



Fact Sheet

Australian Standard for Use in Erosion Control

AS 5181:2016

Use and Installation of Turf As an Erosion, Nutrient and Sediment Control

Measure

AS 5181:2017

This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee BD-107, Turf. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 21 June 2017.

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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

Scientific research and trials have confirmed that turfgrass is an effective erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure, especially in construction and building situations and in other forms of development and land use (e.g. agricultural uses, mining). Natural Turf can provide a number of social and environmental benefits in built environments. The Standard has within its contents many examples of research within our various environments.

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:

1. Infrastructure and property developers and managers;
2. Development and environmental consent authorities;
3. Public and private design and construction engineers, project managers and civil contractors;
4. Soil scientists;
5. Landscape architects, professionals and contractors;
6. Turf suppliers; and
7. 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.