

623-M-025 ROADSIDE MOWING

(Revised 05-15-14)

The Standard Specifications are revised as follows:

SECTION 623, BEGIN LINE 1, DELETE AND INSERT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 623 – ~~BLANK~~ROADSIDE MOWING

623.01 Description

This work shall consist of machine mowing and trimming of roadside vegetation. The roadside areas to be mowed shall be as shown on the plans.

623.02 Prosecution of Work

The work shall consist of the number of mowing cycles specified. A preconstruction conference will be scheduled soon after the award of the contract to review equipment, starting dates, the mowing and trimming procedures, traffic control, and other appropriate details. The Department will reserve the right to specify starting points and direction of work at the preconstruction conference. Calendar days will start being counted beginning on the starting date shown in the notification in writing from the Department. Notification to begin each cycle will be given to the Contractor approximately one week prior to the starting dates shown elsewhere herein.

A cycle may be adjusted or eliminated partially or entirely depending on growing conditions and height of grass.

623.03 Maintenance of Traffic

A minimum of two “Mowing Crews Next _____ Miles” signs shall be placed as shown on the plans. A “Mowing Crews Ahead” sign shall be placed where trimming crews are working outside the limits of the signs which will be required for the mowing crews. All such signs shall be 48 in. by 48 in. in size. Signs shall be mounted such that the vertical distance between the bottom of the sign and the edge of pavement shall not be less than 18 in., as shown in the MUTCD. These signs shall be placed at the shoulder edges. Flaggers, warning signs, barricades, or other suitable protective devices shall be placed not less than 300 ft in each direction from the work site while loading or unloading materials or equipment if obstructing traffic.

623.04 Equipment

Mowing shall be performed with approved equipment. All mowing equipment shall have protective shields in place to prevent foreign objects from being thrown from the cutting unit. All cutting blades shall be maintained in good cutting condition. In order to prevent the spreading of invasive weeds, all equipment shall be cleaned prior to arriving on the work site. All machine mowers shall be set to cut at a height of 4 in. All machine mowers shall be operated so as to prevent scalping, rutting, or other damage to the turf. The equipment will be inspected during each cycle to ensure that proper cutting height is maintained. The equipment shall be operated so as to prevent damage to fences, signs, delineators, shrubs, impact attenuators or other fixtures. The Contractor shall repair all damage caused by the mowing operations. Inadequate equipment or lack of proper equipment shall not be an excuse for failure to mow areas within the identified mowing limits.

Equipment shall not be parked in a median during non-working hours. Equipment may be parked beyond the ditch line or off the right-of-way, but in all cases shall be parked more than 60 ft from the edge of the pavement.

All vehicles used in the mowing operation shall be equipped with a minimum of two amber lights in accordance with 801.14. Such lights shall be visible to all approaching traffic for a distance of 1,000 ft. The lights shall be strobe lights or flashing, oscillating or rotating incandescent, directed beam lights. The lights shall also be displayed by all vehicles used to install, remove, maintain, or repair construction warning signs.

623.05 Construction Requirements

Mowing shall be accomplished so as to maintain traffic safety and promote healthy turf. Mowing shall be performed so as to limit tire slippage and mower scalping. If such occurs, the Engineer will instruct the Contractor in proper preventative measures. Reseeding or resodding of damaged areas may be required. The areas to be mowed on the first cycle shall be in accordance with the limited mowing standards shown on the plans.

The areas designated as rural shall be mowed on the first and third cycles in accordance with the limited mowing requirements shown on the plans. Mowing limits on the first and third cycles shall include full mowing in interchanges only when specifically shown on the plans. Mowing on the first and third cycles shall be full width for urban areas as shown on the plans. The area to be mowed on the second cycle shall be the full width of the right-of-way. However, slopes which are steeper than 2.5:1 (40%) shall not be mowed. The presence of small isolated non-mowable areas, such as slides, trees, or large boulders shall not preclude mowing on the portion of the slopes which are safely accessible to tractors. Small shrubs, trees, and other vegetation with a trunk diameter of less than 2 in. and in the designated mowing area shall be cut. Crown vetch shall be mowed on the second cycle unless in an area exempted above. Prairie Restoration Areas, where identified by signage, shall be mowed to 10 ft from the shoulder on all cycles.

Vegetation shall be sufficiently dry to minimize piling or bunching of clippings. All piling or bunching of clippings sufficient to smother turf shall be picked up or scattered to prevent turf damage.

Tractors will be permitted on all slopes except those which are steeper than 2.5:1 (40%). Hand mowing of areas not accessible to tractors will be required in areas where it is necessary to maintain adequate sight distance or as directed. An area will be considered to be non-accessible if there is no opening to gain access. Areas with openings onto side roads will be considered accessible.

Areas which are determined to be too wet to mow shall be mowed on the next cycle for which such areas are accessible to mowing equipment.

Cattails within mowing limits shall be cut by hand if an area is too wet or is otherwise not accessible to tractors. Hand cutting of cattails will not be required if personnel must stand in water. Cattails which do not require cutting on the first cycle may have to be cut on the second cycle or third cycle.

A width of 5 ft shall be mowed behind guardrail or concrete barrier railing. This distance will be measured from the back face of the guardrail or concrete barrier railing. Guardrail or concrete barrier railing which is located in areas of asphalt or concrete will not be required to be trimmed. Where 2.5:1 (40%) or steeper slopes are not protected by guardrail, a minimum of 5 ft shall be cut.

Median safety mounds and islands formed by guardrail shall be mowed by hand if not accessible for tractor mowing. The top and all sides of the safety mounds shall be mowed to a uniform height.

Trimming shall be performed by mechanical or hand methods in conjunction with machine mowing on each cycle. Such trimming shall be completed not later than three work days after the tractor mowing. Trimming shall be performed around all fixed objects, including subsurface drain outlets, within the mowing limits. Vegetation around guardrail, delineators, sign posts, headwalls, trees, or other fixed objects shall be trimmed such that the vegetation does not exceed the height of mowed areas. Only the perimeter of shrub beds shall be trimmed, and not the individual shrubs within the bed.

Where landscape plantings, individual trees, and Department of Natural Resources wildlife plantings are closer than 7 ft to the fence, the mowing may take place around the perimeter of the plantings without trimming to the fence. Plantings made by the Department of Natural Resources or identified by "Do Not Mow or Spray" signs shall be mowed along the perimeter at the sign line.

Bridge cones and slope areas between bridges on overhead structures and all bridge cones in interchanges shall be mowed on routes designated as urban or rural where the full width is to be mowed, or as directed by the District Landscape Supervisor. This work shall be performed with hand mowers or weed trimmers. Tractor equipment will not be permitted on such cones. A bridge cone shall include the turfed areas extending from the slope immediately under the structure and the sloping area located perpendicular to the end of the handrail of the structure. Such areas may be distinguished due to the fact that they were sodded at the time of initial construction. Each single bridge structure includes four bridge cones. The mowing of such cones shall be performed during the second or third mowing cycle, as directed.

As an exception to the other requirements herein, all areas designated as urban areas on the plans shall be mowed from right-of-way line to right-of-way line, including interchange areas, on all mowing cycles. Slopes of 2.5:1 (40%) or steeper may require hand mowing as shown on the work location sheet.

623.06 Mowing in Construction Zone

If an area to be mowed is within the limits of the construction zone for another contract, the Contractor shall cooperate with the other Contractor in accordance with 105.07.

623.07 Method of Measurement

This work will not be measured for payment.

623.08 Basis of Payment

This work will be paid for at the contract unit price per cycle for mowing, for the cycle number shown on the Schedule of Pay Items. Payment will be made based on the quantities shown on the plans. The Department will reserve the right to accomplish incidental, strip, or additional mowing with its own forces.

Payment will be made under:

Pay Item

Pay Unit Symbol

Mowing, Cycle_____CYCL

The cost of mowing, trimming, maintenance of traffic, construction signs, repair of damage, reseeding if required, and other necessary incidentals shall be included in the cost of this work.

If a cycle is eliminated entirely, payment will be made in the amount of 5% of the cost of such eliminated cycle.

623.09 Renewal of Contract

The contract may be extended for a period of one calendar year for up to four years on an annual basis. The Department and the Contractor shall both agree to such extension. Mowing dates for the first cycle may be adjusted without change to the contract prices provided the above conditions are agreed to by the Department and the Contractor. The Contractor shall notify the Department on company letterhead before September 20 of the intent to renew the contract.