



Public Works Department Landscape Maintenance Division Policies and Procedures

TURF MANAGEMENT

REVISED 3/17/09

PURPOSE: To establish criteria for turf management.

POLICY: Turf maintenance is performed on public property, which includes mowing, fertilization, and renovation. Grass height is maintained according to species and variety of grass. Aeration, reseeding or sodding and weed control are practiced as needed.

PROCEDURES:

1. Turf Mowing:

- Contractor will mow, edge, and string trim all turf areas weekly or as budget allows. City staff will confirm the mowing operation meets the City's performance satisfaction per occurrence.
- Turf mowing heights will be approved by the City Landscape Supervisor. Kikuyugrass and common bermudagrass should be cut at one and a half inches (1 1/2") and tall fescue should be mowed at three inches using a rotary mower. Hybrid bermudagrass should be mowed with a hydraulic reel mower with a minimum of seven blades at a maximum height of one inch. In a mixed stand of turfgrass, the dominant variety will determine the mow height.
- Contractor will keep turf and hardscape areas free of visible turf clippings, tree debris and trash at the end of the scheduled mow day.
- Contractor will NOT use mulching mowers on streetscape medians at any time. Mulching mowers may be used in neighborhood and community park facilities and streetscape parkways.
- Contractor will string trim around all valve boxes, drains and other permanent structures located in the turf.

2. Turf Fertilization:

- Soil & tissue analysis, visual observation and weather conditions will be used by the City Landscape Supervisor to determine necessary fertilizer applications.
- Rates of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK) will be determined by soil & tissue analysis results and the City Landscape Supervisor's recommendation. Organic fertilizer products shall be the first choice to use as budget allows.
- When fertilizing a park or large turf area, the contractor will go in two directions (50% of the fertilizer in each direction) to ensure uniform coverage.
- Contractor will make sure all hardscape surfaces are free of any fertilizer prior to irrigation to comply with the current National Pollution Discharge elimination System (NPDES) Ordinance.
- City staff will water in all fertilizers after each application with a minimum of a ¼ inch of water.

3. Turf Aeration

- Contractor will complete turf aerification a minimum of one time per year.
- Contractor will aerate by removing three quarter inch by three inch (3/4" x 3") cores with an aerating machine at not more than six inch spacing between cores in two directions per occurrence.
- Contractor will flag sprinkler heads and other irrigation components prior to aerating and check afterwards to verify no damage occurred to the irrigation system.

4. Turf Dethatching

- Contractor will scalp down turf to one inch prior to dethatching.
- Contractor will dethatch using vertical blades spaced one inch apart that penetrate the soil to one-half inch depth.
- Contractor will rake and vacuum up debris.

5. Turf Renovation:

- Contractor will scalp down turf to one inch prior to dethatching.
- Contractor will dethatch using vertical blades spaced one inch apart that penetrate the soil to one-half (1/2) inch depth.
- Contractor will rake and vacuum up debris.
- Contractor will aerify per the turf aeration guidelines.
- Contractor will mow to break up plugs and remove any remaining debris.
- Contractor will fertilize per the turf fertilization guidelines.
- If authorized by the City Landscape Supervisor, the contractor will broadcast turfgrass seed at the recommended rate of pounds per thousand square feet.
- If authorized by the City Landscape Supervisor, the contractor will apply a one quarter inch (1/4") layer of a finely screened, fully composted organic material that is certified safe to the public and contains no weed seed or pathogens.
- Contractor will check the irrigation system to verify no damage was caused by the operation.
- City staff will irrigate the turfgrass with a minimum of one quarter inch (1/4") inches of water.
- Resume normal turf mowing schedule as directed by City staff.

6. Turf Sodding

- Contractor will remove existing turf with the use of a sod cutter to a minimum depth of one inch.
- Contractor will rototill the soil to a minimum depth of four inches. All soil amendments shall be approved by the City Landscape Supervisor.
- Contractor will level and compact the soil so that the new sod is level with the existing turf and grade.

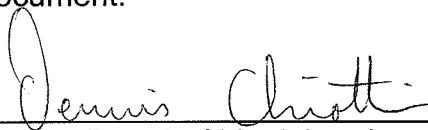
- Contractor will roll newly sodded areas immediately with a non-vibrating roller to ensure good soil contact and take necessary measures to restrict traffic over the new sod.
- Contractor will water the sod for two weeks as often as necessary so no sod desiccates at any time. Hand watering may be required due to an inefficient irrigation system, weather conditions, or the need to protect surrounding plant material from excess water runoff. After two weeks, City staff will assume irrigation responsibilities.
- Sod variety used shall be hybrid Bermuda, tall fescue, or an approved equal by City Landscape Supervisor.

7. Turf Chemical Use

- Contractor will use pre-emergence and post-emergent chemicals to control all weeds in turfgrass areas. Bermudagrass and kikuyugrass will be considered weeds in tall fescue dominated turf areas.
- Contractor will chemically edge and manually trim around fences without mow strips, and around trees monthly using a non selective herbicide. Maximum distance for chemical edging is eight inches for fences and 18 inches for trees.
- All chemical use must have a written Pesticide Control Advisor recommendation, applied by a Qualified Applicator and authorized by the City Landscape Supervisor.

8. Turf Inspection

- All turf areas shall be inspected a minimum of once per week by the contractor and City Staff. Any issues shall be reported to the City Landscape Supervisor to initiate a corrective action plan.
- City staff will inspect and verify contractor is adhering to the specifications in this document.



Dennis Chiotti, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent

3/17/09

Date