City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Agenda Item Number: REP 17-15
Department Source: Public Works
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: January 20, 2015
Re: Report on Landscaping Procedures for Sewer Repairs (CM #3994)

Documents Included With This Agenda Item

Council memo
Supporting documentation includes: Sections 203, 204 & 213 of the Street, Storm Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Specifications and Standards

Executive Summary

At the November 17, 2014 Council meeting, staff was directed to prepare a report regarding the City's standards for repairing landscaping in yards when there is a sewer replacement project. Additionally, what type of grass is used for replanting the yard, what is the oversight process if the project is contracted out, and what is the process for follow-up and addressing any post-project homeowner concerns?

Discussion

When restoring homeowners' yards after the construction of sanitary sewer mains, the Public Works department follows the specifications outlined in the 2012 City of Columbia Street, Storm Sewer, and Sanitary Sewer Specifications and Standards, which were developed using MoDOT and APWA (American Public Works Association) standards. The work and materials for seeding, sodding, and planting trees and shrubs are outlined in the specifications, and these specifications are referenced in the bid documents, and on the plan sheets, provided to the contractor doing the work.

Prior to the 2012 specifications, the seeding and planting of trees and shrubs was specified in the technical specifications in each project's bid documents and varied by division within the Public Works department. The 2012 specifications provide a standard to be used by all divisions and provides consistency for seeding, sodding, and planting of trees and shrubs between contracted projects.

The seeding mix in the 2012 specification was further refined using input from local landscapers in order to develop a good yard seed mix for the Columbia area. The selected seed mix is a turf type, tall fescue mix, which provides a quality turf with less water and less fertilizer than other common turf grasses like Kentucky Bluegrass.

The following summarizes the specifications for seeding, sodding, and planting of trees and shrubs:

Seed: In seeding the disturbed area of the yard after the sewer main has been constructed, the

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Seeding and Mulching specification (Section 203 attached) is used. This section specifies the work to seed the disturbed areas of the lawn including preparation of the soil surface, application of the starter fertilizer, seeding, mulching, and maintenance.

The seedbed preparation is accomplished by grading the disturbed areas and adding at least four inches of topsoil. The seedbed is limed at a rate of 92 pounds per 1,000 square feet of area and fertilized at the rate of seven pounds per 1,000 square feet of area. The seed mixture is distributed over the disturbed area at a rate of five pounds per 1,000 square feet. Mulch is then applied in an even layer at approximately ¼ inch in depth. After placement of the mulch, the seeded area is thoroughly saturated with water. The pure live grass seed mixture specified is as follows:

Grass Type	Mixture by Weight(%)	Min Purity(%)	Min Germination(%)
Ultimate Tall Fescue	30	99	90
Fine Lawn Elite Tall Fescue	30	98	90
Falcon Four Tall Fescue	20	99	90
Annual Rye	20	99	90

The fertilizer is a mixture of 5.5 pounds of soluble nitrogen, 16 pounds of phosphorous, and 16 pounds of potash per 100 pounds. The mulch consists of cereal straw from stalks of oats, rye, wheat, or barley.

The contractor is required to provide copies of all invoices for the seed and a typed and signed statement from the supplier which certifies that each container of seed used is fully labeled in accordance with the Federal Seed Act. The contractor also is required to provide a certification from the manufacturer that the mulch material complies with Section 203 specifications for mulch.

Sod: All disturbed areas are seeded unless it is specifically noted on the plans and contract documents to sod the yard. Typically yards are sodded if it is apparent, prior to construction, that the yard consisted of established sod. The type of sod used and the placement of the sod are addressed in the Sodding Specification (Section 204 attached). The sod is required to be three-year old densely rooted, tall fescue mix, or other approved native perennial grasses.

Trees and Shrubs: The planting of trees and shrubs is addressed in the Landscaping and Tree Protection specification (Section 213 attached) and specifies the work necessary to furnish, plant, and provide warranty for all trees and shrubs in accordance with the plans. The work is required to be completed by an experienced landscaper or arborist. The plant materials are required to comply with State and Federal laws relating to inspection for disease, insect infestation, and shipping and handling requirements. The source of all plant materials are to be provided in writing.

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Periods during the year when the contractor can place seed or sod, and when the contractor can plant trees and shrubs, are designated in the specifications. Seeding, sodding, or planting trees and shrubs by the contractor outside of the specified periods are only at the inspector or engineer's authorization.

For City sewer projects that use private contractors to complete the work, a City inspector is assigned to the project to ensure that the work is completed following the plans and specifications as they were bid. The inspector is in contact with the contractor throughout the project and obtains all required documentation for the seed, sod, trees, and shrubs as designated in the specifications. Both the inspector and the engineer are available to work with the contractor to address any questions or concerns that the contractor has in restoring the yards.

The two most common problems with establishing the yards after final acceptance of a project are, seeds not germinating and settlement over the sewer main. The contractor is responsible for a period of one year after the final acceptance date for any repairs or replacement caused by defective materials, workmanship, or equipment. If the property owner has a concern with the restoration of the yard, he or she can contact the engineer or the inspector. The contractor will then be notified of the defective area, and will be required to complete needed repairs in a timely manner. If requested, the engineer and/or inspector will meet with the property owner to discuss any concerns; however, property owners are encouraged to assist with establishing their lawn by watering and mowing the newly planted areas.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None
Long-Term Impact: None

Vision, Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Vision Impact: Environment
Strategic Plan Impact: Customer Focused Government, Infrastructure
Comprehensive Plan Impact: Infrastructure

Suggested Council Action

For information only

Legislative History

None

Department Approved

City Manager Approved

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS INCLUDED WITH THIS AGENDA ITEM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Sections 203, 204 & 213 of the Street, Storm Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Specifications and Standards

SECTION 203

SEEDING AND MULCHING

203.1 Description. This section covers the operations necessary to produce established grass covered areas, including preparation of the soil surface, application of starter fertilizer, seeding, sodding, compacting and maintenance.

All areas with vegetation cover that are disturbed by construction operations, either by grading, parking of equipment, trenching, or any other operation that destroys the existing vegetative cover shall be seeded or sodded as specified herein.

a. Seeding. All disturbed existing vegetated areas shall be seeded, including grassy areas, and pasture lands.

b. Sodding. All disturbed areas shall be seeded unless specifically noted on the plans and Contract documents. In cases where sod is required, the type of sod to be used shall follow the requirements of section 204

Disturbed areas outside the authorized construction limits shall be seeded and mulched, or sodded at the Contractor's expense.

203.2. Personnel and Equipment. All work shall be performed by personnel who are experienced and qualified in the work required, utilizing equipment such as fertilizer spreader, farm tractor with tilling equipment, and power drawn precision brillion-type seeder designed to uniformly distribute the seed, cover, and firm the soil in one operation.

203.3. Submittals. The Contractor shall furnish to the Engineer in duplicate a typed and signed statement which certifies that each container of seed delivered to the Contractor for this project is fully labeled in accordance with the Federal Seed Act and is at least equal to the requirement for seed listed in the seed paragraph of this specification. This certification shall appear on or with all copies of invoices for the seed.

203.4. Materials.

a. Topsoil shall consist of a fertile, friable soil of loamy character, free of sub-soil, clay, hard clods, stones, pebbles and other similar material. Topsoil shall be placed at a depth of four (4) inches. Topsoil shall contain a normal amount of natural humus and be reasonably free of roots, sand, noxious weed seeds, sticks, brush and other litter. The topsoil shall be obtained from well-drained, arable land, and be of an even texture so that all the soil will pass a ½ inch screen. The topsoil shall not be infested with nematodes or with any other noxious animal life or toxic substances. Topsoil shall exhibit an acidity range (pH) of 6.0 to 8.5.

b. Seed shall be labeled in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture Rules and Regulations under the Federal Seed Act and shall comply with the requirements of the Missouri Seed Law.

The pure live grass seed mixture to be used in lawn and undeveloped areas shall be as follows:

Type	% of Mixture by Weight	Minimum Purity	Minimum Germination
Ultimate Tall Fescue	30%	99%	90%
Fine Lawn Elite Tall Fescue	30%	98%	90%
Falcon Four Tall Fescue	20%	99%	90%
Annual Rye	20%	99%	90%

The percent of mixture by weight is for pure live seed (PLS). Weed seed shall not exceed 1.0% by weight of the mixture. A certification of the mixture shall be furnished to the Engineer prior to seeding.

c. Fertilizer shall be a mixture containing 5.5 pounds of soluble nitrogen, 16 pounds of phosphorous and 16 pounds of potash per 100 pounds.

d. Agricultural lime material shall be used for soil neutralization with not less than 90% passing the No. 8 sieve.

e. Mulch shall consist of the application of a vegetative covering of one of the following types:

1. Type I Mulch shall be the cereal straw from stalks of oats, rye, wheat or barley, which is clean, bright, and free of mold. The straw mulch shall be dry and relatively free of undesirable seed and foreign material.

2. Type II Mulch shall be as specified above for Type I mulch except that it shall also include the application of an overspray material consisting of virgin wood cellulose fibers or recycled slick paper as herein specified. The overspray shall be green in color after application and shall have the property to be evenly dispersed and suspended when agitated in water. When sprayed uniformly over vegetative mulch, the mulch fibers shall form an absorbent cover, allowing percolation of water to the underlying soil. The mulch shall be packaged in moisture resistant bags with the net weight of the packaged material plainly shown on each bag. The mulch fibers shall not be water soluble.

   Virgin wood cellulose fibers shall be produced by either the ground or cooked fiber process and shall have the following properties:

Moisture Content, Percent by Weight (maximum)	15%
Organic Matter-Wood Fiber, Percent by Weight (minimum)	80%
Ph	4.3-8.5

Recycled slick paper mulch shall be produced from printers slick paper containing wood cellulose and kaolin clay. Recycled newsprint or cardboard will not be allowed. The material shall be free of other material or fillers and shall have the following properties:

Moisture Content, Percent by Weight (maximum)	8%
Ph	4.5-6.5

The Contractor shall furnish certification from the manufacturer that the overspray mulch material complies with these specifications.

3. Type III Mulch shall be material consisting of virgin wood cellulose fibers as herein specified. The mulch shall be green in color after application and shall have the property to be evenly dispersed and suspended when agitated in water. When sprayed uniformly over the soil surface, the mulch fibers shall form an absorbent cover, allowing percolation of water to the underlying soil. The mulch shall be packaged in moisture resistant bags with the net weight of the packaged material plainly shown on each bag.

   Virgin wood cellulose fibers shall be produced by either the ground or cooked fiber process and shall have the following properties:

Moisture Content, Percent by Weight (maximum)	15%
Organic Matter-Wood Fiber, Percent by Weight (minimum)	80%
Ph	4.3-8.5

The Contractor shall furnish certification from the manufacturer that the mulch material complies with these specifications.

203.5. Construction Requirements

a. Seeding shall not be placed from October 16 to December 31. Full seeding shall only be placed from January 1 to May 15 and from August 15 to October 15. Seeding shall not be placed on frozen or snow covered ground. Partial seeding shall be placed from May 16 to August 14. Type II mulch shall be used with partial seeding. The application rates for partial seeding are as shown below:

Lime	100% of the specified quantity
Fertilizer	75% of the specified quantity
Seed	50% of the specified quantity

When partial seeding is placed, the remainder of the fertilizer plus 75% of the specified quantity of seed shall be applied by hydraulic overseeding from August 16 thru October 15. Hydraulic overseeding shall be applied over the existing Type II mulch. Seed and fertilizer,

separately or in combination, shall be mixed with water, and constantly agitated so that a uniform mixture can be applied hydraulically to the specified areas. The ratio of seed and fertilizer to water shall be calculated to achieve the specified coverage rates using a total of 500 gallons of water per acre applied in 2 applications. Seed shall not be added to the water more than 4 hours before application.

b. For Type I or Type II Mulch: Seedbed preparation in lawn areas shall be accomplished by grading the disturbed areas and adding at least 4 inches of topsoil. The surface on which the topsoil is to be placed shall be free of all loose rock and foreign material greater in any dimension than 1/2 the depth of the topsoil to be added and the surface shall be loosened with a disc harrow just prior to being covered with topsoil. Topsoil shall be placed and spread to a depth sufficiently greater than specified so that after settling, the completed work will conform with the elevations shown on the plans. After spreading, all large clods and foreign material shall be removed by the Contractor.

   Seedbed preparation in undeveloped areas shall be accomplished by: tilling to a depth of 4 inches with a disc harrow, followed by smoothing with a weighted spike tooth harrow. After smoothing, all rocks and clods greater in any dimension than 2 inches, and all foreign material shall be removed by the Contractor. Designation of areas as lawn or undeveloped will be determined by the condition of the area at the start of construction.

   Before final raking, areas to be seeded shall be limed at the rate of 92 pounds per 1,000 square feet of area and fertilized with the specified mixture by spreading evenly at the rate of 7 pounds per 1,000 square feet of area. Both operations shall be performed by using a mechanical spreader of the rotary type. The area shall then be raked to a smooth, even surface and the soil loosened to a depth of one inch in preparation for the seed. No seed or mulch shall be placed until the Engineer accepts the grade and seedbed.

   Seeding shall be accomplished by using a mechanical spreader. The seed mixture shall be evenly distributed over the area at the rate of 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Immediately after the seeding is completed, all seeded areas shall be mulched as described below for that type of mulch specified.

   1. Type I Mulch must be applied in an even layer approximately 1/4 inch in depth. Immediately after placement of the mulch, the entire mulched area shall be thoroughly saturated with water.

2. Type II Mulch shall be applied same as for Type I Mulch with the addition of an overspray. The overspray shall be hydraulically applied as a separate operation at the rate of 750 pounds per acre. The overspray material shall be mixed with water in a manner to provide a homogeneous slurry. Equipment for mixing and applying the slurry shall be capable of applying it uniformly over the entire vegetative mulched area. The slurry mixture shall be agitated during application to keep the ingredients thoroughly mixed.

c. For Type III Mulch: Seedbed preparation shall be accomplished in the same manner as for Type I and II mulch up to the point of seeding. The seed and Type III mulch will be mixed and applied hydraulically with equipment approved by the Engineer. The hydraulic application shall be such that the seed mixture is distributed at the rate of 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet and the Type III mulch is distributed at the rate of 46 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The seed mixture and Type III mulch shall be mixed with water in a manner to provide a homogeneous slurry. Equipment for mixing and applying the slurry shall be capable of applying a uniform mixture over the entire area to be mulched. The slurry mixture shall be agitated during application to keep the ingredients thoroughly mixed.

203.6. Maintenance Requirements. Since the seeded area shall be maintained by the Contractor as necessary to assure growth. A guarantee period not less than the correction period from the Final Acceptance of the work will be required. During the guarantee period, if there are deficient areas where the grass died, or where sheet and rill erosion or settlement occurred, or where gravel or other deleterious backfill material surfaces, upon notification by the City of such areas, the Contractor shall re-work all areas as necessary to bring the areas into conformance with the specifications.

203.7 Measurement and Payment. All costs pertaining to the seeding and mulching shall be paid by the Contract unit price per square yard or lump sum, complete in place. Payment shall be made under:

Item No. 203.1. Seeding and Mulching, per square yard or lump sum.

SECTION 204

SODDING

204.1. Description. This item shall consist of placing approved live sod on prepared areas, as indicated on the plans and specified herein, or as ordered by the Engineer.

204.2. Material. The sod shall be at least three (3) year-old densely rooted tall type fescue mix, or other approved native perennial grasses, free from noxious weeds. It shall be from a loam soil of such character that the sod will not break up or crumble during the operations of cutting, transporting, or laying. Sod from light sand and from heavy clay soils will not be acceptable. It shall be cut in strips of uniform thickness of one (1) inch to one and a fourth (1 1/4) inch. The sod strips shall contain at least one-half (1/2) square yard and not more than one (1) square yard. Sod strips shall not be cut less than twelve (12) inches in width or more than nine (9) feet in length.

204.3. Construction. The area to be sodded shall be brought to a smooth and uniform surface and shall have all clods, stones, sticks, and other debris which would be harmful to sod growth removed. The soil on the area to be sodded shall be loosened and brought to a reasonably fine texture, to a depth of at least four (4) inches. The sodbed shall be limed and fertilized according to the general recommendations of the Boone County Agriculture Extension Service.

The sod shall be moist and shall be placed on a moist earth bed. No dry sod may be used. The sod strips shall be laid along contour lines, by hand, commencing at the base of the area to be sodded and working upward or as directed by the Engineer. The transverse joints of sod strips shall be broken and the sod carefully laid to produce tight joints. The sod shall be firmed, watered and re-firmed immediately after it is placed. The firming shall be accomplished by use of a lawn roller, tamper, or any other method approved by the Engineer.

On 3 horizontal:1 vertical slopes, or steeper, the sod shall be pegged with wooden pegs approximately 1/2" x 1" x 12" driven into the ground, leaving about one-half (1/2) inch of the peg above the sod, and spaced not more than two (2) feet apart. Pegging of the sod shall be done immediately after the sod has been firmed.

After the pegging has been completed, the sodded areas shall be cleared of loose sod, excess soil, or other foreign material, and then a thin layer of topsoil (about one-fourth (1/4) inch deep) shall be scattered over the sod as a top-dressing and the areas shall then be thoroughly moistened by sprinkling with water.

Sod shall not be placed during a drought nor during the period from June 1 to September 1, unless authorized by the Engineer. Frozen sod shall not be used and no sod shall be placed on frozen ground.

The Contractor shall keep all sodded areas thoroughly moist for two (2) weeks after laying. This shall include watering at least once a day.

204.4. Method of Measurement. Measurement will be made to the nearest square yard of approved sodded surface area.

204.5. Basis of Payment. Payment for sodding will be made at the Contract unit price per square yard, complete in place. No direct payment will be made for liming or fertilizing sodded areas. Payment will be made under:

Item No. 204.1. Sodding, per square yard.

SECTION 213

LANDSCAPING AND TREE PROTECTION

213.1. Description. This work shall consist of furnishing, planting and providing a warranty for all trees and shrubs in accordance with the plans. Work shall be done under the supervision of an experienced landscaper or experienced arborist approved by the Engineer.

213.2. Materials

a. Plant Materials.

1. Plant Materials shall mean trees and shrubs of all descriptions, required to be furnished for the project in accordance with the specifications on the approved plans. The source of supply of all plant material shall be given in writing to the Engineer. The Engineer must be given the opportunity of inspecting and approving all plant materials before planting takes place.

2. Plant materials shall comply with State and Federal laws relating to inspection for disease, insect infestation and shipping and handling requirements.

3. Plant substitutions, including species cultivars, will not be permitted unless pre-approved by the Engineer. If proof is submitted that specific plants or sizes are unobtainable, proposals will be considered for the nearest equivalent size or variety of equal value.

4. Type and quality:

i. Plant materials shall conform to the size and proportion standards of the American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1). ANSI stock specifications will be provided by the Engineer. All tree stock shall be single stem unless specified. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants shall be the authority for plant names.

ii. Plants will be true to type and subject to inspection for quality, size and color. Plants lacking compactness, proper proportion, or having multiple leaders will not be accepted. Plant materials which have been cut back from larger grades to meet certain specified requirements will be rejected.

iii. Plants shall have a normal, well-developed branch structure and a vigorous fibrous root system. Plants shall be healthy and vigorous. Plants shall be free from defects, wood decay, sun-scald injuries, abrasions of the bark, galls, insect pest eggs, borers and all forms of infestations and other plant diseases, and free from objectionable disfigurements. Tree root collars must be visible above, or at, soil level and the root system shall not contain any 'circling' or 'diving' roots.

iv. Plants shall be nursery grown unless otherwise specifically permitted in each instance and shall have been growing under similar climatic conditions as occurs in the City of Columbia for at least 2 years prior to award date of this Contract.

v. All plants shall be freshly dug within 1 week of delivery and provided from the most recent favorable harvest season.

vi. The City reserves the right to reject any plant material that is considered unsatisfactory.

b. Topsoil.

Topsoil shall be per section 203.4.a.

c. Wood Bark Mulch.

Mulch for plant bed and tree pits shall consist of a high quality shredded bark or wood chips free from noxious substances. The source of the wood bark mulch and a representative sample shall be approved by the Engineer prior to application.

d. Water.

Water shall be potable and suitable for irrigation, clear and free from any material that may be harmful to plant life.

213.3. Installation. Specifications for Planting Procedures.

a. Planting Season

1. Planting shall be done within the appropriate planting season. If associated with construction projects, planting projects should take place within the planting season following completion of construction. Dates for planting are: from April 1 to May 15 and October 15 to December 15.

2. If special conditions exist, which may warrant a variance in the above planting dates, a written request shall be submitted to the Engineer stating the special conditions and the proposed variance. Permission for the variance will be given if, in the opinion of the Engineer, the variance is warranted.

3. When conditions are such, by reason of drought, high winds, excessive moisture, or other similar factors, that satisfactory results are not likely to be obtained, work shall be stopped. It shall not be resumed until desired results can be obtained or until approved alternate or corrective measures and procedures are adopted.

4. On no account shall planting take place when the ground is frozen.

b. Planting Locations.

1. General. The Contractor shall be responsible for planting at correct grades, alignment and location. If the planting plans provided differ from ground marked sites, the Contractor will seek guidance from the Engineer.

2. Engineer will stake out, or flag the ground locations for plants.

c. Excavation of Planting Areas.

1. Care. No plant pits shall be dug or prepared until their location is approved by Engineer. Reasonable care shall be exercised in having pits dug and soil prepared prior to moving plants to their respective locations for planting to ensure that they will not be unnecessarily exposed to drying elements or to physical damage.

2. Holes for trees and shrubs either, balled and burlapped (B&B) or bare root (B&R) (except for hedge and plants specifically designated on the plans to be planted in a bed) shall be excavated or augered to provide a planting hole a minimum of 100% larger than the spread of the ball or roots. All mechanically dug pits shall be scarified to remove glazing, and shall have a saucer shaped profile.

3. The depth of plant pits shall be the depth below finished grade required to allow the plant to be set on undisturbed soil where the root collar will be at or slightly above grade. In certain clay soils, descriptions to be jointly agreed by Engineer, or where surface or sub-surface conditions prevent digging a tree pit to specified dimensions, the plant can be set 4 to 6 inches high. In such cases the upper rootball edge must be bermed to grade with topsoil at no greater than a 3:1 slope

4. If pits have been excavated and not planted they must be made safe from public hazard at the end of each working day.

d. Delivery and Temporary Storage.

1. All plant material will be covered during transport between the nursery and the planting site – no matter the time of year. Insofar as is practicable, plant material shall be planted on the day of delivery. In the event this is not possible the Contractor shall protect that stock not planted.

2. Protect plants at all times from sun or drying winds. Plants that cannot be planted immediately on delivery shall be kept in the shade, well protected with soil, wet moss or other acceptable material and shall be kept well watered. Plants shall not remain unplanted for longer than three days after delivery.

3. Plants shall not be bound with wire or rope at any time so as to damage the bark or break branches. Plants shall be lifted and handled from the bottom of the

ball only.

4. Plants moved with a ball will not be accepted if the ball is cracked or broken before or during planting operations.

e. Planting

1. All planting of balled and burlapped (B&B) or containerized plants, unless otherwise directed, shall be performed as herein specified. All plants shall be centered in the planting hole and set plumb vertical.

2. B&B plants shall be placed in their wrapped ball on undisturbed soil so that the root collar is standing at or slightly above the permanent grade or per 213.3.3.c above. All burlap, binding, and caging material shall be removed from the top one-third of the rootball.

3. The plant hole shall be backfilled with topsoil placed in layers around the roots or ball. Each layer shall be carefully tamped in place in a manner to avoid injury to the roots or ball or disturbing the position of the plant. When approximately two-thirds of the plant hole has been backfilled, the hole shall be filled with water and the soil allowed to settle around the roots. After the water has been absorbed, the plant hole shall be filled with topsoil and tamped lightly to grade. Any settlement shall be brought to grade with topsoil.

4. For containerized shrub and small tree plantings special care should be taken in ensuring that no circling or diving roots exist in the outer portion of the rootball. If they exist they must be removed before planting. Plants should be placed so that the root collar is level or just above existing grade. A generous sprinkling (approximately one pound) of raw bone meal shall be placed on soil after planting around each shrub and well raked in before applying mulch. All twine or labeling encircling the stem or roots shall be removed during planting regardless of material composition. All trees and small shrubs will be fully watered in after installation.

5. On all slopes except minor ones, soil mix shall be formed into an adequate dam or shoulder on downhill side to catch and hold water and avoid erosion and slope on uphill side shall be properly re-graded to satisfaction of Engineer.

6. No plant material will be approved by the Engineer unless the root collar or flare is clearly visible after planting.

f. Weeding & Mulching. The area required to be mulched shall first be cleared of all weeds and groundcover. All trees and shrubs shall be mulched to a depth of at least 3". A mulch ring will be provided that extends to a minimum radius of 3 feet from the stem of the tree or shrub. In all cases the mulch itself should be kept clear of the plant stem, leaving clear visual access to the root collar of the plant.

g. Watering. After raking the surface of the mulch smooth the tree should be given a

final 'watering in'. This should include soaking the full depth of the mulch thoroughly with water.

h. Guying, Staking and Wrapping.

1. Guying. Trees shall be supported immediately after planting. All trees shall be staked unless otherwise agreed with Engineer. Guying material will be fabric or flexible rubber or a combination of both. No wire or encased wire shall be used.

2. Staking. A minimum of two metal T-posts (at least 6' in length unless otherwise specified) placed at the opposite sides of the tree shall be driven vertically into the ground to a depth of 2 1/2 to 3 feet in such manner as not to injure the ball or roots. If trees are planted along a highway, the stakes shall be aligned along the axis of the highway, unless otherwise agreed.

3. Wrapping. Wrapping of the trunk is required only on dogwood and maple trees. Wrapping shall consist of a cardboard or plastic sleeve unless otherwise specified by the Engineer. The Engineer will manage the sleeve material after installation.

i. Pruning and Repair.

1. After planting an inspection of all plantings shall be made and all dead, dying or injured twigs and branches shall be removed. No further pruning shall be permitted unless approved by Engineer. All cuts shall be made without damaging the remaining tissue, and leaving no stubs.

2. Each tree and shrub shall be pruned in accordance with standard horticultural practice to preserve the natural character of plant. Pruning shall be done with clean, sharp tools that have been designed for pruning woody plants.

3. The bruised or broken parts of large or fleshy roots shall be cut off smooth before planting. If nursery practice has left bruised, broken, girdling or upward pointing roots above the root collar, these roots should be carefully removed without damaging the tissue to remain.

213.4. Cleanup and Completion of the Project.

a. During the course of planting, excess and waste materials shall be continuously and promptly removed, lawn areas kept clear and all reasonable precautions taken to avoid damage to existing structures, plants, and grass.

b. When planting in an area has been completed, the area shall be thoroughly cleaned up. Debris, rubbish, subsoil and waste materials shall be cleaned up and removed.

c. On completion of the project the Contractor shall be responsible for repairing tire ruts and other damage to existing landscaped areas. Lawn areas shall be left free from

compaction and restored to an even grade. All areas disturbed during planting activity will be seeded and mulched as required. The entire area, when completed, shall be neat and clean to the satisfaction of the property owner.

d. The Contractor will inform the Engineer when the entire project is complete. Engineer and the landscape Contractor will then perform an inspection of all the planting material and planting sites before final completion is accepted.

213.5. Warranty Procedure.

a. Proving Period. A proving period shall follow the completion of the planting project and it shall be for a period of one year from the installation of the last plant item. All replacements shall have a one year proving period from the date of installation.

b. Acceptance and Replacement of Plant Material. At the expiration of the proving period an inspection of the planting will be made and only those plants that are alive and in a healthy condition will be accepted. Unacceptable material shall be removed and replaced by the Contractor at his own expense, during the next appropriate planting season. Plant material and method of replacement planting shall be the same as specified for the original planting unless otherwise agreed with the Engineer. The Contractor shall continue to install replacement materials until the plants shows healthy growth for a period of one year from the date of planting. All such replacements will be inspected for acceptance at the end of the proving period.

213.6. Payment. Payment for the accepted quantities of plants will be made at the Contract unit price for each plant of the types, species, and sizes required complete and in place. No direct payment will be made for any incidental items such as supporting posts, hardwood mulch for tree ring, peat moss, and water necessary for this work. Hardwood mulch for traffic calming islands will be paid at the per square yard price for hardwood mulch.

Item No. 213.1. Landscaping, per plant.
Item No. 213.2. Hardwood Mulch, per square yard.