

## **Topsoil Guidance**

### **Why was the Topsoil SSP Created?**

The Topsoil SSP will allow the designer to have greater control over keeping and replacing existing topsoil on the job site. Because topsoil holds unique micro-biology and organic content, it is expensive and difficult to replace once it has been removed from the job site. The SSP will provide the designer an opportunity to provide the attention needed to keep topsoil separate from other earthwork activities and healthy and viable for plant growth.

### **What does the Top soil SSP and Bid Item do?**

Clarification and flexibility of Standard Specification Section 19 "Selected Material" is provided for the stockpiling, protecting, re-application of the topsoil. The SSP requires the designer to indicate the depth of excavation. The designer may edit the specification to determine how the soil will be marked and protected while it's stockpiled.

The bid item is 190123 Roadway Excavation (Topsoil) and the unit of measure is cubic yard.

### **When to use the Top Soil SSP?**

Design considerations are:

- Will the Topsoil removal areas and re-application areas be large enough to make the excavation, stockpiling and re-application to the slope cost effective?
- Are there areas of Aerially Deposited Lead in the topsoil that will need extra handling?
- Will the depth of topsoil excavation be correctly set to collect only the topsoil without mixing in sub-grade material that will decrease the health and viability of the topsoil?
- Can the project be staged so that the topsoil may be moved and reapplied without stockpiling?
- Will the project have enough space to stockpile the topsoil?
- Will the stockpile need special considerations for protection and handling?
- What is a reasonable expectation for re-application thickness of the topsoil?
- Does the bid item reflect the additional payment for moving topsoil to and from stockpile?
- Are the areas of removal, placement and stockpiling shown on the plans?
- Will there be any chipped or ground vegetative matter added to the topsoil?
- Will the subsoil and topsoil be compacted appropriately for the topsoil to stay in place?
- Are the weed seeds in the topsoil that will compete with the Erosion Control seeding that is applied?
- Is there "selected material" on the project that may be confused or conflict with Topsoil application?
- Will there be any debris or trash in the topsoil that must be sifted out?
- Will water be needed to place and compact the topsoil?