

ITEM 610.0503--25 – ROADSIDE NATIVE SEED MIX

1. DESCRIPTION

- 1.01 Under this item, the Contractor shall furnish roadside native seed mix and prepare, plant, water and maintain seeded areas in accordance with the contract plans, specifications, and as directed by the Engineer.

2. MATERIALS

- 2.01 Cover Crop Seed Mixture: The seed mix shall consist of a mix of the following:
- Annual Rye (Lolium multifolium)
- 2.02 The rate of application of cover crop seed mixture shall be 5 pounds of seed mixture per 1,000 square feet. The Engineer reserves the right to reject, on or after delivery, any material which does not, in the Engineer's opinion, meet these specifications.
- 2.03 Seed Mixture: The seed mix shall be Northeastern US Roadside Native Mix from Ernst Conservation Seeds, Meadville, PA, or approved equal.
- 2.04 Plant seed shall be fresh, re-cleaned seed of the latest crop. All seed shall be free of noxious weeds and undesirable grasses. All Plant Seed shall be delivered in sealed standard size bags of the vendor showing weight, analysis, and name of vendor. It shall be stored as directed by the Engineer, in such a manner that its' effectiveness will not be impaired.
- 2.05 Seed mix shall be cold stratified and no less than 75% PLS (pure live seed).
- 2.06 The Engineer reserves the right to reject, on or after delivery, all material which does not, in the Engineer's opinion, meet these specifications.
- 2.07 The rate of application shall be 1 pound of seed mixture per 1,000 square feet. The Engineer reserves the right to reject, on or after delivery, any material which does not, in the Engineer's opinion, meet these specifications.
- 2.08 Weed-free Straw: (FOR USE ON ALL SEEDED AREAS). Straw shall be straw of wheat, rye, oats, or salt hay, and shall be free of weed seeds. Note: Salt hay may contain seed heads of the Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). If found, the entire bale shall be rejected and removed from site at once.
- 2.09 The straw shall be delivered in full bales or bags. The Contractor shall be allowed to break up existing hay bales used for silt control following seeding operations.

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3. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

- 3.01 **Preparation of Seed Bed:** All areas to be seeded shall be thoroughly loosened to a depth of 3 inches. All sticks, stones roots, vegetation, or other objectionable material which might interfere with the formation of a finely pulverized seed bed shall be removed from the soil and a smooth uniform surface grade shall be established. Hollows, depressions, and gullies shall be filled with topsoil. When added topsoil is 4 inches or more in depth it shall be compacted, to the satisfaction of the Engineer.
- 3.02 **Time Of Seeding:** Seed mixture (Cover & Native) with carrier mediums shall be sown in two (2) separate operations in the Fall, during September and October, or in the Spring, during March, April, or May, or at such other times as are approved by the Engineer. Fall-planted seed requires at least 10-12 weeks of growing time prior to winter dormancy, so seeding should be scheduled accordingly.
- 3.03 All seeding shall be done in moderately dry to moist (not wet) soil and at times when the wind does not exceed a velocity of 5.00 miles per hour. Seed mixtures shall be sown either by hand or with a seed disperser, and firmed in such a manner that a uniform stand will result.
- 3.04 **Weed-free Straw:** Newly seeded areas shall be mulched with straw at the rate of 100 tons/square mile. Straw shall be kept long when applied. It shall later be punched into the ground infrequently (using a shovel or other hand held implement), or any applicable mechanical crimping device. Special care must be taken to not damage the plant plugs or coir mat that has been installed underneath the straw.
- 3.05 **Maintenance:** The Contractor shall maintain all seeded areas until acceptance of the contract.
- 3.06 The Contractor shall properly water as required to maintain a moist seed bed for optimum germination and as often as required to maintain optimum growing conditions for the new stand of plants until acceptance of the contract. If water is not available from NYSDOT sources, the Contractor is responsible for supplying water from their own source.
- 3.07 The Contractor shall re-seed any areas which fail to show a satisfactory stand of woodland plantings with the specified mixture of seed as many times as necessary, at no additional cost to the State, until acceptance of the Contract.
- 3.08 Damage to property caused by the Contractor's seeding operations shall be repaired at no additional cost to the State. All areas and construction disturbed shall be restored to their original condition to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

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4. METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

- 4.01 This work will be measured as the number of pounds of roadside native seed mix satisfactorily furnished and installed.

5. BASIS OF PAYMENT

- 5.01 The unit price bid shall include the cost of furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to furnish and sow seed (including cover crop seed, carrier medium and weed free straw) in the areas shown on the contract drawings, including maintaining the seeded areas, and all other work incidental thereto, in accordance with the contract plans and specifications, to the satisfaction of the Engineer. Payment for the spreading of topsoil and applying compost shall be paid for separately under their respective items.