

**ITEM 08615.0212 M – COLLECTION AND PLACEMENT OF LEAF LITTER IN VERNAL POOL(S)**

**DESCRIPTION:**

This work shall consist of acquiring and placing leaf litter in each vernal pool as shown on the plans and directed by the Engineer. The purpose of leaf litter is to provide pool organisms with an essential habitat feature and to act as an inoculant to introduce fauna and flora.

**MATERIALS:**

Materials for the leaf litter shall be composed of whole leaves, leaf fragments, leaf duff, and mineral soil. The material shall be harvested by excavating approximately 8 cm (4 in) of the uppermost layer of litter from existing forested wetland sites within the proposed roadway limit of disturbance prior to the clearing and grubbing operation for the road construction. The leaf litter may contain associated mineral soil provided it does not account for more than 20 % of the total volume based on visual inspection. The leaf litter shall also contain any associated branches and twigs less than 5 cm (2 in) in diameter. Any material collected from emergent wetlands is unacceptable and shall be discarded at the Contractor's expense. All selected material for use as leaf litter is subject to approval by the Engineer.

**CONSTRUCTION DETAILS:**

The limits of the areas for harvesting leaf litter, the timing of the operation, and material for use as leaf litter shall be subject to approval by the Engineer. The Contractor shall indicate the proposed timing of the leaf litter harvesting in their overall project schedule. Leaf litter shall be collected and placed within a stockpile prior to application within vernal pools. If approved by the Engineer, the material shall be placed immediately after final grading has been approved by the Engineer. Upon acceptance of the final grades, the Contractor shall place a 20 cm (8 in) layer of leaf litter throughout the pool area and side slopes. The litter shall be placed to cover all areas of the pool and side slopes at an even depth. The placement of the leaf litter shall be subject to the approval of the Engineer.

**METHOD OF MEASUREMENT:**

This work will be measured as the number of cubic meters of leaf litter placed and computed from the payment lines shown on the plans as indicated in the contract documents and as directed by the Engineer.

**BASIS OF PAYMENT:**

The unit bid price of leaf litter, complete and in place, shall include the cost of all labor, materials, equipment, tools and incidentals necessary to complete the work.