Since World War II there has been a marked increase in contract planting of turfgrass on extensive areas for erosion control, recreation, and beautification.

Additional golf courses, parks, recreational areas, and municipal airports are required as our population grows; and new subdivisions develop into large communities that require thousands of acres of lawns each year. Turfgrasses are planted for erosion control and to improve natural beauty on hundreds of miles of new highway road-sides each year and on extensive acreages of military lands, such as airfields, lawns, earth dams, and training areas. With continuing shortages of labor, high equipment costs, and the need to perform work rapidly and at the proper time, more and more turfgrass is being planted under contract. This trend has increased the need to develop simple, yet detailed specifications to accompany plans (drawings) that will be followed on specific projects.

The “Technical Section of the Specifications” along with “drawings” become a part of the contract and are the major determining factors as to the quality of work performed. The technical writer of specifications should visualize the different conditions that will be encountered during construction and grading operations, so that all plantings and erosion control measures specified in the written documents, and shown on the drawings, will accomplish the desired objective. For example, an initial field inspection prior to writing specifications and reviewing grading plans may show that turf or other vegetation will not be sufficient for erosion control. Thus, additional control measures, such as structures, terraces, and diversion ditches, may be required as an integral part of the overall specifications and plans.

It is imperative that these documents be specific so that the contractor can bid on work items without misinterpretation. Should a discrepancy occur between the specifications and drawings, the written specification prevails. The technical writer of the specifications is often