

Item No. 601S
Salvaging and Placing Topsoil

601S.1 Description

This item shall govern the removal, storage and placement of approved on-site naturally occurring topsoil and topsoil mix (see 601S.3.A) to the depths and area shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Engineer or Landscape Architect.

This specification is applicable for projects or work involving either inch-pound or SI units. Within the text and accompanying tables, the inch-pound units are given preference followed by SI units shown within parentheses.

601S.2 Submittals

- A. Submittal required before construction.
 - 1. Soil test results and soil classification necessary for approval of material as suitable topsoil. Soil test results should include, at minimum, texture, percentage organic matter (OM), salinity (soil salt) level; pH; and amounts of Phosphorous (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N) and sulfate-sulfur (SO₄-S).
 - 2. For topsoil mixes containing compost, the soil test for shall also include moisture content, C:N ratio and Solvita compost maturity index.
 - 3. A sample (21 gallon) of proposed topsoil or topsoil mix shall be submitted to the Owner or their representative 30 calendar days before installation and be approved before installation. Sample shall be labeled including type of material, specification number; name, address, and telephone number of manufacturer or supplier; and address of the location of the source or material stockpile.
- B. Submittals /Inspection required during construction:
 - 1. Delivery Tickets indicating type/product name, source and quantities of imported topsoil mix or compost) for mixing with salvaged soil).
 - 2. Deliveries of soil to a job site shall be inspected by the project Engineer or Landscape Architect or Owner's construction inspector before placement to verify product compliance with specification.

601S.3 Materials

- A. Topsoil Mix
 - 1. Topsoil mix shall be composed of 4 parts of soil mixed with 1 part compost, by volume. The soil shall be locally available native soil that meets the following specifications:
 - a. Shall be free of trash, weeds, deleterious materials, rocks and debris.

- b. 100% shall pass through a 3/8-inch (9.5-mm) screen.
- c. Soil to be a black or dark brown loamy material that meets the requirements of the table below in accordance with the USDA textural triangle. Soil known locally as "red death" is not an allowable soil. Textural composition shall meet the following criteria:

Textural Class	Minimum	Maximum
Clay	5%	50%
Silt	10%	50%
Sand	15%	67%

- d. Organic matter percentage shall be at least 5.0% after the addition of compost.
 - e. Salinity shall be below 6.00 mmhos/cm.
 - f. An owner/project designer(s) may propose use of onsite salvaged topsoil which does not meet the soil texture class required above by providing a soil analysis and a written statement from a qualified professional in soils, landscape architecture, or agronomy indicating the onsite topsoil will provide an equivalent growth media and specifying what, if any, soil amendments are required.
3. The compost shall be locally available and shall meet the following specifications:
- a) Shall be well decomposed, stable to very stable, weed-free plant-based material source derived from yard trimmings or City approved alternate source. The Carbon/Nitrogen (C/N) ratio shall be less than 25:1 and trace metals test results should "pass".
 - b) Shall be blended and ground leaf, wood and other plant-based material, composted for a minimum of nine (9) months and at temperatures sufficient to break down all woody fibers, seeds and leaf structures, free of toxic material at levels that are harmful to plants or humans. Source material shall be yard waste trimmings blended with other plants or other materials designed to produce compost high in fungal material. Non-vegetal source materials may be acceptable upon approval by the Owner. The compost will possess no objectionable odors and shall not resemble the raw material from which it was derived.
 - c) Compost shall be commercially prepared compost and meet US Compost Council STA/TMECC criteria or as modified in this section for "Compost as a Landscape Backfill Mix Component".

http://compostingcouncil.org/admin/wp-content/plugins/wp-pdfupload/pdf/191/LandscapeArch_Specs.pdf

d) Compost shall comply with the following parameters:

PARAMETERS ¹	REPORTED AS (UNITS OF MEASURE)	GENERAL RANGE
pH	pH units	6.0 - 8.5
Salinity (electric conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 10
Moisture Content	%, net weight basis	30 - 60%
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	30 - 65%
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	98% pass through ¾ inch screen
Stability Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate	mg CO ₂ -C per g OM per day	<8
Solvita Compost Maturity Test	Solvita units	>6
Physical Contaminants (inerts)	%, dry weight basis	<1%
Chemical Contaminants ²	mg/kg (ppm)	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels
Biological Contaminants Select pathogens Fecal coliform bacteria or Salmonella ³	MPN per gram per dry weight MPN per 4 grams per dry weight	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels

¹ Recommended test methodologies are provided in Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost (TMECC, The US Composting Council).

² US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels = Arsenic 41 ppm, Cadmium 39 ppm, Copper 1,500 ppm, Lead 300 ppm, Mercury 17ppm, Molybdenum 75 ppm, Nickel 420 ppm, Selenium 100 ppm, Zinc 2,800 ppm.

³ US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels = Salmonella <3 MPN/4grams of total solids or Fecal Coliform <1,000 MPN/gram of total solids.

e) Compost and other soil amendments shall be worked into the existing onsite topsoil with a disc or tiller to create a well-blended material.

2. All disturbed areas to be revegetated are required to provide a minimum of six (6) inches of topsoil. The topsoil shall be able to support the growth of planting (Standard Specification Item No. 608S), Seeding for Erosion Control (Standard Specification Item No. 604S), sodding (Standard Specification Item No. 602S) and Native Seeding and Planting for Restoration (Standard Specification Item No. 609S).

B. Water

Water shall be furnished by the Contractor and shall be clean and free from seed source, pesticide, fertilizer, industrial wastes and other objectionable matter.

601S.4 Sources

The salvaged topsoil may be obtained from the right-of-way at sites of proposed excavation or embankment when shown on the Drawings or identified by the Engineer or Landscape Architect. The approximate quantity of acceptable topsoil to be salvaged from the project will be shown on the Drawings. The topsoil or topsoil mix may also be obtained from approved sources, which are located outside the right-of-way and have been secured by the Contractor.

601S.5 Construction Methods

Tree protection fencing will be maintained at all times to protect all trees in the limits of construction. Where removal of trees is indicated on the Drawings, they shall be marked as directed by the Engineer or Landscape Architect, or certified Arborist.

Construction equipment shall not be operated nor construction materials stockpiled within the critical root zone of trees. Tree protection fencing shall remain in place per tree protection plan. Topsoil materials shall not be placed within the critical root zone until tree wells are constructed that conform to Item No. 610S, "Preservation of Trees and Other Vegetation" and Standard Details 591S-1 and 610S-6. The source and stockpile areas shall be kept drained, insofar as practicable, during the period of topsoil removal.

The existing topsoil shall be removed from the area indicated on the Drawings, stockpiled in designated area on the site plan, windrow along the right of way or other designated area outside the 100-year floodplain (as defined in the Drainage Criteria Manual and Land Development Code), or spread over an area that is ready for topsoil application in accordance with the Drawings or as directed by the Engineer or Landscape Architect.

Trash, wood, brush, stumps, rocks over 1 1/2 inches (37.5 mm) in size and other objectionable material encountered shall be removed and disposed of as directed by the Engineer or Landscape Architect prior to beginning of work required by this item. Grass and other herbaceous plant materials may remain. Large clumps shall be broken up.

Where the proposed planting area is compacted more than 85% proctor or 225 p.s.i., the existing soil should be tilled to a minimum depth of six inches before installation of the salvaged topsoil or topsoil mix. In the critical root zone of trees reference 661S.

The topsoil should not be placed if the ground is muddy, saturated, or frozen.

The topsoil should not be placed if the ground is extremely dry. Wet soil enough to prevent dust from leaving the site.

After the grading has been completed to the required alignment, grades and cross-sections and prior to the spreading of the salvaged topsoil, any clay or tight soil surfaces shall be scarified by plowing furrows approximately 4 inches (100 mm) deep along horizontal slope lines at 2 foot (600 mm) vertical intervals. The spreading of the salvaged topsoil or topsoil mix shall be undertaken as soon as the grading has been completed. The topsoil shall be spread so as to form a cover of uniform thickness indicated. After the topsoil has been placed and shaped, it shall be sprinkled with water and rolled to provide a suitable seed bed.

601S.6 Measurement and Payment

Salvaging, removal and/or placing topsoil materials will not be measured for payment, but shall be included in the unit price bid for the item of construction in which these activities are used.

End

<u>SPECIFIC</u> CROSS REFERENCE MATERIALS
Specification 601S, "Salvaging and Placing Topsoil"

City of Austin Standard Specification Items

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Item No. 602S	Sodding for Erosion Control
Item No. 604S	Seeding for Erosion Control
Item No. 608S	Planting
Item No. 609S	Native Grassland Seeding and Planting For Erosion Control
Item No. 610S	Preservation of Trees and Other Vegetation

City of Austin Standard Details

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
591S-1	Dry Stack Rock Wall
610S-6	Typical Tree Well Applications

<u>RELATED</u> CROSS REFERENCE MATERIALS
Specification 601S, "Salvaging and Placing Topsoil"

City of Austin Standard Specification Items

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Item No. 102S	Clearing and Grubbing
Item No. 104S	Removing Concrete
Item No. 110S	Street Excavation
Item No. 111S	Excavation
Item No. 120S	Channel Excavation
Item No. 132S	Embankment
Item No. 606S	Fertilizer

City of Austin Standard Details

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
610S-1	Tree Protection Fence Locations
610S-2	Tree Protection Fence, Type B Chainlink
610S-3	Tree Protection Fence, Type B Wood
610S-4	Tree Protection Fence, Modified Type A
610S-5	Tree Protection Fence, Modified Type B

Texas Department of Transportation: Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Highways, Streets, and Bridges

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Item No. 100	Preparing Right of Way
Item No. 110	Excavation
Item No. 160	Furnishing and Placing Topsoil
Item No. 164	Seeding for Erosion Control
Item No. 204	Sprinkling

Texas Department of Transportation: Manual of Testing Procedures

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Tex-103-E	Determination of Moisture Content of Soil Materials
Tex-104-E	Determination of Liquid Limit of Soils
Tex-105-E	Determination of Plastic Limit of Soils
Tex-106-E	Method of Calculating the Plasticity Index of Soils