

Construction Specification 026 Topsoiling

SCOPE

The work consists of furnishing and spreading topsoil to specified depths at locations shown on the drawings. This specification does not apply to any other earthfill.

MATERIALS

Topsoil shall consist of naturally occurring friable surface soil reasonably free of grass, roots, weeds, sticks, rocks, other unsuitable material, herbicides, or other compounds whose presence would prevent establishment of grass and/or legume sod cover.

Topsoil shall be obtained from soil surfaces containing USDA soil textural classifications of loam, sandy loam, silt loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay loam, or clay loam soils shown on the drawings or approved by the Technician.

Topsoil shall:

- be salvaged from designated areas that will be disturbed by construction activities or be furnished from an offsite source designated by the Contractor. The Technician shall be granted access to the source for inspection and acceptance of the topsoil before delivery to the site.
- meet the following requirements (when testing is required):
 - 100% passing the ¾-inch sieve.
 - minimum 95% passing the #10 sieve.
 - minimum 25% passing the #200 sieve.
 - 3% - 15% organic material.
 - non-positive herbicide carryover (UW Extension Publication A3819, Herbicide Persistence and Carryover).

TESTING

The Technician will determine the need for testing the topsoil for gradation, percent organic matter content, and herbicide carryover effect. The testing will be at the expense of the Contractor.

FOUNDATION PREPARATION AND PLACEMENT

The surfaces designated to receive a topsoil application shall be cleared of all objectionable materials including trees, stumps, roots, brush, rubbish, and stones having a maximum dimension greater than 6 inches. The surfaces shall be lightly scarified just before the spreading operation. Topsoil shall not be placed until the required excavation, fill and preparation of the surfaces is complete and approved by the Technician.

Spreading shall not be conducted when the ground or topsoil is frozen, excessively wet, or otherwise in a condition detrimental to uniform spreading operations. Snow, ice, or frozen material shall not be incorporated in the topsoil.

Topsoil shall be placed in approximately horizontal layers no greater than 8 inches thick.

Placement of topsoil adjacent to concrete structures may begin after the concrete has cured for the minimum time specified. Heavy equipment shall not be operated within 2 feet of any structure.

Following the spreading operation, the topsoil surface shall be left reasonably smooth and without ruts or surface irregularities that could contribute to concentrated waterflow downslope.

MOISTURE CONTENT

Topsoil shall have a moisture content sufficient to insure the spreading of the material to the required thickness. When kneaded in the hand the soil will form a ball which does not readily separate and will not extrude out of the hand when squeezed tightly. The adequacy of the moisture content will be determined by the Technician.

COMPACTION

The Contractor shall furnish and operate the types and kinds of equipment necessary to compact the topsoil material when specified. The Technician shall determine if adequate compaction is being achieved.

Adequate compaction is defined as a firm surface able to support the growth of vegetation. Methods for compaction may include back-blading or a single pass from a rubber tire, track, or roller. A pass shall consist of complete coverage by the rubber tire, track, or roller over the entire surface of the topsoil. Care must be taken to avoid excessive compaction of topsoil.

Adjacent to structures or in confined areas, compaction of topsoil shall be accomplished by means of manually directed power tampers or plate vibrators or hand tamping, unless otherwise specified.

Where compacted earthfill is designated to be topsoiled, the topsoil shall be placed concurrently with the earthfill and shall be bonded to the compacted fill with the compaction equipment.

Specific Site Requirements