

SECTION K

NATURE STRIPS

INDEX TO CLAUSES

- K.1 Extent
- K.2 Final Completion of Nature Strip
- K.3 Top Soil
- K.4 Sowing

SECTION K
NATURE STRIPS

K.1 EXTENT

Nature strips shall mean all the areas within the road reserve and within the geographical limits of the contract as shown on the plans which are not to be paved with concrete, asphalt or other paving material under the terms of this contract.

K.2 FINAL CONSTRUCTION OF NATURE STRIP

When all contract works other than preparation for sealing has been completed or in the case of several streets or a long street in one contract, when sufficient long sections have been completed and approved, the Contractor shall grade, compact and finish the nature strips to the levels, grades and sections shown on the plans.

The soil in the nature strip areas shall comply with the requirements of Clause K.3.

Topsoil shall be spread and compacted with a hand operated (75 - 100kg) lawn roller (no greater than 90% of the maximum value obtained in the Standard Compaction Test in accordance with AS.1289 – 5.1.1 - 1993).

The prepared surface shall finish and remain flush (no lower than 10mm) with the top of the concrete kerb and channel, edges, paths and other surfaces.

Final forming and trimming of the nature strips shall be carried out to achieve an attractive appearance that blends in with the surroundings. In order to achieve this, the Superintendent may direct the Contractor to carry out such additional works, as deemed necessary.

HP The Contractor shall seek the Superintendent's review and approval of the final shape of the nature strips prior to preparation for pavement sealing works.

SECTION K
NATURE STRIPS

K.3 TOP SOIL

The top 75mm of the soil in the nature strips shall be as follows:

Supply of Site Topsoil

Complying site topsoil shall be used wherever possible. The Contractor shall confirm through (NATA) tests, that site topsoil has a grading, which falls within the upper/lower limits for its particular zone within the Shire (refer to Table K.3.1 and K.3.2) and has a pH, which is suitable for the healthy growth of the nominated grass mix and all plant species in the plant schedule. The Contractor is responsible for creating a growing medium, which will ensure satisfactory growth of the specified species.

Table K.3.1

CLAY ZONE	% Passing						
	Sieve Size	13.2mm	9.5mm	4.75mm	2.36mm	0.425mm	0.075mm
Upper tolerance		100	100	100	95	70	38
Lower tolerance		95	93	90	80	45	28

Table K.3.2

SAND ZONE	% Passing			
	Sieve Size	2.36mm	0.425mm	0.075mm
Upper tolerance		100	83	10
Lower tolerance		90	63	0

Note: The above sieve sizes are those commonly used for assessing soils for engineering purposes and documenting the analysis passing the sieve where as horticulturalists would be more accustomed to different sieve sizes and the analysis as a percentage retained.

The Clay Zone in Table K.3.1 is defined as areas where less than 1.5 metres of sand and/or silty sands exist and the Sand Zone in Table K.3.2 is where sand is deeper than 1.5 metres.

For areas where the existing topsoil does not fit either of the above zone criteria it shall be brought to the attention of the Superintendent for a determination on whether or not the site topsoil is to be used.

SECTION K
NATURE STRIPS

K.3 TOP SOIL (cont'd)

The Contractor shall ascertain the indigenous pH value for the area of the particular project. This shall be determined by (NATA) testing a minimum of three (3) samples of the typical site topsoil prior to the commencement of works.

The range of the pH values established by the tests shall set the upper and lower values that the site topsoil shall meet.

Site topsoil with a grading matching Tables K.3.1 or K.3.2 and with a pH range of 6.5 - 7 shall be considered suitable.

Should the pH range or grading not be suitable it shall be brought to the attention of the Superintendent for a determination on whether or not the site topsoil is to be used.

Top soil must be free of gravel, stones, sticks, tins, iron, wire, roots, noxious weeds, builders' and contractors' scrap refuse and rubbish of all kinds and anything which would be deleterious to the establishment growth and/or maintenance of grass lawns.

The cartage of soil shall not be carried out along the nature strip or the concrete footpath paving, but along the road, the soil being placed directly onto the naturestrips.

The Contractor shall not dump the soil onto roads, channels, crossings or paths, without first making some approved arrangements and obtaining the approval of the Superintendent thereto for the purpose of preventing the concrete work being discoloured or stained by such soil. The roads, crossings, paths, kerbs, shall be left clean on the completion of the job.

Supply of Imported Topsoil

In the event that site topsoil is not available or is not appropriate, the Contractor at the Contractor's expense shall supply imported topsoil.

Imported topsoil sufficient quantity of approved imported topsoil from a certified source shall be supplied and spread over the entire areas of planting beds and grass areas indicated on the drawings. The soil shall be quality loam from an approved soil supplier. The soil shall have a pH of 6.5 to 7.0 unless otherwise specified.

Soil sample and supplier details to be approved by the Superintendent prior to use.

SECTION K
NATURE STRIPS

K.4 SOWING

Should there be any over-compacted areas of nature strip resulting from previous construction activities those areas shall be re-worked.

The nature strip shall be reshaped if necessary, raked over and then sown down using a mixture of:

Approximate percentage by weight.

Vic Perennial Rye	81%
Annual Rye	9%
Creeping Red Fescue	7%
Vic Bent	3%

Seed spreading rate: 4kg/100 m²

A fertiliser with: -

Nitrogen	22%
Phosphate	5%
Potassium	8%

Or other such mixture as may be approved by the Superintendent.

Fertiliser spreading rate: 3 kg/100m²

Seed and fertiliser shall be mixed together, however mixing shall not take place more than 24 hours prior to spreading.

Seed and fertiliser shall be uniformly spread on a calm day, and shall be immediately raked into the surface.

HP No sowing shall be undertaken without the approval of the Superintendent.

Should a minimum 90% consistent healthy grass cover not be achieved within 4 weeks of sowing a further treatment of fertiliser (NPK 16:2:14) spread at the rate of 3 kg/100m² shall be applied.

A minimum 90% consistent healthy grass cover shall be achieved in all grass areas within 3 months of sowing. Grassed areas shall be nurtured until the end of the maintenance period as specified. The Contractor at its expense shall make good any bare patches so that at the end of the maintenance period there is full grass cover prior to being taken over by Council for future care and maintenance.