



**Note: The MUNI implemented in April 2018 replaces OPSS 803 COMMON, November 2015 with no technical content changes.**

## **CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION FOR SODDING**

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<b>803.01</b>	<b>SCOPE</b>
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This specification covers the requirements for sodding.

#### **803.01.01 Specification Significance and Use**

This specification has been developed for use in provincial- and municipal-oriented Contracts. The administration, testing, and payment policies, procedures, and practices reflected in this specification correspond to those used by many municipalities and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

Use of this specification or any other specification shall be according to the Contract Documents.

### **803.01.02 Appendices Significance and Use**

Appendices are not for use in provincial contracts as they are developed for municipal use, and then, only when invoked by the Owner.

Appendices are developed for the Owner's use only.

Inclusion of an appendix as part of the Contract Documents is solely at the discretion of the Owner. Appendices are not a mandatory part of this specification and only become part of the Contract Documents as the Owner invokes them.

Invoking a particular appendix does not obligate an Owner to use all available appendices. Only invoked appendices form part of the Contract Documents.

The decision to use any appendix is determined by an Owner after considering their contract requirements and their administrative, payment, and testing procedures, policies, and practices. Depending on these considerations, an Owner may not wish to invoke some or any of the available appendices.

### **803.02 REFERENCES**

When the Contract Documents indicate that provincial-oriented specifications are to be used and there is a provincial-oriented specification of the same number as those listed below, references within this specification to an OPSS shall be deemed to mean OPSS.PROV, unless use of a municipal-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents. When there is not a corresponding provincial-oriented specification, the references below shall be considered to be to the OPSS listed, unless use of a municipal-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents.

When the Contract Documents indicate that municipal-oriented specifications are to be used and there is a municipal-oriented specification of the same number as those listed below, references within this specification to an OPSS shall be deemed to mean OPSS.MUNI, unless use of a provincial-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents. When there is not a corresponding municipal-oriented specification, the references below shall be considered to be the OPSS listed, unless use of a provincial-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents.

This specification refers to the following standards, specifications, or publications:

#### **Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications, Construction**

OPSS 802 Topsoil

#### **Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario**

Specifications, Classifications and Use of Turfgrass Sod for Ontario

#### **Federal Statute**

Fertilizers Act (R.S., 1985, c. F-10)

**803.05 MATERIALS**

**803.05.01 Sod**

Sod shall be a Commercial Grade Turfgrass Nursery Sod, either Kentucky Bluegrass or Kentucky Bluegrass/Fine Fescue as specified in the Contract Documents and according to the Specifications, Classifications and Use of Turfgrass Sod for Ontario.

Sod shall be seeded and established in nursery sod fields as a turfgrass sod. Sod shall be uniform in texture, and in good healthy condition with no sign of decay. There shall be no more than 5 broadleaf weeds per 40 m<sup>2</sup> of sod and up to 20% non-specified grass seed. Sod shall be of sufficient density that no surface soil is visible. The grass height shall be 30 mm minimum and 70 mm maximum.

The soil portion of the sod shall be a good mineral type soil with a thickness of 10 mm minimum and 15 mm maximum. Each sod piece shall be well permeated with roots. Individual sod pieces shall be in such condition so that each may be lifted, rolled, transported, and placed without breaking or tearing and without loss of soil under normal handling conditions.

Sod shall contain sufficient moisture to maintain its vitality during transportation and placement.

**803.05.02 Stakes**

Stakes for fastening sod to the earth grade shall be a minimum 150 mm in length.

**803.05.03 Fertilizer**

Fertilizer shall be according to the Canada Fertilizers Act. Fertilizer shall be supplied in bags bearing the manufacturer's label indicating net weight and guaranteed analysis.

Fertilizer shall be in granular form, dry, free flowing without lumps. Fertilizer shall be supplied with a minimum analysis of 16% nitrogen, 3% phosphorus, and 15% potash. The guaranteed analysis ratio shall be 3-1-2.

The total nitrogen component of the fertilizer shall be a minimum 30% water insoluble nitrogen (controlled, slow release nitrogen) by weight.

**803.05.04 Water**

Water shall not have contaminants or impurities that would adversely affect the germination and growth of vegetation.

**803.07 CONSTRUCTION**

**803.07.01 Operational Constraints**

Sodding shall not commence until the surface preparation has been approved in writing by the Contract Administrator.

Sodding shall commence within 7 Days of surface preparation.

The Contractor shall maintain the surface and control erosion until the sod is in place.

Sod shall not be placed when in a frozen condition, under adverse field conditions such as high wind, frozen soil or soil covered with snow, ice, or standing water.

### **803.07.02 Surface Preparation for Sodding**

Where topsoil is specified, it shall be according to OPSS 802.

At the time of sodding, all surface areas designated for sodding shall be free of erosion and shall have a fine graded uniform surface. The surface shall be uniformly cultivated to a minimum depth of 50 mm and shall not have surface materials greater than 25 mm in size, such as stones and clods and weeds or other unwanted vegetation.

Surface litter and debris shall be removed immediately prior to sod placement.

### **803.07.03 Fertilizer Application**

Fertilizer shall be applied uniformly to the surface area designated for sodding, a maximum of 48 hours prior to sod placement, at the rate specified on its bag by the manufacturer.

### **803.07.04 Placement of Sod**

Sod shall be placed in locations and as specified in the Contract Documents. Voids shall not be left between the soil portion of the sod and the underlying ground surface. Sod shall be securely placed lengthwise across the face of slopes and parallel to the centreline of ditches. End joints of adjacent sod pieces shall be staggered. The edges of adjacent sod pieces shall be placed tightly against one another without overlapping. Sod shall be countersunk to existing grade level at all edges. Joints shall be tamped to a uniform surface. Sod shall be placed up to the subgrade elevation on the roadway front slope. Where required, sod should be staked to the grade to avoid movement.

Sod shall not be separated from its mineral soil base and not damaged during transportation, handling, and placement.

### **803.07.05 Maintenance of Completed Sodding**

Sod shall be maintained for 30 Days following completion of placement. During this period, the placed sod shall be kept healthy, actively growing, and green in leaf colour. This requirement shall be suspended during the winter dormant period shown in Table 1.

### **803.07.06 Management of Excess Material**

Management of excess material shall be according to the Contract Documents.

## **803.08 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

### **803.08.01 Performance Measure**

At the end of the 30-Day maintenance period, the Contract Administrator shall make an inspection of all placed sod. The condition of the sod shall be as specified in the Maintenance of Completed Sodding subsection. The sod shall be in the same location as originally placed and shall not have moved, eroded, slipped, or sloughed. Sod shall show evidence of rooting into the underlying soil. The sod shall be of sufficient density that no surface soil is visible and there shall be no competitive growth, beyond that specified in the Sod subsection, emerging from the sod or from between the sod joints.

### **803.08.02 Acceptance**

When the work does not meet the requirements specified herein, the Contract Administrator shall notify the Contractor in writing, and the Contractor shall re-apply the specified materials according to this specification within 14 Days of receiving the notification.

The Contractor shall maintain the site and control erosion as specified in this specification until the sod has been replaced.

Replaced sod shall be subject to the requirements specified herein and to a further maintenance period of 30 Days.

**803.09 MEASUREMENT FOR PAYMENT**

**803.09.01 Actual Measurement**

**803.09.01.01 Sod**

Measurement shall be by area in square metres following the contours of the ground.

**803.09.01.02 Plan Quantity Payment**

When measurement is by Plan Quantity, such measurement shall be based on the units shown in the clause under Actual Measurement.

**803.10 BASIS OF PAYMENT**

**803.10.01 Sod - Item**

Payment at the Contract price for the above tender item shall be full compensation for all labour, Equipment, and Material to do the work.

**TABLE 1  
Winter Dormant Period**

<b>SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO</b>	<b>SOUTHERN ONTARIO</b>	<b>NORTHERN ONTARIO</b>
That area of Ontario south of a line joining Grand Bend and Clarkson	That area of Ontario between the northern and southern boundaries of Southwestern Ontario and Northern Ontario respectively	That area of Ontario north of a line joining Waubauskene, Severn Bridge, Bancroft and Ottawa
Nov 15 to April 15 inclusive	Nov 1 to April 30 inclusive	Oct 15 to May 15 inclusive

**Appendix 803-A, November 2010  
FOR USE WHILE DESIGNING MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS**

**Note:** This is a non-mandatory Commentary Appendix intended to provide information to a designer, during the design stage of a contract, on the use of the OPS specification in a municipal contract. This appendix does not form part of the standard specification. Actions and considerations discussed in this appendix are for information purposes only and do not supersede an Owner's design decisions and methodology.

**Designer Action/Considerations**

The designer should specify the following in the Contract Documents:

- The use of either Kentucky Bluegrass sod or a Kentucky Bluegrass/Fine Fescue sod. (803.05.01)
- Location of sod. (803.07.04)

The designer should ensure that the General Conditions of Contract and the 100 Series General Specifications are included in the Contract Documents.

**Related Ontario Provincial Standard Drawings**

None

