilizer.
    1. Replanting: Replant areas which do not have a satisfactory stand of lawns and grasses.
    2. Contractor is to maintain lawns and grasses for one year from completion.

END OF SECTION

USPS MPF Specification Last Revised: 10/1/2022