

ITEM 610.04 03 - RIGHT OF WAY MOWING AND LITTER REMOVAL

DESCRIPTION:

The work covered by this item shall consist of: (1) Mowing existing turf in those locations as specified within the contract documents, within the designated right of way to those limits established during previous cuttings, or as directed by the Engineer in Charge; (2) Trimming of vegetation from around roadside obstacles and their proximities that occur within the designated mowing area(s), and; (3) Pickup and removal of litter and debris from roadside right-of-ways.

MATERIALS

None Specified

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS:

- A. Litter Removal - Prior to mowing, the contractor shall remove all litter and debris along the project limits from right of way line to right of way line. This area includes all right of way fences, ditches, medians, and the area behind guide rails. Litter to be removed shall include but not be limited to: tires, metal, plastic, wood, bottles, cans, and paper.
- B. Removal of Dead Animals – Prior to mowing, the contractor shall be responsible for the removal and proper disposal of large and medium dead animal carcasses, including deer, raccoons, skunks, possum, etc. encountered during mowing and litter removal operations.
- C. Removal of collected litter and debris – Prior to mowing, all collected litter and debris shall be removed from the highway right-of-way by the end of each work day.
- D. Removal of Dead Plant Material - Prior to each mowing cycle, the Engineer may instruct the contractor to remove any dead plant material that interferes with the mowing operation. No dead standing trees shall be removed without prior approval from The Engineer.
- E. Disposal of litter and debris – All collected litter, debris and dead animal carcasses shall be disposed of in accordance with Standard Specification Section 107-10.
- F. Right of Way Mowing – Right of way mowing shall be completed on all areas where vegetation exists outside the traveled way but within the Right-of-way. Vegetation is defined as any plant life with a stem diameter of 3 inches (75mm) or less measured at 4 inches (100mm) above the ground surface. Right of way mowing shall be performed as follows:
 1. In areas without guiderail: from the edge of traveled way to 30 feet (9m) away from the edge of the roadway or to limits established by previous cuttings – whichever is greater.

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2. In areas with guiderail: from the edge of the traveled way to 11 feet (3.35m) beyond the back of the guiderail.
3. At intersecting bridge abutments, not shown in plans: lateral limits shall be from the abutment to 10 feet (3m) offset the abutment; longitudinal limits shall be 10 feet (3m) beyond the abutment.
4. Work also includes, but is not limited to the mowing and/or trimming of cross culvert ditches to the right of way and around culvert and bridge appurtenances. At some locations work will include cutting and removal of trees, brush and dead vegetation.
5. Vegetation shall be mowed/trimmed to a height of 4 inches (100mm) or less where the ground surface is sloped at 1 on 2 or less.
6. Vegetation shall be mowed/trimmed to a height of 8 inches (200mm) or less where the ground surface is sloped steeper than a 1 on 2 but equal to or less than a 1 on 1.5.
7. Vegetation on ground surfaces sloped steeper than 1 on 1.5 will not be mowed or trimmed.
8. Vegetation in front of roadside signs shall be mowed/trimmed as detailed in the plans.
9. Care shall be taken to avoid scalping and slope damage at crests or abrupt changes in the ground surface slopes.
10. Care shall be taken to avoid damaging or rutting slopes and ditch lines.
11. Areas designated as (Wild Flower planting areas) shall only be mowed during the last cycle of the mowing.
12. Areas which have naturally occurring wildflowers shall be mowed after blooming has ended. The Engineer shall make the determination as to which area(s) meet this criteria.

There may be areas where mowing limits have not been defined or correctly established, as determined by the Engineer. At these locations the mowing limits shall be corrected and included in the right of way mowing and litter removal item of work. Mowing markers shall be installed along these locations. These areas may require cutting and removal of trees and brush greater than 3 inches (75mm) in diameter and measured at 4 inches (100mm) above the ground and the removal of dead vegetation.

The contractor shall use only properly equipped tractors and mowing equipment. The cutting blades on all mowers must be sharp and in proper operating condition to prevent damage to the turf. The effort to mow some areas such as drainage ditches, stone-lined ditches, raised curbs, cut slopes and fill slopes around roadside obstacles may require the use of specialized equipment in order to perform the mowing operation. The types of equipment required may include but not be limited to: articulated mowers (for mowing over guiderail), slope mowers, and sickle, flail, or rotary mowers, as well as hand-held trimming equipment.

The contractor may, as approved by the Engineer, and according to good horticultural practices, remove the lower branches of major trees that interfere with safe mowing. Such

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pruning will only be performed on plant material where the removal of branches is consistent with the plant material's typical habit of growth.

- G. Trimming - Trimming shall be performed on all areas designated for right of way mowing. Trimming shall consist of the reduction of vegetation from all roadside obstacles including but not limited to sign posts, utility poles, guide rail posts, ditch lines, headwalls, bridge abutments, and from around landscape trees and shrubs.
- H. Liability - The contractor shall be responsible for the replacement or care, as determined by the Engineer, of any plant materials, that as a result of the contractor's operations are either dead or damaged. Care may consist of, but not be limited to pruning and fertilizing, as well as the repair of ruts from mowing equipment.
- I. Frequency of Right of Way Mowing and Litter Removal - The commencement of each Right of Way Mowing and Litter Removal cycle will be determined by the dates listed in the project proposal. The Engineer may modify the schedule to accommodate prevailing weather conditions and vegetation growth. In the event of a change in the schedule appearing in the project proposal, the Engineer will notify the contractor a minimum of forty eight hours prior to the scheduled mowing or revised mowing date.

METHOD OF MEASUREMENT:

Right of Way Mowing and Litter Removal will be measured as the number of Right of Way mowing and litter removal cycles. Each instance of the completion of all of the above mentioned work within the designated project limits, deemed satisfactory to the Engineer in Charge, will be considered one right of way mowing and litter removal cycle.

BASIS OF PAYMENT:

The unit price bid for each Right of Way Mowing and Litter Removal cycle shall include the cost of providing all fees, materials, labor, and equipment to satisfactorily complete the work as specified, except for cutting and removal of trees and brush greater than 3 inches (75mm) in diameter measured at 4 inches (100mm) above the ground surface and the removal of dead plant material which payment will be made in accordance with the Standard Specification Section 109-05 B. and C. The installation of mowing limit markers shall be paid for under their respective item of work.

Progress payments in proportion to the total amount of work for each cycle are allowed. This allowance does not waive nor modify requirements contained in Article 7 in Standard Specification Section 103-06.