

FORM 633



GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Department of Transportation and Works
Highway Design Division

SECTION 633

SODDING

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633.01 SCOPE

This specification covers the requirements for surface preparation, supply, and spreading of topsoil, and the supply and placing of sod over areas to be treated with sodding, together with the provision of maintenance for the placed sodding over a period of one month.

633.02 MATERIALS

The following materials shall be supplied by the Contractor and shall conform to the requirements as stated.

633.02.01 Sod

Sod shall consist of a dense well rooted growth of permanent and desirable grasses, uniform in texture and free from weeds. It shall be in good healthy condition with no sign of decay and contain sufficient moisture to maintain its vitality during transportation and placing.

Grass on the sod shall be of a length not longer than 75 mm. If necessary the grass may be mowed prior to lifting the sod so as to cut the grass to within the tolerance.

All sod shall be cut in rectangular sections of uniform width and thickness and may be cut in varying lengths. The sod shall be in widths not less than 300 mm nor more than 500 mm, in thickness not less than the depth of the fibrous roots and in no case less than 50 mm.

Contractors should note that legislation prohibits the removal of sod from areas zoned by Government for agricultural use.

Information regarding the location of these agricultural zones may be obtained from the appropriate Government Department.

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633.02.02 Topsoil

Topsoil shall be fertile loamy material of a quality acceptable to the Engineer. It shall be free from roots, vegetation or other debris of such size and quantity as would, in the opinion of the Engineer, prevent proper application of the topsoil and free from stones and clods over 50 mm in greatest diameter. Topsoil badly infested by seeds and noxious weeds will not be accepted.

The topsoil may only be taken from a source of supply approved by the Engineer.

Soil removed as part of the grubbing operations may be used if the material meets the requirements of this section.

Contractors should note that legislation prohibits the removal of topsoil from areas zoned by Government for agricultural use.

633.02.03 Pegs

Pegs shall be made from good quality wood. They shall be pointed at one end and be approximately 300 mm long and have an approximate diameter of about 25 mm.

633.03 PREPARATION OF GROUND

Sodding shall be carried out only within the limits as staked by the Engineer.

Surfaces that are to be treated with sodding shall first be trimmed to restore the ground to the condition it was in prior to any erosion which may have taken place. This work shall consist of such dozer and hand work that is necessary to restore the ground to the lines and slopes as existed on completion of grading operations.

At the edge of shoulders and ditches and adjacent to other vegetation, the ground shall be hand excavated to such depth that will allow for the placing of topsoil and sod such that at the joint the top of the sod is flush with the top of the adjacent ground so as to allow the free flow of water across the joint and also so as to present a neat appearance.

All areas to be sodded shall be fine graded to a uniform surface and the surface materials shall be loosened to a depth of 25 mm. These areas shall be so maintained until the topsoil is placed.

633.04 PLACING TOPSOIL

After completion of preparation of ground operations, topsoil shall be uniformly spread over the entire area to be sodded.

The topsoil shall be placed to a depth not less than 50 mm. All clods or lumps shall be pulverized and any roots or foreign matter shall be raked up and removed from the site.

633.05 PLACING SOD

Sod shall be laid lengthwise across the face of the slope with ends close together. Sod shall be countersunk to the existing grade level at the edges of shoulders, ditches, and existing vegetation to allow the free flow of water across the joint between the existing grade and the new sodding and also to provide for a neat finish. Joints in adjacent rows shall be staggered. Joints and broken sod shall be pounded to a uniform surface.

Where sod is placed on slopes 3:1 and steeper, sodding shall be pegged as follows:

On slopes steeper than 1 3/4:1 each and every row of sod shall be pegged; on slopes from 1 3/4:1 to 3:1 each of the bottom three rows and each third row above shall be pegged.

In a pegged row of sod, the pegs shall be uniformly spaced across the face of the slope at uniform intervals of not greater than 0.5 m such that when the sods therein are:

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- (a) 0.5 m or less in length, there shall be a peg in each sod.
- (b) greater than 0.5 m but not greater than 1.0 m there shall be two pegs in each sod.
- (c) greater than 1.0 m but not greater than 2.0 m there shall be three pegs in each sod. The pegs shall be driven flush with the sod.

The entire work shall be done in a thoroughly workmanlike manner so that the appearance on completion shall be as nearly as possible that of a good natural growth in place.

No sod shall be laid when in a frozen condition, nor upon frozen ground, nor under any other condition not favourable to transplanting or growth of the sod.

633.06 MAINTENANCE

The Contractor shall be responsible for the care of all completed sodding for a period of one month following the completion of placing.

During this period any break, which may occur through slipping of sod, shall be repaired and any sod which is dead shall be removed and replaced by the Contractor, with fresh, live sod, without charge. Should the sodding become wilted during the maintenance period, the Contractor shall thoroughly water the sodding taking care not to cause any erosion.

633.07 MEASUREMENT FOR PAYMENT

The slope area actually treated with sodding, from within the limits as staked by the Engineer, will be measured in square metres, rounded to the nearest whole number.

633.08 BASIS OF PAYMENT

Payment at the Contract price for sodding shall be compensation for all labour, materials and equipment-use for: the preparation of the ground to be treated with sodding, the supply and placing of topsoil, sod and pegs, together with any necessary maintenance work, materials, and watering required during the one month maintenance period.