AS 5181:2017


# Use and installation of turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure

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The following are represented on Committee BD-107:

- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Engineers Australia
- Horticulture Australia
- International Erosion Control Association
- Soil Science Australia
- Sports Turf Association
- Sports Turf Research Institute
- Turf Australia
- University of Queensland

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard®

# Use and installation of turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure

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# PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-107, Turf.

The objective of this Standard is to provide requirements for the use and installation of turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure, and guidance on selection and disposal of turf species.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ are used in a Standard to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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# FOREWORD

Scientific research and trials have confirmed that turf is an effective erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure, [see items (1) and (2) in the Bibliography] especially in construction and building situations and in other forms of development and land use (e.g. agricultural uses, mining). Turf can provide a number of social and environmental benefits in built environments [see item (3) in the Bibliography].

NOTE: Further information on relevant research outcomes is provided in Appendix A.

Industry experience has shown there are a number of key elements that enable the successful use of turf. These key elements are addressed in this Standard and include—

(a) planning principles that should be taken into account when deciding to use turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure;

(b) taking into account the site and use characteristics when matching and selecting an appropriate turf species;

(c) ordering, on-site receipt and storage of turf supplies;

(d) appropriate practices for laying turf and its establishment;

(e) how best to maintain turf;

(f) ensuring that there are clear communications and contractual conditions for the installation and maintenance of turf; and

(g) appropriate practices on the removal and disposal of turf if required.

The primary audience for this Standard includes—

(i) infrastructure and property developers and managers;

(ii) development and environmental consent authorities;

(iii) public and private design and construction engineers, project managers and civil contractors;

(iv) soil scientists;

(v) landscape architects, professionals and contractors;

(vi) turf suppliers; and

(vii) turf laying contractors.

This Standard is intended to be used once a decision has already been made to use turf as the preferred method of erosion, nutrient and sediment control, and after due consideration has been given to the site and use characteristics of the specific project.

Throughout this Standard the expression ‘control of erosion’ is used, and in each instance this expression can be understood to also mean ‘control of erosion, control of pollution from excessive amounts of nutrients, and control of sediment transport’.

NOTE: This Standard provides an informative appendix for site and contract project managers and engineers for works sign-off to ensure that turf has been used and installed appropriately by contractors. See Appendix F.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

# Australian Standard

# Use and installation of turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

### 1.1 SCOPE OF STANDARD

#### 1.1.1 General

This Australian Standard provides requirements for the use and installation of turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure, and guidance on selection and disposal of turf species.

#### 1.1.2 Requirements

This Australian Standard specifies requirements for—

(a) the consideration of site and use characteristics during turf selection;

(b) turf installation, monitoring and maintenance; and

(c) contract sign-offs related to turf installation by contractors.

#### 1.1.3 Exclusions

This Standard does not address the growing, production or transportation of turf, biosecurity issues, or the hydraulic calculations that apply to the specification of turf for erosion, sediment and nutrient control purposes. It also does not apply to situations where seed is being sown at the specific work site, or to the use of washed turf for specialist applications (e.g. for sport fields).

### 1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide land owners, developers, project personnel and contractors with requirements on how to select, install and maintain turf in order to prevent or control erosion, nutrient loss and sedimentation. This will minimize the adverse impacts of development works and change in land use on the surrounding and downstream environments.

### 1.3 APPLICATION

#### 1.3.1 Methods of erosion, nutrient and sediment control

This Standard recognizes that there are various methods for erosion, nutrient and sediment control such as turf, straw bales, jute logs or filter fences, etc. The control selected should be made after considering the relevant characteristics of the control (see Appendix A) and the specific site and use characteristics (see Section 3).

#### 1.3.2 Use of turf

This Standard is intended for application after a decision has already been made by a competent person that the installation and use of turf is the preferred form of erosion, nutrient and sediment control for the specific project and site.