COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
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Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jim Gray
SECRETARY

DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 3-23; CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM 01-23

TO: Chief District Engineers
KYTC Central Office Directors
Project Development Branch Managers
TEBMs for Project Delivery and Preservation
Section Engineers
Active Consultants

FROM: Tim Layson, P.E., Director
Division of Highway Design

Matt Simpson, P.E., Director
Division of Construction

DATE: June 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Use of Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRM)

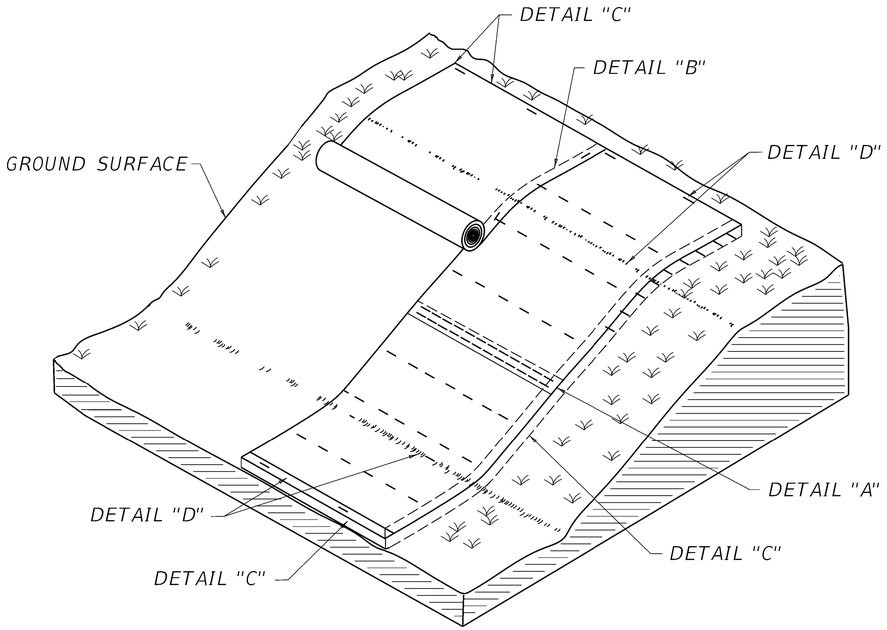
Turf reinforcement mats (TRM) are permanent rolled erosion control products (RECP) that are designed to enhance vegetation establishment and provide long-term erosion protection by permanently reinforcing vegetation during and after maturation. TRMs typically are used in permanent applications where erosive forces may exceed the limits of natural, unreinforced vegetation, such as high flow ditches and channels, steep slopes, stream banks, and shorelines.

TRM's are an excellent alternative to rip rap and channel lining, especially in urban and suburban areas, where grass lined channels may be preferred over rock lining. They also provide environmental benefits when compared to riprap and channel lining by providing a vegetative filter for flowing water.

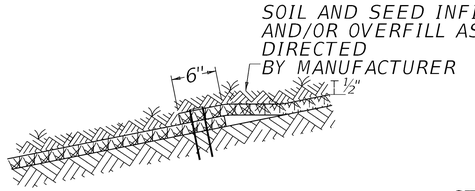
KYTC has used TRM's since the early 2000's. However, installation issues have hindered their performance in the field, which has led to the avoidance of their use in many areas. To encourage the use of more TRM's, KYTC would like to clarify the installation process and update the TRM guidance to match currently accepted standards. Attached to this memo is a revised copy of Special Note 11F, which has been updated to reflect the construction and material requirements endorsed by the Erosion Control Technology Council (ECTC) and clarifies the importance of covering TRM's with a minimum depth of topsoil.

Two new sepia drawings (Sepia 022 "Turf Mat Slope Installation" and Sepia 023 "Turf Mat Channel Installation") have also been developed to supplement Special Note 11F.

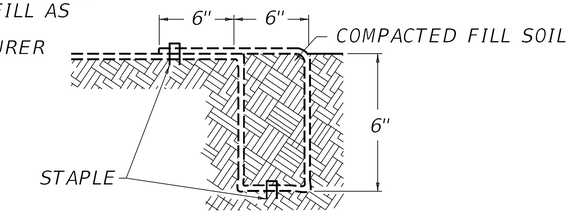
If you have any questions about this policy, contact the Drainage Branch, in the Division of Highway Design, at 502-564-3280 or the Division of Construction at 502-564-4780.



TURF MAT
SLOPE INSTALLATION

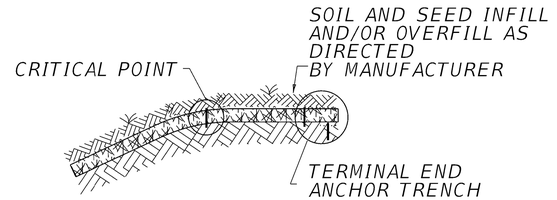


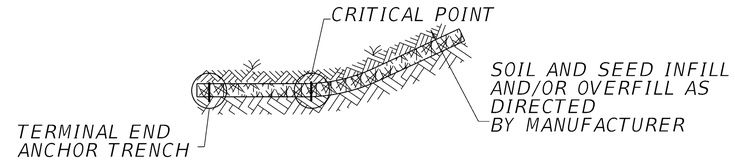
TRANSVERSE OVERLAP
DETAIL "A"



ANCHOR TRENCH
DETAIL "C"

LONGITUDINAL OVERLAP
DETAIL "B"





CRITICAL POINTS
DETAIL "D"

~ NOTES ~

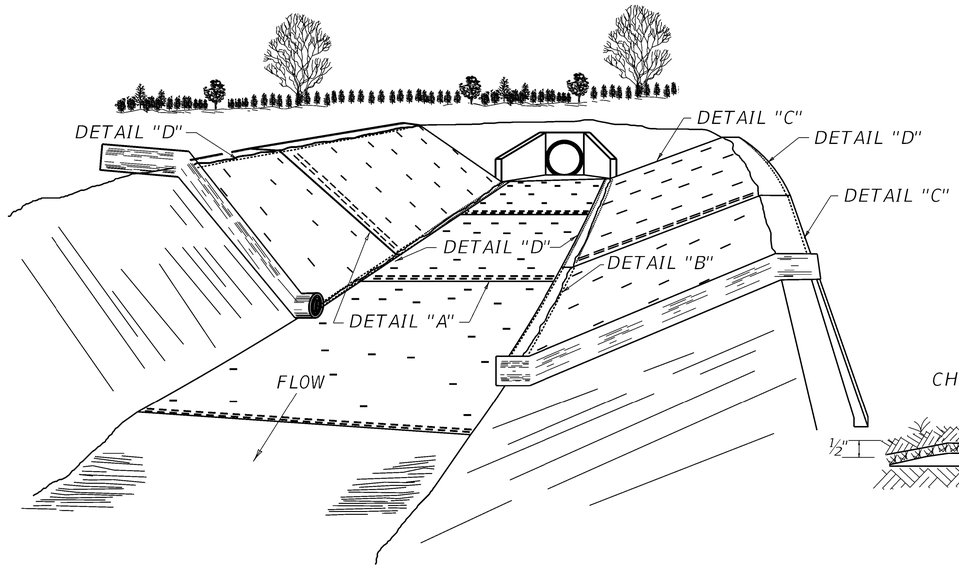
1. CONSTRUCT A 6" X 6" ANCHOR TRENCH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SLOPE. LINE THE ANCHOR TRENCH WITH TURF REINFORCING MAT LEAVING 12" EXTENDING PAST THE ANCHOR TRENCH. FASTEN THE MAT MATERIAL INTO THE ANCHOR TRENCH ON 12" CENTERS BACKFILL THE TRENCH WITH TOPSOIL AND COMPACT. COVER THE AREA WITH THE REMAINING 12" OF THE MAT'S TERMINAL END LEAVING 6" TO OVERLAP THE TURF REINFORCING MAT. SECURE THE 6" OVERLAP WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS.
2. UNROLL THE MAT DOWN THE SLOPE AND PLACE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SOIL SURFACE. INSURE THAT THE SOIL SURFACE IS GRADED SMOOTHLY AND DOES NOT CONTAIN IRREGULARITIES.
3. SECURELY FASTEN THE MAT TO THE SOIL BY INSTALLING STAPLES AT A MINIMUM RATE OF 1.5 PER SQ. YD. ANCHORS SHALL BE SELECTED SO THAT THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT GROUND PENETRATION TO RESIST PULLOUT. INCREASE ANCHORING FREQUENCY FOR SITE CONDITIONS (LOOSE, SANDY, OR WET SOILS) AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER AND MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
4. OVERLAP EDGES OF MATS ACCORDING TO THE LONGITUDINAL AND TRANSVERSE OVERLAP DETAILS. STAPLE LONGITUDINAL OVERLAPS WITH 2 ROWS OF STAPLES STAGGERED AT 4". STAPLE TRANSVERSE OVERLAPS WITH 1 ROW OF STAPLES SPACED AT 12".
5. CONSTRUCT A 6"X 12" ANCHOR TRENCH AT THE TOE OF THE SLOPE FOLLOWING SIMILAR PROCEDURE DENOTED FOR THE TOP OF THE SLOPE ANCHOR TRENCH.
6. ENSURE THAT THE MAT IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SOIL SURFACE WITH NO PROJECTIONS OR PROTRUSIONS.
7. INFILL AND OVERFILL THE MAT WITH A MINIMUM OF ½" TOPSOIL. APPLY SEEDING AND PROTETION AS DIRECTED BY THE MANUFACTURER. USE SEED MIX TYPE 1 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 212.03.03. TOPSOIL IS THE SOIL PROFILE DEFINED TECHNICALLY AS "A" HORIZON BY THE SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. USE LOOSE, FRIABLE TOPSOIL THAT IS FREE OF STONES 1" OR GREATER IN OVERALL DIMENSIONS, ADMIXTURE OF SUBSOIL, REFUSE, STUMPS, ROOTS, BRUSH, WEEDS AND OTHER MATERIALS THAT PREVENT THE FORMATION OF A SUITABLE SEED BED. DO NOT USE TOPSOIL FROM SITES HAVING JOHNSON GRASS, CANADA THISTLE, QUACK GRASS, NODDING THISTLE OR EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF WEEDS OR THEIR RHIZOMES.

SUBMITTED W. T. Layson 01-24-2023
DIVISION DIRECTOR DATE

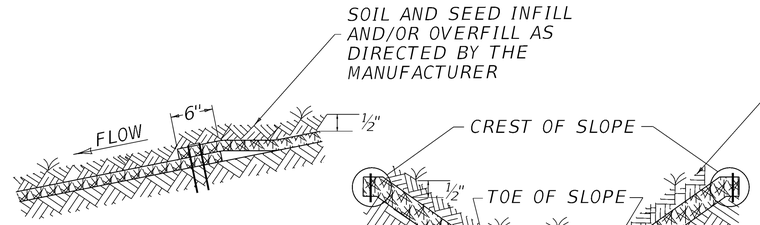
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
TEAM KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET

DRAWING TITLE: SEPIA 22 - TURF MAT SLOPE INSTALLATION

ITEM NO. COUNTY OF
SHEET NO.

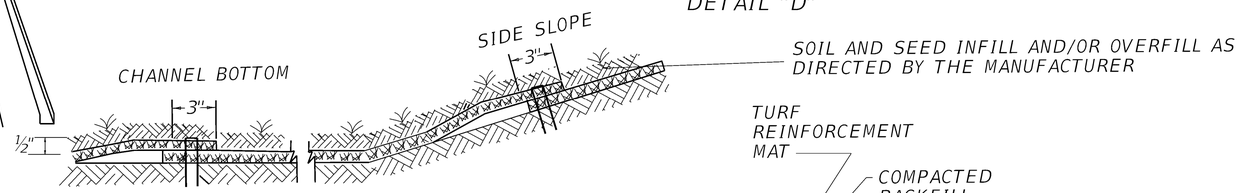


TURF MAT
CHANNEL INSTALLATION

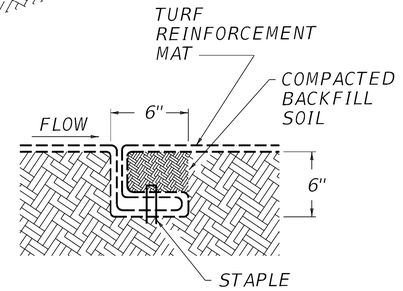


TRANSVERSE OVERLAP
DETAIL "A"

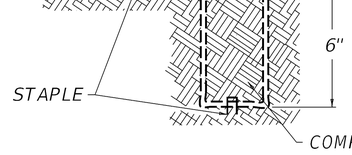
CRITICAL POINTS
DETAIL "D"



LONGITUDINAL OVERLAP
DETAIL "B"



CHANNEL CHECK SLOT ③



ANCHOR TRENCH
DETAIL "C"

~ NOTES ~

1. CONSTRUCT A 6" X 6" ANCHOR TRENCH AT THE UPSTREAM END OF THE CHANNEL. LINE THE ANCHOR TRENCH WITH TURF REINFORCIG MAT LEAVING 12" EXTENDING PAST THE ANCHOR TRENCH. FASTEN THE MAT MATERIAL INTO THE ANCHOR TRENCH ON 12" CENTERS BACKFILL THE TRENCH WITH TOPSOIL AND COMPACT. COVER THE AREA WITH THE REMAINING 12" OF THE MAT'S TERMINAL END LEAVING 6" TO OVERLAP THE TURF REINFORCING MAT. SECURE THE 6" OVERLAP WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS.
2. UNROLL THE MAT PARALLEL TO THE PRIMARY DIRECTION OF WATER FLOW AND PLACE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SOIL SURFACE. INSURE THAT THE SOIL SURFACE GRADED SMOOTHLY AND DOES NOT CONTAIN IRREGULARITIES.

③ EXCAVATE 6" X 6" CHECK SLOTS EVERY 25' ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE CHANNEL. LINE THE SIDE AND BOTTOM OF THE SLOT WITH THE MAT AND THEN PULL BACK OVER. FASTEN WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS. FILL THE CHECK SLOT WITH TOPSOIL, COMPACT, AND CONTINUE UNROLLING MAT DOWN THE CHANNEL.

4. CONTINUE UNROLLING THE MAT DOWNSTREAM OVER THE COMPACTED SLOT TO THE NEXT CHECK SLOT OR TERMINAL ANCHOR TRENCH. IF MORE THAN ONE SECTION OF MAT, AS SHOWN IN THE TRANSVERSE OVERLAP DETAIL, IS USED OVERLAP UPSTREAM MATS OVER TOP OF THE DOWNSTREAM MAT 6" AND SECURE. IF MATS ARE PLACED PARALLEL TO EACH OTHER ALONG THE CHANNEL, PLACE CHANNEL SECTIONS FIRST, THEN OVERLAP SIDE SLOPE SECTIONS 3" OVER THE CHANNEL SECTIONS AS SHOWN IN THE LONGITUDINAL OVERLAP DETAIL, AND SECURE WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS. PROCEED UP THE SIDE SLOPES IN THE SAME MANNER UNTIL THE TOP OF CHANNEL IS REACHED.
5. SECURE MATS WHILE UNROLLING ON SIDESLOPES AND CHANNEL BOTTOMS WITH STAPLES AT A FREQUENCY THE TABLE INDICATES. USE STAPLES HAVING SUFFICIENT GROUND PENETRATION TO RESIST PULLOUT. INCREASE ANCHORING FREQUENCY AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER AND MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
6. INFILL AND OVERFILL THE MAT WITH A MINIMUM OF ½" TOPSOIL. APPLY SEEDING AND PROTECTION AS DIRECTED BY THE MANUFACTURER. USE SEED MIX TYPE 1 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 212.03.03. TOPSOIL IS THE SOIL PROFILE DEFINED TECHNICALLY AS "A" HORIZON BY THE SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. USE LOOSE, FRIABLE TOPSOIL THAT IS FREE OF STONES 1" OR GREATER IN OVERALL DIMENSIONS, ADMIXTURE OF SUBSOIL, REFUSE, STUMPS, ROOTS, BRUSH, WEEDS AND OTHER MATERIALS THAT PREVENT THE FORMATION OF A SUITABLE SEED BED. DO NOT USE TOPSOIL FROM SITES HAVING JOHNSON GRASS, CANADA THISTLE, QUACK GRASS, NODDING THISTLE OR EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF WEEDS OR THEIR RHIZOMES.

SLOPE GRADE	ANCHORING FREQUENCY
UP TO 2H:1V	1.5 ANCHORS/SQYD
2H:1V TO 1H:1V	2.0 ANCHORS/SQYD
STEEPER THAN 1H:1V AND CHANNEL BOTTOMS	3.0 ANCHORS/SQYD

SUBMITTED W. T. Lyon — DIVISION DIRECTOR — 01-24-2023 — DATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
TEAM KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET

DRAWING TITLE: SEPIA 23 - TURF MAT CHANNEL INSTALLATION

ITEM NO. COUNTY OF
SHEET NO.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR TURF REINFORCING MAT

1.0 DESCRIPTION. Install turf reinforcement mat at locations specified in the Contract or as the Engineer directs. Section references herein are to the Department's Current Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

2.0 MATERIALS.

2.1 Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM). Use a Turf Reinforcement Mat defined as permanent rolled erosion control product composed of non-degradable synthetic fibers, filaments, nets, wire mesh and/or other elements, processed into a three-dimensional matrix of sufficient thickness and from the Department's List of Approved Materials. Mats must be 100% UV stabilized materials. For TRMs containing degradable components, all physical property values must be obtained on the non-degradable portion of the matting exclusively. Ensure product labels clearly show the manufacturer or supplier name, style name, and roll number. Ensure labeling, shipment and storage follows ASTM D-4873. The Department will require manufacturer to provide TRMs that are machine constructed web of mechanically or melt bonded nondegradable fibers entangled to form a three dimensional matrix. The Department will require all long term performance property values in table below to be based on non degradable portion of the matting alone. Approved methods include polymer welding, thermal or polymer fusion, or placement of fibers between two high strength biaxially oriented nets mechanically bound by parallel stitching with polyolefin thread. Ensure that mats designated in the plans as Type 4 mats, are not to be manufactured from discontinuous or loosely held together by stitching or glued netting or composites. Type 4 mats shall be composed of geosynthetic matrix that exhibits a very high interlock and reinforcement capacities with both soil and root systems and with high tensile modulus. The Department will require manufacturer to use materials chemically and biologically inert to the natural soil environments conditions. Ensure the blanket is smolder resistant without the use of chemical additives. When stored, maintain the protective wrapping and elevate the mats off the ground to protect them from damage. The Department will not specify these materials for use in heavily acidic coal seam areas or other areas with soil problems that would severally limit vegetation growth.

2.2 Classifications

The basis for selection of the type of mat required will be based on the long term shear stress level of the mat of the channel in question or the degree of slope to protect and will be designated in the contract. The Type 4 mats are to be used at structural backfills protecting critical structures, utility cuts, areas where vehicles may be expected to traverse the mat, channels with large heavy drift, channels with high shear stresses, and where higher factors of safety, very steep slopes and/or durability concerns are needed as determined by project team and designer and will be specified in the plans by designer.

Properties	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
Maximum Slope (H:V)	1:1	1:1	0.5:1	0.5:1
Un-vegetated Shear	≥ 2.0 lbs/ft^2 (≥ 96 Pa)	≥ 2.0 lb/ft2 (≥ 96 Pa)"	≥ 2.0 lb/ft2 (≥ 96 Pa)	≥ 2.0 lb/ft2 (≥ 96 Pa)

Stress[b, c, d] ASTM D6460				
Vegetated Shear Stress [c, d, e, f] ASTM D6460	≥ 6.0 lbs/ft^2 (≥ 287 Pa)	≥ 8.0 lb/ft2 (≥ 383 Pa)	≥ 10.0 lb/ft2 (≥ 479 Pa)	≥ 12.0 lb/ft2 (≥ 575 Pa)
Seedling Emergence [d] ASTM D7322	≥ 250%	≥ 250%	≥ 250%	≥ 250%
MD Material Tensile Strength [d, f] ASTM D6818	≥ 150 lbs/ft (≥ 2.2 kN/m)	≥ 175 lbs/ft (≥ 2.6 kN/m)	≥ 200 lbs/ft (≥ 2.9 kN/m)	≥ 1,500 lbs/ft (≥ 21.9 kN/m)
TD Material Tensile Strength [d, f] ASTM D6818	≥ 150 lbs/ft (≥ 2.2 kN/m)	≥ 175 lbs/ft (≥ 2.6 kN/m)	≥ 200 lbs/ft (≥ 2.9 kN/m)	≥ 1,500 lbs/ft (≥ 21.9 kN/m)
Mass Per Unit Area [d] ASTM D6566	≥ 8.0 oz/yd^2 (≥ 271 g/m^2))	≥ 8.0 oz/yd^2 (≥ 271 g/m2)	≥ 8.0 oz/yd^2 (≥ 271 g/m2)	≥ 8.0 oz/yd2 (≥ 271 g/m2)
Material Thickness [d] ASTM D6525	≥ 0.25 in (≥ 6.35 mm)	≥ 0.25 in (≥ 6.35 mm)	≥ 0.25 in (≥ 6.35 mm)	≥ 0.25 in (≥ 6.35 mm)
UV Stability [c, e] ASTM D4355	≥ 80% @ 500 hrs	≥ 80% @ 500 hrs	≥ 80% @ 1,000 hrs	≥ 90% @ 1,000 hrs

a. For Type 4 mats, property values tested per ASTM D6818 and D6525 are reported as minimum average roll values (MARVs). MARVs are calculated as the typical minus two standard deviations. Statistically, it yields a 97.7% degree of confidence that any samples taken from quality assurance testing will exceed the value reported.

b. Required minimum shear stress TRM (un-vegetated) can sustain without physical damage or excess erosion (> 12.7 mm (0.5 in.) soil loss during successive, minimum 30 minute flow events in large scale testing.

c. Acceptable large-scale testing protocol may include ASTM D6460, or other independent testing deemed acceptable by the engineer. Large-scale performance testing typically involves limited soil types and vegetative stands, therefore it is recommended that an appropriate factor of safety be used in design and product selection (see Guidance Document for further information).

d. Typical values are calculated as the average value, it yields a 50% degree of confidence that any samples taken from quality assurance testing will exceed the value reported.

e. Required minimum shear stress TRM (fully vegetated) can sustain without physical damage or excess erosion (> 12.7 mm (0.5 in.) soil loss during successive, minimum 30 minute flow events in large scale testing.

f. For TRMs containing degradable components, property values must be obtained on the non-degradable portion of the matting alone.

NOTE: TRMs are typically used in hydraulic applications, such as high flow ditches and channels, steep slopes, stream banks, and shorelines, where erosive forcers may exceed the limits of natural, unreinforced vegetation or in areas where limited vegetation establishment is anticipated.

2.3 Quality Assurance Sampling, Testing, and Acceptance

A) Performance Testing: The Department will require AASHTO's NTPEP index testing. The Department will also require the manufacturer to perform internal MARV testing at a Geosynthetic Accreditation Institute – Laboratory Accreditation Program (GAI-LAP) accredited laboratory for tensile strength, tensile elongation, mass per unit area, and thickness once every 24,000 yds of production or whatever rate is required to ensure

97.7% confidence under ASTM D4439& 4354. The Department will require Full scale testing for slope and channel applications shear stress shall be done under ASTM D 6459, ASTM D 6460-07 procedures.

B) Provide TRM listed on the Department's List of Approved Materials. Prior to inclusion on the LAM, the manufacturer of TRM must meet the physical and performance criteria as outlined in the specification and submit a Letter Certifying compliance of the product under the above ASTM testing procedures and including a copy of report from Full Scale Independent Hydraulics Facility that Fully Vegetated Shear Stress meets shear stress requirements tested under D6459 and D6460-07.

C) Contractors will provide a Letter of Certification from Manufacturer stating the product name, manufacturer, and that the product MARV product unit testing results meets Department criteria. Provide Letters once per project and for each product.

D) Acceptance shall be in accordance with ASTM D-4759 based on testing performed by a Geosynthetic Accreditation Institute – Laboratory Accreditation Program (GAI-LAP) accredited laboratory using Procedure A of ASTM D-4354.

Current mats meeting the above criteria are shown on the Department's List of Approved Materials. Mats that exceed the criteria for KYTC Types 1-4 are available. Contact an erosion control material supplier for more information.

2.4 Fasteners. When the mat manufacturer does not specify a specific fastener, use steel wire U-shaped staples with a minimum diameter of 0.09 inches (11 gauge), a minimum width of one inch and a minimum length of 12 inches. Use a heavier gauge when working in rocky or clay soils and longer lengths in sandy soils as directed by Engineer or Manufacturer's Representative. Provide staples with colored tops when requested by the Engineer.

3.0 CONSTRUCTION., Provide a Manufacturer's Representative on-site to oversee and approve the initial installation of the mat. When requested by the Engineer, provide a letter from the Manufacturer approving the installation. When there is a conflict between the Department's criteria and the Manufacturer's criteria, construct using the more restrictive. The Engineer and Manufacturer's Representative must approve all alternate installation methods prior to execution. Construct according to the Manufacturer's recommendations and the following as minimum installation technique:

3.1 Site Preparation. Smoothly grade areas to be treated with matting and compact. Remove large
rocks, soil clods, vegetation, roots, and other sharp objects that could keep the mat from intimate contact with subgrade. Prepare seedbed by loosening the top 2 to 3 inch of soil.

3.2 Installation. Install mats according to Standard Drawing Sepias "Turf Mat Channel Installation" and "Turf Mat Slope Installation." Install mats at the specified elevation and alignment. Anchor the mats with staples with a minimum length of 12 inches. Use longer anchors for installations in sandy, loose, or wet soils as directed by the Engineer or Manufacturer's Representative. The mat should be in direct contact with the soil surface. Infill and overfill the mat with a minimum of ½" of soil as directed by the Manufacturer.

4.0 MEASUREMENT. The Department will measure the quantity of Turf Reinforcement Mat by the square yard of surface covered. The Department will not measure preparation of the bed, providing a Manufacturer's Representative, topsoil, or seeding for payment and will consider them incidental to the Turf Reinforcement Mat. The Department will not measure any reworking of slopes or channels for payment as it is considered corrective work and incidental to the Turf Reinforcement Mat. Seeding and protection will be an incidental item.

5.0 PAYMENT. The Department will make payment for the completed and accepted quantities under the following:

Code	Pay Item	Pay Unit
23274EN11F	Turf Reinforcement Mat 1	Square Yard
23275EN11F	Turf Reinforcement Mat 2	Square Yard
23276EN11F	Turf Reinforcement Mat 3	Square Yard
23277EN11F	Turf Reinforcement Mat 4	Square Yard