

Recommendations for Turf for general purposes

ICS 65.020.20

NO COPYING WITHOUT BSI PERMISSION EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW



Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted to Technical Committee AW/20, Topsoil and other growing media, upon which the following bodies were represented:

Agricultural Development and Advisory Service
Amenity Grass Marketing Association
British Land Reclamation Society
British Society of Soil Science
British Vermiculite Association
Composting Association
Consumers' Association
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions — Town and Country Planning Directorate
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions — Central Transport Group
Horticultural Research International
Horticultural Trades' Association
Institute of Groundsmanship
Institute of Trading Standards Administration
John Innes Manufacturing Association
Landscape Institute
Local Authorities' Co-ordinating Body of Trading Standards
National Farmers' Union
Peat Producers' Association
Royal Society for Nature Conservation
Scottish Agricultural College
Sports Turf Research Institute
UK Ecolabelling Board
United Kingdom Forest Products' Association
Water Services' Association of England and Wales

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Consumer Products and Services Sector Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Committee and comes into effect on 15 November 1998

© The British Standards Institution 2013
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2013

First published December 1965
Second edition April 1990

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:

Committee reference AW/20
Drafts for comment
97/715897 DC
12/30260282 DC

ISBN 978 0 580 78334 0

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments
A1	30 April 2013	See Foreword

Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Terms and definitions	1
3 Characteristics	3
4 Delivery	4
5 Treatment of turf after delivery	4
Annex A (normative) Test methods	5
Bibliography	9
Figure 1 — Particle size distribution diagram showing texture class	2
Figure A.1 — General patterns for sampling turf	5
Figure A.2 — Optical point quadrat	7
Figure A.3 — Hollow corer	8
Figure A.4 — Core of turf	8
Table 1 — Grass species and seed mixtures for producing three kinds of turf (seed percentage by mass)	4
Table A.1 — Total number of turves in a lot and the number of turves required for sampling	5

Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution.

This British Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee AW/20.

Supersession

BS 3969:1998+A1:2013 supersedes BS 3969:1998, which is withdrawn.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by Amendment No. 1 is indicated in the text by tags **[A1]** and **[A1]**. Minor editorial changes are not tagged.

Information about this document

This revision takes account of improvements in the general quality of turf since the standard was first issued. It is intended for producers of turf for transplanting and for users of turf in all branches of amenity horticulture and on domestic lawns. It gives recommendations for a basic grade of turf which is acceptable for general landscaping, domestic lawns and some sports uses. It also provides guidance for producers who wish to develop ready-made turves of a higher grade for specialized uses and for users who want to set more stringent specifications for high-quality turf.

Two alternative methods of description are given, one which gives the seed mixture used in producing the turf and the second which gives the sward composition at the time of sale.

The recommendations for sward ground cover assessment and declaration do not apply to complex swards, only to simple, weed-free swards. This standard applies only to turf acceptable for normal uses, although rare types of turf are not excluded. For example, if the characteristics of “wild flower” turf cannot be defined according to **3.2 a)**, they could be defined according to **3.2 b)**.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and back cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations for the characteristics and handling of turf composed of a typical mix of grass species. It gives a simplified indication of seed/cultivar combinations in mixtures, and some appropriate uses for the kinds of turf produced from these mixtures.

NOTE Turf is normally grown from seed mixtures sown for the purpose, as opposed to swards of indigenous ecotypes cultured in sea marshes and similar areas. However, some turf is produced specially sown or cultivated, for the propagation of herbs and wild flowers.

These recommendations apply to all types of turf, as mentioned, which are grown on natural soil, with or without reinforcing material incorporated in the cut and lifted turves, or with or without the natural soil still being present or removed by washing (washed turf).

The recommendations are not necessarily adequate for special seedling turf products, or for turf grown on special substrates, although some or all of the recommendations could be applied or adapted.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

cultivar

assemblage of cultivated plants, subordinate in classification to species, which is clearly distinguished by any characters (morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical or others), and which, when reproduced (sexually or asexually), retains its distinguishing characters

2.2

ground cover

proportion of ground occupied by the perpendicular projection of the material above it

2.3

soil texture

proportions of mineral particles of various sizes (sand, silt and clay) in a soil, which determine its physical character, in particular its water retention and drainage characteristics

NOTE 1 The soil particle size ranges are as follows:

- clay: less than 0.002 mm;
- silt: 0.002 mm to 0.06 mm;
- sand: greater than 0.06 mm to 2.0 mm.

NOTE 2 For many turf uses, especially sports areas designed for predictable performance, it is important to know the soil particle size class of the turf to be laid. The mechanical analysis of a soil will give the percentage by mass of mineral matter in various specified categories below 2 mm in diameter. The proportions of the three main kinds of particle; sand, silt and clay, can be translated into a soil particle size class by the use of Figure 1.

NOTE 3 Soil particle size classes can be combined in groups as follows:

- sands: sand and loamy sand;
- light loams: sandy loam and sandy silt loam;
- light silts: silt loams;
- medium loams: sandy clay loams and clay loams;
- medium silts: silty clay loams;
- clays: sandy clay, clay and silty clay.

2.4

sward

above-ground and below-ground parts of a population of grass or other herbaceous plants, characterized by a relatively short habit of growth and relatively continuous ground cover

2.5

thatch

intermingled organic layer of dead and living shoots, stems and roots, developing between the zone of green vegetation and the soil surface

NOTE Thatch includes matter termed as “grass litter”, “mat” and/or “fibre”.

2.6

turf

sward, mown closely and regularly enough to have developed a well-knit layer of plant material at and immediately below the soil surface and capable of being re-laid to form new grassed areas

NOTE 1 The term is not normally used in the plural sense and the use of North American “turfs” is deprecated.

NOTE 2 The plural is “turves”.