

701—285.11(422,423) Landscaping materials. The gross receipts from the sale of sod, dirt, trees, shrubbery, bulbs, sand, rock, woodchips and other similar landscaping materials, when used for landscaping and sold to final consumers, shall be subject to sales tax. For the purpose of this rule, “final consumer” ordinarily means the owner of the land to which the landscaping materials are applied, or a general building contractor when the landscaping contractor contracts with the general building contractor. When a landscaping contractor uses materials to fulfill a contract, the landscape contractor is considered the retailer of the landscaping materials and shall be obligated to collect sales tax on the selling price from the final consumer.

When the retailer of sod, dirt, trees, shrubbery, bulbs, sand, rock, woodchips and other similar landscaping materials installs these items as a part of a contract for landscaping or improving land for a lump sum, the entire gross receipts shall be subject to tax. Any retailer’s charges for “landscaping” shall be taxable. See rule 701—26.62(422) for a description of this service. However, a retailer’s charges for nontaxable services are not taxable if contracted for separately; or, if no written contract exists, the charges are itemized separately on the invoice.

EXAMPLE: A sodding contractor agrees to furnish and install 20 yards of sod for the lump sum of \$20.00 per yard. The sodding contractor must charge the customer \$20.00 sales tax (5% x \$400.00).

EXAMPLE: XYZ Company enters into a contract for the landscaping of an existing office building. XYZ Company agrees to furnish shrubs at \$25.00 each, white rock for \$5.00 per bag and woodchips for \$4.00 per bag. XYZ Company also contracts to install all of the landscaping materials for a fee of \$25.00 per hour. XYZ Company’s hourly fee is taxable if paid for the service of “landscaping” or for some other taxable service, e.g., excavation. If the service is not taxable, the charge is excluded from tax because it was separately contracted for.

The gross receipts from the sale of uncut sod and unexcavated trees, shrubs, and rock shall not be subject to sales or use tax. This is considered a sale of intangible property and not the sale of tangible personal property.

This rule does not apply to the gross receipts from the sale of plants and trees which are eligible for purchase with food coupons under rule 701—20.1(422,423).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.42, 422.45(12) and 423.1.
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