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INDEX

SURFACE STABILIZATION

6.10

TEMPORARY SEEDING

TS

Definition

Planting rapid-growing annual grasses, small grains, or legumes to provide initial, temporary cover for erosion control on disturbed areas.

Purpose

To temporarily stabilize denuded areas that will not be brought to final grade for a period of more than 21 calendar days.

Temporary seeding controls runoff and erosion until permanent vegetation or other erosion control measures can be established. In addition, it provides residue for soil protection and seedbed preparation, and reduces problems of mud and dust production from bare soil surfaces during construction.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

On any cleared, unvegetated, or sparsely vegetated soil surface where vegetative cover is needed for less than 1 year. Applications of this practice include diversions, dams, temporary sediment basins, temporary road banks, and topsoil stockpiles.

Planning Considerations

Annual plants, which sprout and grow rapidly and survive for only one season, are suitable for establishing initial or temporary vegetative cover. Temporary seeding preserves the integrity of earthen sediment control structures such as dikes, diversions, and the banks of dams and sediment basins. It can also reduce the amount of maintenance associated with these devices. For example, the frequency of sediment basin cleanouts will be reduced if watershed areas, outside the active construction zone, are stabilized.

Proper seedbed preparation, selection of appropriate species, and use of quality seed are as important in this Practice as in Practice 6.11, *Permanent Seeding*. Failure to follow established guidelines and recommendations carefully may result in an inadequate or short-lived stand of vegetation that will not control erosion.

Temporary seeding provides protection for no more than 1 year, during which time permanent stabilization should be initiated.

Specifications

Complete grading before preparing seedbeds, and install all necessary erosion control practices such as, dikes, waterways, and basins. Minimize steep slopes because they make seedbed preparation difficult and increase the erosion hazard. If soils become compacted during grading, loosen them to a depth of 6-8 inches using a ripper, harrow, or chisel plow.

SEEDBED PREPARATION

Good seedbed preparation is essential to successful plant establishment. A good seedbed is well-pulverized, loose, and uniform. Where hydroseeding methods are used, the surface may be left with a more irregular surface of large clods and stones.

Liming—Apply lime according to soil test recommendations. If the pH (acidity) of the soil is not known, an application of ground agricultural limestone at the

rate of 1 to 1 1/2 tons/acre on coarse-textured soils and 2-3 tons/acre on fine-textured soils is usually sufficient. Apply limestone uniformly and incorporate into the top 4-6 inches of soil. Soils with a pH of 6 or higher need not be limed.

Fertilizer—Base application rates on soil tests. When these are not possible, apply a 10-10-10 grade fertilizer at 700-1,000 lb/acre. Both fertilizer and lime should be incorporated into the top 4-6 inches of soil. If a hydraulic seeder is used, do not mix seed and fertilizer more than 30 minutes before application.

Surface roughening—If recent tillage operations have resulted in a loose surface, additional roughening may not be required, except to break up large clods. If rainfall causes the surface to become sealed or crusted, loosen it just prior to seeding by disking, raking, harrowing, or other suitable methods. Groove or furrow slopes steeper than 3:1 on the contour before seeding (Practice 6.03, *Surface Roughening*).

PLANT SELECTION

Select an appropriate species or species mixture from Table 6.10a for seeding in late winter and early spring, Table 6.10b for summer, and Table 6.10c for fall.

In the Mountains, December and January seedings have poor chances of success. When it is necessary to plant at these times, use recommendations for fall and a securely tacked mulch.

SEEDING

Evenly apply seed using a cyclone seeder (broadcast), drill, cultipacker seeder, or hydroseeder. Use seeding rates given in Tables 6.10a-6.10c. Broadcast seeding and hydroseeding are appropriate for steep slopes where equipment cannot be driven. Hand broadcasting is not recommended because of the difficulty in achieving a uniform distribution.

Small grains should be planted no more than 1 inch deep, and grasses and legumes no more than 1/2 inch. Broadcast seed must be covered by raking or chain dragging, and then lightly firmed with a roller or cultipacker. Hydroseeded mixtures should include a wood fiber (cellulose) mulch.

MULCHING

The use of an appropriate mulch will help ensure establishment under normal conditions, and is essential to seeding success under harsh site conditions (Practice 6.14, *Mulching*). Harsh site conditions include:

- seeding in fall for winter cover (wood fiber mulches are not considered adequate for this use),
- slopes steeper than 3:1,
- excessively hot or dry weather,
- adverse soils (shallow, rocky, or high in clay or sand), and
- areas receiving concentrated flow.

If the area to be mulched is subject to concentrated waterflow, as in channels, anchor mulch with netting (Practice 6.14, *Mulching*).

Maintenance

Reseed and mulch areas where seedling emergence is poor, or where erosion occurs, as soon as possible. Do not mow. Protect from traffic as much as possible.

References

Site Preparation
6.03, Surface Roughening
6.04, Topsoiling

Surface Stabilization
6.11, Permanent Seeding
6.14, Mulching

Appendix
8.02, Vegetation Tables

Table 6.10a
Temporary Seeding Recommendations for Late Winter and Early Spring

Seeding mixture

Species	Rate (lb/acre)
Rye (grain)	120
Annual lespedeza (Kobe in Piedmont and Coastal Plain, Korean in Mountains)	50

Omit annual lespedeza when duration of temporary cover is not to extend beyond June.

Seeding dates
Mountains—Above 2500 feet: Feb. 15 - May 15
Below 2500 feet: Feb. 1- May 1
Piedmont—Jan. 1 - May 1
Coastal Plain—Dec. 1 - Apr. 15

Soil amendments
Follow recommendations of soil tests or apply 2,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 750 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

Mulch
Apply 4,000 lb/acre straw. Anchor straw by tacking with asphalt, netting, or a mulch anchoring tool. A disk with blades set nearly straight can be used as a mulch anchoring tool.

Maintenance
Refertilize if growth is not fully adequate. Reseed, refertilize and mulch immediately following erosion or other damage.

Table 6.10b Temporary Seeding Recommendations for Summer

Seeding mixture

Species	Rate (lb/acre)
German millet	40

In the Piedmont and Mountains, a small-stemmed Sudangrass may be substituted at a rate of 50 lb/acre.

Seeding dates
Mountains—May 15 - Aug. 15
Piedmont—May 1 - Aug. 15
Coastal Plain—Apr. 15 - Aug. 15

Soil amendments
Follow recommendations of soil tests or apply 2,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 750 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

Mulch
Apply 4,000 lb/acre straw. Anchor straw by tacking with asphalt, netting, or a mulch anchoring tool. A disk with blades set nearly straight can be used as a mulch anchoring tool.

Maintenance
Refertilize if growth is not fully adequate. Reseed, refertilize and mulch immediately following erosion or other damage.

Table 6.10c
Temporary Seeding Recommendations for Fall

Seeding mixture

Species	Rate (lb/acre)
Rye (grain)	120

Seeding dates
Mountains—Aug. 15 - Dec. 15
Coastal Plain and Piedmont—Aug. 15 - Dec. 30

Soil amendments
Follow soil tests or apply 2,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 1,000 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

Mulch
Apply 4,000 lb/acre straw. Anchor straw by tacking with asphalt, netting, or a mulch anchoring tool. A disk with blades set nearly straight can be used as a mulch anchoring tool.

Maintenance
Repair and refertilize damaged areas immediately. Topdress with 50 lb/acre of nitrogen in March. If it is necessary to extent temporary cover beyond June 15, overseed with 50 lb/acre Kobe (Piedmont and Coastal Plain) or Korean (Mountains) lespedeza in late February or early March.

6.11

PERMANENT SEEDING

PS

Definition

Controlling runoff and erosion on disturbed areas by establishing perennial vegetative cover with seed.

Purpose

To reduce erosion and decrease sediment yield from disturbed areas, to permanently stabilize such areas in a manner that is economical, adapts to site conditions, and allows selection of the most appropriate plant materials.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Fine-graded areas on which permanent, long-lived vegetative cover is the most practical or most effective method of stabilizing the soil. Permanent seeding may also be used on rough-graded areas that will not be brought to final grade for a year or more.

Areas to be stabilized with permanent vegetation must be seeded or planted within 15 working days or 90 calendar days after final grade is reached, unless temporary stabilization is applied.

Introduction

During the initial phase of all land disturbing projects, the protective layer, either natural or man-made, is removed from the earth's surface. As the protective layer is removed, the resulting bare areas are exposed to the natural forces of rainfall, freezing, thawing, and wind. The result is soil erosion that leads to sediment pollution of North Carolina streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries.

This design manual presents many alternative strategies for preventing erosion and reducing sediment loss during the construction process. Establishment of protective vegetative cover during the construction project, however, is the crucial step in achieving soil stabilization, controlling soil erosion, and preventing sedimentation of waterways. Without a sufficient amount of root mat and leaf cover to protect and hold the soil in place, large volumes of soil will be lost and waterways will be degraded long after projects are considered complete.

Sections of this practice standard address many of these various situations and set forth selection criteria for the appropriate cover based on purpose and adaptability. Some sediment and erosion control practices recommended in earlier editions of the manual may no longer be applicable. For example, many popular and commonly used seed and plant varieties have been identified as invasive. Invasive plants are defined as species that aggressively compete with, and displace, locally adapted native plant communities. In select cases where no practical alternative is available, these plants may be considered on a limited basis for soil stabilization, understanding that the goal is to eliminate the use of all invasive plants in favor of non-invasive native and/or introduced species that will provide an equally acceptable vegetative cover. Where there is no alternative to the use of invasive species, measures need to be incorporated in the installation and maintenance of these plants to limit their impacts.

It is imperative that disturbed soils be totally protected from erosion and sediment loss during construction and before a project is considered complete and acceptable. Installing appropriate vegetation in an immediate and timely fashion is the optimal means of achieving this stabilization. Vegetative specifications for most exposed soil conditions across North Carolina are provided in this section of the manual. It should be noted however, that no two sites in the State are exactly alike; therefore the protective vegetative cover for individual sites should be carefully selected. Each requires its own investigation, analysis, design and vegetative prescription as set forth in this section of the manual.

This practice standard describes three stages of vegetative cover; immediate, primary and long term. Effective and acceptable stabilization can be provided only when the optimum combination of immediate, primary, and long term vegetative practices are applied.

The vegetative measures presented in this chapter include application of seed, sod and sprigs. Use of field and container grown plants are not addressed in this manual. Planting of these types of vegetation is typically at spacing and intervals that will not provide the required protective cover. However, the design professional is encouraged to utilize these larger plants to compliment the required protective cover, particularly where these types of plants will provide seed for continued long term cover and wildlife habitat.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

SOILS

Test and analyze the type(s) and quality of the existing soils on a site, their pH ranges, and their nutrient levels. Taking soil samples from the different areas of the project site and having them tested at a state or independent lab will provide a baseline for determining the pH modifiers and additional nutrients required for the selected plant varieties.

Disturbed conditions on a site may produce a variety of soil communities. Nutrient and pH levels in deeply cut soils will be quite different from those soils found on the original surface. When sites are highly disturbed through mechanical means such as grading, the soils become mixed together in many different ratios. These areas should be identified and tested.

Results from soil tests will usually include recommended application rates of soil modifiers such as lime and fertilizer for the selected plant species in the particular soils. Application rates will be itemized in the report.

The texture of the soil on a site, which is the proportion of sand, silt, and clay in the soil, is an important physical indicator of the site's ability to support vegetation. In heavy clay soils amendments may be necessary to provide an adequately drained planting medium. Conversely, in extremely sandy soils, amendments may be required to provide for moisture and nutrient retention.

Soil tests will indicate the texture of the given soil but will not provide recommendations for amendments that will improve the soil texture. Generally, the addition of organic materials will improve the porosity of heavy clay soils and improve the water holding capacity of extremely sandy soils. On sites where these different soil conditions exist, it is recommended that a design professional with experience in soil modification be employed to recommend the proper amendments.

For more information visit the NCDA Agronomic Services Soil Testing web page http://www.agr.state.nc.us/agronomic/sthome.htm

SOIL PREPARATION

Proper soil preparation is necessary for successful seed germination and root establishment. It is also necessary for establishment of rooted sprigs, sod and woody plants. Heavily compacted soils prevent air, nutrients and moisture from reaching roots thereby retarding or preventing plant growth. The success of site stabilization and reduction of future maintenance are dependent on an adequately prepared soil bed. Following are the requirements for preparation of areas to be vegetated by grassing, sprigging, sodding, and/or planting of woody plants:

General Requirements:

- Preparation for primary/permanent stabilization shall not begin until all construction and utility work within the preparation area is complete. However, it may be necessary to prepare for nurse crops prior to completion of construction and installation of utilities.

- A North Carolina Department of Agriculture Soils Test (or equal) shall be obtained for all areas to be seeded, sprigged, sodded or planted. Recommended fertilizer and pH adjusting products shall be incorporated into the prepared areas and backfill material per the test.

- All areas to be seeded or planted shall be tilled or ripped to a depth specified on the approved plans, construction sequence and/or construction bid list. Ripping consists of creating fissures in a criss-cross pattern over the entire surface area, utilizing an implement that will not glaze the side walls of the fissures. Site preparation that does not comply with these documents shall not be acceptable. The depth of soil preparation may be established as a range based on the approval of the reviewing state or local agency. Once tilled or ripped according to the approved plan, all areas are to be returned to the approved final grade. pH modifiers and/or other soil amendments specified in the soil tests can be added during the soil preparation procedure or as described below.

- All stones larger than three (3) inches on any side, sticks, roots, and other extraneous materials that surface during the bed preparation shall be removed.

Areas to be Seeded:

- Till or disc the prepared areas to be seeded to a minimum depth of four (4) inches. Remove stones larger than three (3) inches on any side, sticks, roots and other extraneous materials that surface. If not incorporated during the soil preparation process, add pH modifier and fertilizers at the rate specified in the soil test report.

- Re-compact the area utilizing a cultipacker roller. The finished grade shall be a smooth even soil surface with a loose, uniformly fine texture. All ridges and depressions shall be removed and filled to provide the approved surface drainage. Seeding of graded areas is to be done immediately after finished grades are obtained and seedbed preparation is completed.

Areas to be Sprigged, Sodded, and/or Planted:

- At the time of planting till or disc the prepared areas to a depth of four (4) to six (6) inches below the approved finished grade. Remove all stones larger than three (3) inches on any side, sticks, roots and other extraneous materials that surface. If not incorporated in the ripping process, add pH modifier, fertilizer, and other recommended soil amendments.

- Re-compact the area utilizing a cultipacker roller and prepare final grades as described above. Install sprigs, sod and plants as directed immediately after fine grading is complete. Mulch, mat and/or tack as specified.

VEGETATION

Availability of seed and plant materials is an important consideration of any construction stabilization effort. Throughout North Carolina, climate, economics, construction schedule delays and accelerations, and other factors present difficult challenges in specifying the different vegetation needed for site stabilization. To help resolve this issue, vegetative stabilization requires consideration in three categories:

- Immediate Stabilization – nurse crop varieties (Note: temporary mulching may be utilized for immediate stabilization if outlined on the approved plans and construction sequence.)

- Primary Stabilization – plant varieties providing cover up to 3 years with a specified maintenance program

- Long Term Stabilization – plant varieties providing protective cover with maintenance levels selected by the owner

An adequate job in one of these areas does not guarantee success in the later phases. Horticultural maintenance must be included in the plans.

Immediate vegetative cover will always require additional fertilization, soil amendments, soil tests, overseeding and/or other horticultural maintenance until primary vegetative cover is established.

Where provisions are made for regular maintenance, primary vegetative cover may be the end result. An example of primary vegetative cover being acceptable as an end use would be lawns in residential and commercial developments that are established, monitored and complimented with regular and approved horticultural maintenance practices. (See Example 6.11.a.)

In projects where continual maintenance will not be provided or scheduled following the primary stabilization of a project, long-term stabilization will be necessary. Maintenance of initial and long-term stabilization can cease only after the long-term cover has established and hardened to local climatic conditions. Maintenance of long-term vegetation must be included in the project construction sequence and on the approved plans. Examples of areas suitable for long term vegetation include roadsides, reforestation areas, restored flood plains, restored riparian areas, phased closing of landfills, and mining reclamations.

Complete stabilization requires using at least two, and most times, all three vegetative phases. The design professional must clearly communicate this point in their specifications, construction sequence, and in direct communications to owners and installers. The charts in tables 6.11.a through 6.11.d provide information to assist the design professional in this task. The tables are not inclusive and are presented only as alternatives. The professional is expected and required to provide design and specifications that combine the information in the manual with knowledge of the particular sites and their constraints.

pH AND NUTRIENT AMENDMENTS

Determining the nutrients that enable seed and container plants to grow, flourish, and become established after planting are critical elements of the design and stabilization process. The soils tests previously described will provide a recipe for amendments based on particular plants and particular soils. The test results will recommend the amounts of base elements (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium), pH modifiers and other trace elements that should to be added to the soil for selected species of seeds and plants.

The acid/base characteristic of the soil is a primary component of soil fertility. If the soil acidity is not in the proper range, other nutrients will be ineffective, resulting in less productive plant growth. Most plants grow best in a pH range of 6.5 – 7.0 (slightly acidic to neutral). The soil tests will recommend the specific amendments and application rates required to achieve this range. These amendments must be incorporated into the soil (not applied on the surface) to be effective. (See the General Requirements for soil preparation specifications and timing for incorporation of soil amendments.)

The base elements are easily found in bulk quantities. Lime can also be obtained in large quantities. They all must be thoroughly incorporated into the soil through appropriate mechanical means. Ground surface applications without proper soil mixing will result in poor results.

In addition to the base fertilizers, other trace elements are needed to produce healthy and vigorous growth. These include but may not be limited to sulfur, manganese, zinc, boron, chlorine and molybdenum. If not already included with bulk mixes of the base elements, they can be obtained from commercial suppliers.

Provisions for soils test during and/or after initial grading is complete shall be included on the approved plan, in the approved construction sequence, and on the bid item list utilized for the project. *If you did not obtain a soil test:* Follow these recommendations for all grasses except centipedegrass.

1. Apply 75 pounds of ground limestone per 1,000 sq. ft.
2. Apply a starter type fertilizer (one that is high in phosphorus) based on the type of grass and planting method. Fertilizer bags have a three-number system indicating the primary nutrients, such as 8-8-8 or 5-10-10. These numbers denote the N-P-K ratio—the percentage of each nutrient in a fertilizer. The percentages are always noted in the following order:
N Nitrogen for green color and growth.
P_2O_5 Phosphorus for good establishment and rooting.
K_2O Potassium to enhance pest and environmental stress tolerance.

Some common examples of starter type fertilizers required for a 1,000 sq. ft. area include 40 pounds of 5-10-10, 20 pounds of 10-20-20, or 16 pounds of 18-24-6. For sandy soils, typical to coastal plain and sandhills of North Carolina, fertilizer rates should be increased by 20 percent.

Where available, it is recommended that the design professional specify organic compounds that meet the fertilization requirements, pH and other element requirements. Initial studies have indicated that these compounds have a more positive effect on the environment than some of the synthetic compounds used to manufacture inorganic fertilizers. These materials are readily available in the commercial trade as well as found in recycled yard waste debris, sewerage sludge, lime-stabilized sludge and animal manures. Materials proposed for use must be industry certified and/or privately tested and certified to be acceptable for proposed areas of use and application prior to approval.

MULCHES AND TACKING AGENTS

Mulches and tacking agents may be required or necessary to protect a seedbed's disturbed surface until the seed can germinate and provide the required protection from erosion. Selection of the materials used in this application should be based on their ability to hold moisture in the soil, as well as protect exposed soil from rainfall, storm water runoff, and wind. The availability of the selected material and the means to apply it are critical factors to consider when planning for the stabilization of any disturbed area. The mulch must cover a minimum of eighty (80) percent of the soil surface and must be secured by a tacking agent, crimping, or protective biodegradable netting. Netting that incorporates plastic mesh and/or plastic twine should not be used in wetlands, riparian buffers or floodplains due to the potential of small animal mortality. See Section 6.14 for detailed specifications and product applications.

SOIL BLANKETS

Soil blankets can be an acceptable and effective method of temporary sediment and erosion control in lieu of nurse crops. See Section 6.17 of the manual for descriptions of this product and how it can be used in conjunction with this section. In absence of mulches and tracking agents other means of protection may be necessary and required.

PROTECTIVE MATTING

Protective matting consists of an impervious cover secured to the soil surface in lieu of vegetative cover. It is used to protect and stabilize the surface where the process of seeding or planting forms of vegetation may cause more erosion and off-site sedimentation than application of the mat. It is also used where a disturbed area is intended to lay fallow for a period of time before additional construction or land disturbance takes place. If a pervious matting is selected, a combination of vegetation and matting is required. Seeds can be applied prior to installation of the matting only after proper seedbed preparation has been provided. Also, live stakes, dormant sprigs, and other vegetation forms can be inserted in the pervious matting once it has been installed. Pre-seeded pervious matting may be used for quicker root establishment and stabilization only if certified dating and germination guarantees are provided. The reviewing agency must approve all pre-seeded matting on site prior to installation. Matting that incorporates plastic mesh and/or plastic twine should not be used in wetlands, riparian buffers or floodplains due to the potential of small animal mortality. See Section 6.17 for detailed specifications and recommended product applications.

STABILIZATION IN WETLANDS, RIPARIAN BUFFERS, AND FLOODPLAINS

Land disturbing activity involving streams, wetlands or other waterbodies may also require permitting by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the N.C. Division of Water Quality. Approval of an erosion and sedimentation control plan is conditioned upon the applicant's compliance with federal and State water quality laws, regulations, and rules. Additionally, a draft plan should be disapproved if implementation of the plan would result in a violation of rules adopted by the Environmental Management Commission to protect riparian buffers along surface waters. Care should be taken in selecting vegetative stabilization of wetlands and riparian buffers to comply with permitting requirements of other agencies, as well as provide adequate ground cover.

Planning Considerations for Land Disturbing Activities Within Wetland, Riparian, and Floodplain Areas

Wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and/or terrestrial areas between streams and uplands, serve to buffer surface water and provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. When cleared and disturbed, these sensitive areas are difficult to protect. Because of their proximity to water courses, relatively high ground water tables, and flooding potential, detailed analysis and design is necessary to determine the appropriate erosion control measures during construction. Determining the appropriate and most expeditious means of permanent vegetative stabilization in these areas requires equally detailed analysis and design. The following considerations for erosion control and stabilization should be taken into account during the design phase of the land disturbing project where sensitive areas are involved:

- Obtain soil tests to determine the soil type, pH, texture and available nutrients.
- Based on the soil tests provide a schedule of nutrients and other soil amendments that will be required.

- Select a seeding mix of non-invasive species that will provide immediate stabilization (a short-term environment that will support and compliment permanent vegetative stabilization) and include a selective native species mix that will eventually provide a permanent cover (a long-term environment that, with minimal maintenance, will provide adequate root and leaf cover).

- Invasive species are to be avoided. If native species and introduced non-invasive seed sources are not available, protective matting that will hold and foster the development of native cover from adjacent seed sources should be used. Continuous maintenance must be employed until the selected species have matured and are no longer susceptible to competition from invasive plants. If no alternative to the use of invasive seeds and plants is available, invasives approved on the plans may be utilized only with strict containment measures outlined in detail on the plans, in the construction sequence and in the maintenance specifications.

- A quickly germinating nurse crop of non-invasive, non-competitive annual grass species can be used along with native seeding and/or matting. These temporary systems should be planted at minimal density so that they do not inhibit the growth and establishment of the permanent, native species. (See the plant chart in Table 6.11.a for recommended native and nurse crop species.)

- Seed bed preparation is key to successful establishment of seeds. Particular care should be taken, however, when working in wetlands, riparian areas, or floodplains due to their sensitive nature. Careful consideration should be given to the types and placement of large equipment working in these areas. This process must be outlined in detail on the plan's construction sequence.

- Installation techniques vary and should be planned for accordingly.

- A maintenance plan must be established for optimal plant establishment, submitted with the plans and included in the bid list for the project.

Like all construction sites, wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains will vary widely in physical makeup across North Carolina. Different conditions will dictate specific treatment, design and plant selection within the Mountains, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain regions. Soil tests, seedbed preparation, mulching, matting, and maintenance will be critical for successful vegetative establishment and long-term protection of these environmentally sensitive areas. Unavoidable impacts to these areas during land disturbing activities need to be addressed in detail on the plan sheets and construction sequence.

Native Seed and Plant Selection for Stabilization of Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Floodplains

Upon the completion of the land disturbing activity, vegetative cover must be established on all areas not stabilized by other means. If work in these areas stops for more than 15 working days, temporary vegetative cover and/or matting must be applied to all disturbed areas. The goal is to protect these areas from erosion and to prevent sedimentation of adjacent streams, wetlands, lakes, and other water bodies.

Planning considerations for wetlands, riparian areas and floodplains will require additional research, detail and specifications. Native grasses are usually required as a condition of a 401 Water Quality Certification or a trout buffer variance.

Native vegetative species are plant species that naturally occur in the region in which they evolved. These plants are adapted to local soil types and climatic variations. Because most native species do not germinate and establish as readily as some introduced species, it is necessary to provide a non-native nurse crop or matting to stabilize the soil until the native crop can become established as the dominant cover. Once established, the native plants will produce an extensive root structure that, if properly maintained, will stabilize soils and reduce erosive forces of rainfall and overland stormwater flow. Many of these plants also possess characteristics that, when established, allow them not only to survive, but also to thrive under local conditions.

Seeding a mixture of perennial native grasses, rushes, and sedges is a way to establish permanent ground cover within wetlands, riparian areas and floodplains. The use of propagated plants is another method of reestablishing natives in these environments. Selecting a seed mixture and/or propagated plants of different species with complimentary characteristics will provide vegetation to fill select niches on sites with varying physical conditions. The design professional should note that because most native species do not germinate and establish as readily as some introduced species, it is necessary to provide a non-native nurse crop or matting to stabilize the soil until the native crop can become established as the dominant cover. For additional information about acceptable nurse crop varieties, consult the planting list in Appendix 8.02, local seed and plant suppliers, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service or a qualified design professional to assure the proper selection and plant mix.

Permanent native seed species within the seed mixture should be selected based on natural occurrence of each species in the project site area. Climate, soils, topography, and aspect are major factors affecting the suitability of plants for a particular site and these factors vary widely across North Carolina, with the most significant contrasts occurring among the three major physiographic regions of the state – Mountains, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain. Sub-regions of the state should also be considered. For example, the Triassic Basin in the Piedmont region may have characteristics that call for special soil treatment, limited plant selection, and special maintenance. Even within the riparian area, there may be need for different species depending on site conditions (i.e., dry sandy alluvial floodplains with wet pockets). Therefore, thoughtful planning is required when selecting species for individual sites in order to maximize successful vegetation establishment.

Native seed and plant species are included on the plant list in Appendix 8.02 of this manual.

The design professional should note that regardless of the benefits and advantages of native seeds and plants, there are potential issues if proper planning, installation and maintenance do not occur. These may include:

- Potential for erosion or washout during the establishment stage;
- Seasonal limitation on suitable seeding dates and availability of seed and plants;
- Adaptability of species at specific sites;
- Availability of water and appropriate temperatures during germination and early growth; and
- Lack of maintenance to control invasive plants and undesirable competition.

PLANTING

- **Seed** – Prepare the seed bed as described above in soil preparation. Apply seed at rates specified on the plans, and/or as recommended in Tables 6.11a-c of this manual, with a cyclone seeder, prop type spreader, drill, or hydroseeder on and/or into the prepared bed. Incorporate the seed into the seed bed as specified. Provide finished grades as specified on the approved plan and carefully culti-pack the seedbed as terrain allows. If terrain does not allow for the use of a cultipacker, the approved plans and construction sequence must provide an alternative method of lightly compacting the soil. Mulch immediately.
- **Sprigs and Sod** – Install onto the prepared seed bed per the most current guidance in Carolina Lawns, NCSU Extension Bulletin AG-69, or Practice 6.12 *Sodding*.

- **Woody plants (liners, container, B&B)** – These materials are typically used to complement an herbaceous protective cover. They eventually are major components of long-term, permanent stabilization and should be chosen and planned in conjunction with immediate and long-term maintenance. The plants should be selected and specified by the design professional for each individual project. See Practice 6.13 *Trees, Shrubs, Vines, and Ground Covers.*

MAINTENANCE

The absence of or an incomplete landscape management specification and/or complete maintenance schedule shall constitute grounds for disapproval of the plans. Proper maintenance is critical for the continued stabilization once vegetative cover is established. Although maintenance strategies for different sites may be similar, no two construction sites in North Carolina have been or will be able to be controlled or protected in identical ways. Variations in climate, topography, soils, available moisture, size and many other conditions will dictate the maintenance methodology to be used. A detailed schedule of maintenance will be required on the plans. This schedule will illustrate how the initial planting will be maintained to assure immediate, short term and permanent protection. The schedule will address topics such as appropriate irrigation of plants during the early establishment phase, drought conditions, excessive rainfall, mulch replacement, supplemental seeding, supplemental soils tests, application of nutrients and amendments, control of competitive and invasive species, disease and insect control, and corrective maintenance, measures to address failure of vegetation to become established. Contractual responsibility for maintenance after initial establishment of vegetative cover will be provided on the plans, in the construction sequence and on the bid list for the project. Maintenance bonds and/or warranty guarantee may be required of the responsible party, especially for areas in or adjacent to environmentally sensitive sites such as wetlands, riparian buffers, floodplains, and waters of the State. See Example 6.11a for a sample maintenance specification and a minimum maintenance check list that shall be provided on all plans.

RECOMMENDED BID LIST

(These items should be itemized on documents utilized to obtain pricing for planting pertaining to vegetative stabilization of land disturbing projects in North Carolina.)

- Soil test prior to grading (price per each test).
- Soil test during grading operations (price per each test).
- Soil test at completion of grading and/or prior to seeding, sprigging, sodding and application of fertilizer, lime, and other soil amendments (price per each test).
- Ripping/subsoiling to a depth of six (6) inches. (Provide an alternate for ripping to a depth greater than six (6) inches.) (price per acre)
- Tilling/discing ripped area to a depth of four (4) inches and re-compacting with a cultipacker roller (include in seeding price).

- Seeding (price per square foot).
- Mulching (price per square foot).
- Repair seeding (price per square foot).
- Repair mulching (price per square foot).
- Matting (price per square yard).
- Watering (price per thousand gallons).
- Mowing (price per square foot).

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The following tables list herbaceous plants recommended for use as nurse crops for immediate stabilization and primary crops for initial and long-term stabilization. Nurse crops are expected to develop in two to five weeks and, with adequate maintenance, be an effective method of soil stabilization for a period of six months to one year. Nurse crops are not effective as primary long-term cover, however if properly maintained they can be an adequate cover and protection for the development of primary crops.

The goal for a primary crop is for it to develop over a three-week to one-year period and be effective up to three years with a well-defined maintenance program. The long-term goal for a primary crop is the initial step toward a sustainable protective cover without the need of maintenance. Where the primary crop is intended for a managed lawn and landscape aesthetics, the effective period can be extended by a more intense maintenance program. Where native species are utilized and become established during the planned maintenance program, a permanent cover that will support future succession species should exist and require little or no additional maintenance or management.

In uses of both nurse and primary crops, the development periods listed on the tables are optimal based on normal climatic conditions for the planting dates listed. The sediment and erosion control maintenance program must recognize that optimum temperatures and rainfall are the exception rather than the rule. The design professional needs to provide flexibility in the stabilization plan to address the potential ranges of temperature and moisture conditions we experience in North Carolina.

Information is provided for seeding rates, optimum planting dates in the state's three regions, sun and shade tolerance, invasive characteristics, compatibility in wetlands and riparian buffers, and installation maintenance considerations. By going through the lists the design professional can select the nurse and primary seed varieties and maintenance characteristics they feel are best suited for their site conditions, vegetation management expertise and maintenance capabilities.

To use the information in the seeding charts the plan preparer must:

- Determine what nurse crop best fits their site, soil conditions, and permanent seed mix.
- Obtain soil tests for all areas to be seeded.
- Know the site's region: mountains, piedmont, or coastal plain.
- Know if the areas to be seeded are sunny, part shade, or full shade.
- Know if the areas are well or poorly drained.
- Know if wetlands or riparian buffers are included in the areas to be seeded.
- Know if a chosen crop is invasive and if so, what potential impacts it will have on the site and adjacent properties.

With this knowledge the plan preparation may proceed utilizing the charts provided to provide the several seed mixes that will be applicable to the different areas requiring stabilization.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS-Seeding recommendations for immediate stabilization/nurse crops

(2 to 5 weeks for development; effectiveness goal: 6 months to 1 year stabilization)

Table 6.11.a

NURSE CROP SPECIES

					Optimal Planting Dates								
Common Name	Botanical Name	Native / Introduced	Seeding Rates lbs/acre	Fertilization/ limestone lbs/acre	Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plains	Sun/Shade tolerant	Wetlands	Riparian Buffers	Invasive Yes or No	Installation / Maintenance Considerations	Other information, commentary
Rye Grain	*Secale cereale*	I	40 lbs	By soil test	11/1 - 4/30	8/15 - 4/15	8/15 - 4/15	Sun	Yes	Yes	No	Must be mown to reduce competitiveness with permanent or long term vegetation	
Wheat	*Triticum aestivum*	I	30 lbs	By soil test	11/1 - 4/30	8/15 - 5/15	8/15 - 4/15	Sun	Yes	Yes	No	Must be mown to reduce competitiveness with permanent or long term vegetation	Not water tolerant. May be used in wetlands that are not continuously saturated.
German Millet	*Setaria italica*	I	10 lbs	By soil test	5/11 - 9/30	5/15 - 8/15	4/15 - 8/15	Sun	Yes	Yes	No	Crop should be cut / disc prior to planting primary or long term vegetation	Not water tolerant. May be used in wetlands that are not continuously saturated.
Browntop Millet	*Urochloa ramosa*	I	10 lbs	By soil test	5/11 - 9/30	5/15 - 8/15	4/15 - 8/15	Sun	Yes	Yes	No	Crop should be cut / disc prior to planting primary or long term vegetation	Not water tolerant. May be used in wetlands that are not continuously saturated.
Sudangrass (hybrids)	*Sorghum saccharatum* *S. bicolor ssp.Drummondi*	I	15 lbs	By soil test	NR	NR	4/15 - 8/15	Sun	No	No	Yes	Crop should be cut / disc prior to planting primary or long term vegetation	Use only where plants and seed can be contained and controlled.
Kobe Lespedeza	*Kummerowia striata v. kobe*	I	10 lbs	By soil test	5/1 - 9/1	5/1 - 9/1	5/1 - 9/1	Sun	No	No	No	Consult qualified horticulturalist or extension agent for over-seeding with primary cover	Use in Coastal Plain
Korean Lespedeza	*Kummerowia stipulacea*	I	10 lbs	By soil test	5/1 - 9/1	5/1 - 9/1	5/1 - 9/1	Sun	No	No	No	Consult qualified horticulturalist or extension agent for over-seeding with primary cover	Use in Piedmont and Mountains. May become invasive

NOTES:

1. Seeding rates are for hulled seed unless otherwise noted.
2. Fertilizer & Limestone - rates to be applied in absense of soils tests. Recommended application rate assumes significantly disturbed site soils with little or no residual value.
3. NR means Species not recommended for this region or application area.
4. Invasive designation as determined by the N.C. Exotic Pest Pant Council and N.C. Native Plant Society .
5. Sprigging is not recommended for immediate stabilization unless terrain is flat heavy mulch is applied and no other immediate stabilization method is practical.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS-Seeding recommendations for primary stabilization

Table 6.11.b

Successful development depends on planting date (effectiveness goal: 6 mo. - 3 yrs. without an ongoing maintenance program)

NON-NATIVE SPECIES

					Optimal Planting Dates								
Common Name	Botanical Name / Cultivar	Native / Introduced	Broadcast Seeding Rates lbs/acre	Fertilization/ limestone lbs/acre	Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plains	Sun/Shade tolerant	Wetlands	Riparian Buffers	Invasive Yes or No	Installation / Maintenance Considerations	Other information, commentary
Sericea Lespedeza	*Lespedeza cuneata Dumont'*	I	15 lbs	By soil test	9/1 - 6/1	9/1 - 5/1	10/1 - 4/1	Sun	NR	NR	Yes	Responds well to controlled burns	Severe Threat Invasive species
Crown Vetch	*Securigera varia (Coronilla varia)*	I	15 lbs	By soil test	3/15-4/30	NR	NR	Sun	NR	NR	Yes	Highly competitive, not recommended unless an acceptable alternative is not available.	Prefers neutral soils
Centipede Grass	*Eremochloa ophiuroi*	I	5 lbs 10 lbs. for road shoulders	By soil test	NR	Eastern only	9/1 - 5/1	Sun	NR	NR	No	Significant maintenance may be required to obtain desired cover	Does not tolerate high traffic. Acceptable for sodding
KY 31 Tall Fescue	*Schedonorus phoeni (Festuca arundinacea)*	I	100 lbs	By soil test	8/15-5/1	9/1-4/15	9/30 - 3/15	Sun / mod. Shade	NR	NR	Yes	If utilized, it is imperative that maintenance includes a containment plan	Acceptable for sodding
KY Blue Grass	*Poa pratensis*	I	15 lbs	By soil test	8/15-5/1	NR	NR	Sun	NR	NR	Yes	If utilized, it is imperative that maintenance includes a containment plan	Prefers neutral soils, highly competitive, not recommended unless an acceptable alternative is not available. Acceptable for sodding
Hard Fescue	*Festuca brevipila (Festuca longifolia)*	I	15 lbs	By soil test	8/1 - 6/1	NR	NR	Shade	NR	NR	No	Not recommended for slopes greater than 5%	Low growing, bunch grass
Bermuda Grass	*Cynodon dactylon*	I	25 lbs	By soil test	NR	4/15-6/30	4/15-6/30	Sun	NR	NR	Yes	If utilized, it is imperative that maintenance includes a containment plan	Extremely aggressive, not recommended and should be avoided unless an acceptable alternative is not available. May be sodded or sprigged

HERBACEOUS PLANTS-Seeding recommendations for primary stabilization

Successfull development depends on planting date (effectiveness goal: 6 mo. - 3 yrs. without an ongoing maintenance program)

Table 6.11.c

NATIVE SPECIES

					Optimal Planting Dates								
Common Name	Botanical Name / Cultivar	Native / Introduced	See Table 6.11.d for variety seedling rates	Fertilization/ limestone lbs/acre	Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plains	Sun/Shade tolerant	Wetlands	Riparian Buffers	Invasive Yes or No	Installation / Maintenance Considerations	Other information, commentary
Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum /*	N	A	By soil test	12/1-4/15	NR	NR	Sun	NR	Well drained	No	Responds well to	
	Cave-in-Rock									only		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum /*		A	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	NR	Well drained	No	Responds well to	
	Blackwell	N								only		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum /*	N	A	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	NR	Well drained	No	Responds well to	
	Shelter									only		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum /*	N	A	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	Yes	Yes	No	Responds well to	
	Carthage											controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum /*	N	A	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	No	Poorly	No	Responds well to	
	Kanlow									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum /*	N	A	By soil test	NR	12/1 - 5/1	1/1 - 5/1	Sun	No	Poorly	No	Responds well to	
	Alamo									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Indiangrass	*Sorghastrum nutans /*	N	B	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	NR	Well	No	Responds well to	Western coastal plain only
	Rumsey									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Indiangrass	*Sorghastrum nutans /*	N	B	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	NR	Well	No	Responds well to	Western coastal plain only
	Osage									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	

HERBACEOUS PLANTS-Seeding recommendations for primary stabilization

Successfull development depends on planting date (effectiveness goal: 6 mo. - 3 yrs. without an ongoing maintenance program)

Table 6.11.c (con't)

NATIVE SPECIES

					Optimal Planting Dates								
Common Name	Botanical Name / Cultivar	Native / Introduced	See Table 6.11.d for variety seedling rates	Fertilization/ limestone lbs/acre	Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plains	Sun/Shade tolerant	Wetlands	Riparian Buffers	Invasive Yes or No	Installation / Maintenance Considerations	Other information, commentary
Indiangrass	*Sorghastrum nutans /*	N	B	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	NR	Well	No	Responds well to controlled	Western coastal plain only
	Cheyenne									drained		burns. Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	
												varieties that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Indiangrass	*Sorghastrum nutans /*	N	B	By soil test	NR	12/1 - 5/1	1/1 -5/1	Sun	NR	Well	No	Responds well to	Only Indiangrass adaptable to
	Lomenta									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	Eastern coastal plain (Zone 8)
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Deertongue	*Dichanthelium*	N	C	By soil test	5/1-4/15	5/1 - 4/1	NR	Sun &	Yes	Poorly	No	Responds well to	
	clandestinum / Tioga							Shade		drained to		controlled burns. Mix with	
										drought		3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Big Bluestem	*Andropogon gerardii /*	N	D	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	NR	Sun	NR	Welll	No	Responds well to	Warm season grass
	Rountree									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Big Bluestem	*Andropogon gerardii /*	N	D	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	NR	Sun	NR	Welll	No	Responds well to	Warm season grass
	Kaw									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Big Bluestem	*Andropogon gerardii /*	N	D	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-5/1	Sun	NR	Welll	No	Responds well to	Warm season grass
	Earl									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Little Bluestem	*Schizachyrium*	N	E	By soil test	12/1-4/15	NR	NR	Sun	NR	Welll	No	Responds well to	Warm season grass
	scoparium / Aldous									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Little Bluestem	*Schizachyrium*	N	E	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	NR	Sun	NR	Welll	No	Responds well to	Warm season grass
	scoparium / Cimmaron									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	

HERBACEOUS PLANTS-Seeding recommendations for primary stabilization

Successfull development depends on planting date (effectiveness goal: 6 mo. - 3 yrs. without an ongoing maintenance program)

Table 6.11.c (con't)

NATIVE SPECIES

					Optimal Planting Dates								
Common Name	Botanical Name / Cultivar	Native / Introduced	See Table 6.11.d for variety seedling rates	Fertilization/ limestone lbs/acre	Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plains	Sun/Shade tolerant	Wetlands	Riparian Buffers	Invasive Yes or No	Installation / Maintenance Considerations	Other information, commentary
Little Bluestem	*Schizachyrium*	N	E	By soil test	NR	NR	12/1-4/1	Sun	NR	Welll	No	Responds well to	Warm season grass
	scoparium / Common									drained		controlled burns. Mix with	
												3 to 5 other seed varieties	
												that have similar soil	
												drainage adaptations.	
Sweet Woodreed	*Cinna arundinacea*	N	F	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun &	Yes	Poorly to	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	Warm season grass
								mod. Shade		well drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	
Rice Cutgrass	*Leersia oryzoides*	N	G	By soil test	12/1-4/15	12/1 - 4/1	12/1-4/1	Sun	Yes	Poorly	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	Warm season grass
										drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	
Indian Woodoats	*Chasmanthium latifolium*	N	H	By soil test	3/1 - 5/15	2/15 - 4/1	2/15-3/20	Sun &	NR	Well	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	Cool season grass
					7/15-8/15	8/15 - 10/15	9/1 - 11/1	mod. Shade		drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	
Virginia Wild Rye	*Elymus virginicus*	N	I	By soil test	3/1 - 5/15	2/15 - 4/1	2/15-3/20	Sun &	NR	Well	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	Cool season grass
					7/15-8/15	8/15 - 10/15	9/1 - 11/1	mod. Shade		drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	
Eastern Bottlebrush	*Elymus hystrix*	N	J	By soil test	3/1 - 5/15	2/15 - 4/1	NR	Sun &	NR	Well	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	Cool season grass
Grass					7/15-8/15	8/15 - 10/15		mod. Shade		drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	
Soft Rush	*Juncus effusus*	N	K	By soil test	12/1 - 5/15	12/1 - 5/1	12/1-4/15	Sun	Yes	Poorly	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	
					8/15-10/15	9/1 - 11/1				drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	
Shallow Sedge	*Carex lurida*	N	L	By soil test	12/1 - 5/15	12/1 - 5/1	12/1-4/15	Sun	Yes	Poorly	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	
					8/15-10/15	9/1 - 11/1				drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	
Fox Sedge	*Carex vulpinoidea*	N	L	By soil test	12/1 - 5/15	12/1 - 5/1	12/1-4/15	Sun	Yes	Poorly	No	Mix with 3 to 5 other seed	
					8/15-10/15	9/1 - 11/1				drained		varieties that have similar	
												soil drainage adaptations	

NOTE:

1. Seeding rates are for hulled seed unless otherwise noted.
2. Fertilizer & Limestone - rates to be applied in absense of soils tests. Recommended application rate assumes significantly disturbed site soils with little or no residual value.
3. NR means Species not recommended for this region or application area.
4. Native, warm season grasses require six or more months to germinate under optimum conditions. If they are planted in the summer, then a whole year will have to pass before they germinate.
5. Invasive designation as determined by the N.C. Exotic Pest Pant Council and N.C. Native Plant Society .
6. Sprigging is not recommended for immediate stabilization unless terrain is flat, heavymulch is applied and no other immediate stabilization method is practical.
7. Sodding for immediate stabilization - see primary stabilization charts (other information column) and Section 6.12.
8. Long term stabilization can only be accomplished with an adequate, immediate, and primary stabilization program. To achieve long term protective cover with the species listed in this chart, the approved plan, construction sequence and maintenance schedule must include sufficient detail to assure vegetation will be established and maintained. To assure the long term protective cover will be established, the reviewing and approving governing body may require a performance/maintenance bond.

Table 6.11.d

Seed Mixes for Native Species (lbs/ac)
When Mixed with 3, 4, or 5 Other Native Species
(See Table 6.11.a for nurse crop species to be added to these mixes)

	3 Other (total 4 species)	4 Other (total 5 species)	5 Other (total 6 species)
Switch Grasses (A)	3.5 lbs.	3.0 lbs.	2.5 lbs.
Indian Grasses (B)	7.0 lbs.	6.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.
Deertongue (C)	6.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.	4.0 lbs.
Big Bluestem (D)	7.0 lbs.	6.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.
Little Bluestem (E)	7.0 lbs.	6.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.
Sweet Woodreed (F)	2.5 lbs.	2.0 lbs.	1.5 lbs.
Rice Cutgrass (G)	6.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.	4.0 lbs.
Indian Woodoats (H)	2.5 lbs.	2.0 lbs.	1.5 lbs.
Virginia Wild Rye (I)	6.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.	4.0 lbs.
Eastern Bottlebrush Grass (J)	2.5 lbs.	2.0 lbs.	1.5 lbs.
Soft Rush (K)	2.5 lbs.	2.0 lbs.	1.5 lbs.
Sedges (L)	2.5 lbs.	2.0 lbs.	1.5 lbs.

NOTE:
With the native varieties, the seed mix should be in the range of 15 pounds per acre. Depending on availability of native seeds adaptable to North Carolina, the percentage of a particular variety used may be reduced or increased accordingly. Although diversity is desirable, it is imperative that the primary crop develop and become an effective protective cover. In addition to the native species mix, additional nurse crop species must be included to provide immediate stabilization and an adequate ground cover.

Example 6.11.a GUIDELINES FOR WRITING MINIMUM LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Following is an outline that demonstrates what should be included in specifications that will insure the long term stabilization of disturbed sites in North Carolina. As noted before in this manual, each construction site in the state is unique and has features that will require special provisions for revegetation and stabilization. The outline provided below cannot address these individual sites. It is the responsibility of the design professional and the financially responsible party to see that the specifications are edited to fit their site and to assure that permanent stabilization is achieved.

General Provisions

A. Intent:

1. These specifications are prepared with the intent of promoting outstanding performance in long-term stabilization. They are to be used as guidelines in establishing sediment control and vegetative standards for the sites. Final technical decisions such as herbicides, fertilizer ratios, times of application and schedules are to be determined by the Contractor, who has the responsibility to obtain soil test and to manage the vegetation to achieve the desired results. The maintenance specifications must address maintenance for sediment and erosion control vegetation during construction and for permanent/long-term stabilization.

B. Description of Work:

1. Perform all work necessary and required for the (insert period of contract) maintenance of the project as indicated on the drawings, in the project manual, and specified herein.

2. Licensing:

a) Contractor shall provide verification of current, applicable pesticide applicator licensing for each applicator that will handle pesticides on the contracted sites.

3. Contract Administration

a) Staffing: The Contractor shall provide adequate staffing, with the appropriate expertise, to perform all required work.

b) Monthly Site Review meetings will be held. Attendees will include the Contractor's Project Manager and Site Foreman and the property manager or other representative designated by the financially responsible party. Result of site reviews will be documented and circulated to the attendees and the owner by the contractor.

c) The Contractor will communicate with the proper person on a monthly basis to summarize work performed and immediately notify the project manager of any failure of the site to remain stabilized.

II. Materials

A. Soil Additives: Additives are to be applied per soils test taken prior to, during and after construction. **(Use this section to provide the types and quantities of fertilizers, lime, and other soil amendments called for in the soils report. Include all soils test reports in the specifications document. This narrative or list should include quantities, rates, mixes, organic information, manufacturer, sources, and other information suggested in the soils test.)**

A. Pesticides:

1. Establish an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for the site that relies on targeted insect and disease control coupled with sound stabilization management and water management practices.

2. These specifications do not include pesticide treatments for infestations of Southern Pine Beetle, Gypsy Moth, or Fire Ants. The contractor shall notify the Owner if these pests are observed on site.

3. All pesticides shall be applied by a North Carolina licensed applicator in accordance with all State and Federal regulations and per manufacturer's recommendations.

B. Mulches: Mulch for areas not subject to erosion and over wash by storm water should be called out in this section addressing its maintenance, replacement, removal and conversion to other uses. Those subject to erosion and over wash by storm water must be addressed on the plans and in the calculations.

III. Execution

A. General:

1. Good long term stabilization is based on the proper maintenance, management and balance of nutrients, soil moisture and general cultural practices. It is recognized that fewer fungicide and pesticide treatments as well as lower fertility rates are required with a well managed, balanced landscape. The following section is meant to promote this balance and therefore do not highlight specific quantitative standards. **(Quantitative standards should be addressed as site specific by the design professional in conjunction with the owner and contractor.)** Calendar references are general and are to be used only as a guide. Weather and soil conditions that are most appropriate for a given process, procedure and/or area of the state shall be the determining factor in scheduling work.

B. Soil Tests:

1. After the soil test prior to stabilization, tests shall be made yearly in the fall to determine the required soil additives for all stabilized areas. If known nitrogen requirements are not specified by previous test, they need to be determined by the subsequent soils test and the proper applications made. Fertilizer ratios may be determined through analysis of the soil tests coupled with the contractor's experience and knowledge of the site.

C. Mowing

1. Mowing for maintained turf/lawns

   a. Mow areas intended for "groomed appearance" on a schedule during the growing season and as required throughout the year to provide the desired appearance. **(Establish a mowing frequency here that addresses the specific plant species used and their growing habits.)** This frequency will be a minimum standard. Particular properties and their peculiar characteristics as well as individual plant species may require mowing more often than the stated minimum may be required. This should be noted in this section.

   b. The range of turf species suggested for lawns in the three growing regions of North Carolina vary as to optimum maintained height. The selected species should be maintained at a height recommended by the seed producer. Do not cut too short and do not allow the turf to attain a height that will cause the crop to decline or die. Consult individual seed producers and/or packaging for recommended mowing heights.

   c. Mow with a mulching mower to limit the amount of clippings removed, or mow and blow in such a manner that clippings are not evident and not to adversely effect the growing capacity

and/or health of the existing vegetation turf. It is important clippings are allowed to remain spread throughout the lawn area, to the extent possible, so that they might aid in building a more productive soil profile and root zone.

2. Mowing other stabilized areas to promote continued growth. Include mowing specification here for other stabilized areas which require maintenance but not a "groomed" appearance. Also include specifications for mowing areas where it is desirable for woody native volunteer vegetation to become established. This should include attention to mowing stakes or other way of protecting the desired woody natives from the mowing operation.

D. Watering

1. Irrigation System Maintenance and Monitoring: If stabilized areas are to be irrigated the design professional should include specifications for the system, its maintenance and its operation in this section.

2. In the absence of an automatic or manual irrigation system, provisions for providing adequate water to stabilized areas should be addressed in this section.

3. **(Provisions should be made in this section for adjustments to application rates of water during times of regulated droughts and/or periods of excessive rainfall.)**

E. CONTROL OF INVASIVES: Competition from invasive species can be detrimental to the establishment of the permanent vegetative cover. Left unchecked, these invasives can undermine a revegetation process in a short period of time and eventually lead to unprotected soil and sediment damage. Make site observations monthly to check for the presence of such species and, if found, treat them immediately with the appropriate cultural practices and/or by the use of seasonally-appropriate and site appropriate herbicides.

F. Maintenance items including fertilization, mowing, continued soils testing, repair, mulching, matting and soil preparation are to be addressed in the approved construction sequence and on the project bid list.

6.12

SODDING

S

Definition

Permanently stabilizing areas by laying a continuous cover of grass sod.

Purpose

To prevent erosion and damage from sediment and runoff by stabilizing the soil surface with permanent vegetation where specific goals might be:

- to provide immediate vegetative cover of critical areas,
- to stabilize disturbed areas with a suitable plant material that cannot be established by seed, or
- to stabilize drainageways, channels, and other areas of concentrated flow where flow velocities will not exceed that specified for a grass lining (*Appendix 8.05*).

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Disturbed areas which require immediate and permanent vegetative cover, or where sodding is preferred to other means of grass establishment. Locations particularly suited to stabilization with sod are:

- waterways and channels carrying intermittent flow at acceptable velocities (*Appendix 6.05*),
- areas around drop inlets, when the drainage area has been stabilized (Practice 6.53, *Sod Drop Inlet Protection*),
- residential or commercial lawns and golf courses where prompt use and aesthetics are important, and
- steep critical areas.

Planning Considerations

Quality turf can be established with either seed or sod; site preparation for the two methods is similar. The practice of sodding for soil stabilization eliminates both the seeding and mulching operations, and is a much more reliable method of producing adequate cover and sediment control. However, compared to seed, sod is more difficult to obtain, transport, and store.

Advantages of properly installed sod include:

- immediate erosion and dust control,
- nearly year-round establishment capability,
- less chance of failure than with seedings,
- freedom from weeds, and
- rapid stabilization of surfaces for traffic areas, channel linings, or critical areas.

Sod can be laid during times of the year when seeded grasses may fail, provided there is adequate water available for irrigation in the early weeks. Irrigation is essential, at all times of the year, to install sod. It is initially more costly to install sod than to plant seed. However, the higher cost may be justified for specific applications where sod performs better than seed.

In waterways and channels that carry concentrated flow, properly pegged sod is preferable to seed because it provides immediate protection. Drop inlets placed in areas to be grassed can be protected from sediment by placing permanent sod strips around the inlet (Practice 6.53, *Sod Drop Inlet Protection*). Sod also maintains the necessary grade around the inlet.

Because sod is composed of living plants that must receive adequate care, final grading and soil preparation should be completed before sod is delivered. If left rolled or stacked, heat can build up inside the sod, causing severe damage and loss of costly plant material.

Specifications

Choosing appropriate types of sod—The type of sod selected should be composed of plants adapted to both the site and the intended purpose. In North Carolina these are limited to Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, bluegrass-tall fescue blends, fine-turf (hybrid) Bermudagrass, St. Augustinegrass, centipedegrass, and zoysiagrass. Species selection is primarily determined by region, availability, and intended use (Table 6.12a). Availability varies across the state and from year to year. New varieties are continually being developed and tested. A complete and current listing of sod recommendations can be obtained from suppliers or the State Agricultural Extension office. Sod composed of a mixture of varieties may be preferred becuase of its broader range of adaptability.

Table 6.12a
Types of sod Available in North Carolina

	Varieties	Region of Adaptation
Cool Season Grasses:		
Kentucky blugrass blend[1]		Mountains
Tall fescue blend	Adventure, Brookston, Falcon, Finelawn, Galway, Houndog, Jaguar, Olympic, Rebel	Mountains and Piedmont
Tall fescue/Kentucky bluegrass		Mountains and Piedmont
Warm Season Grasses:		
Hybrid Bermudagrass	Vamont, Tifway, Tifway II & Tifgreen	Piedmont and Coastal Plain
Zoysiagrass	Emerald, Meyer	Piedmont and Coastal Plain
Centipedegrass	No improved varieties	Piedmont and Coastal Plain
St. Augustinegrass	Raleigh	Piedmont and Coastal Plain

[1]A large number of varieties exist—consult suppliers and your local Agricultural Extension office for recommendations.

Quality of sod—Use only high-quality sod of known genetic origin, free of noxious weeds, disease, and insect problems. It should appear healthy and vigorous, and conform to the following specifications:

- Sod should be machine cut at a uniform depth of 1/2 - 2 inches (excluding shoot growth and thatch).
- Sod should not have been cut in excessively wet or dry weather.
- Sections of sod should be a standard size as determined by the supplier, uniform, and untorn.
- Sections of sod should be strong enough to support their own weight, and retain their size and shape when lifted by one end.
- Harvest, delivery, and installation of sod should take place within a period of 36 hours.

Soil preparation—Test soil to determine the exact requirements for lime and fertilizer. Soil tests may be conducted by the State soil testing lab or a reputable commercial laboratory. Information on free soil testing is available from the Agronomic Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture or the Agricultural Extension Service. Where sodding must be planned without soil tests the following soil amendments may be sufficient:

- **Pulverized agricultural limestone** at a rate of 2 tons/acre (100 lb/1,000 ft^2)
- **Fertilizer** at a rate of 1,000 lb/acre (25 lb/1,000 ft^2) of 10-10-10 in fall or 5-10-10 in spring.

Equivalent nutrients may be applied with other fertilizer formulations. These amendments should be spread evenly over the area, and incorporated into the top 4-8 inches of soil by disking, harrowing, or other effective means. If topsoil is applied, follow specifications given in Practice 6.04, *Topsoiling*.

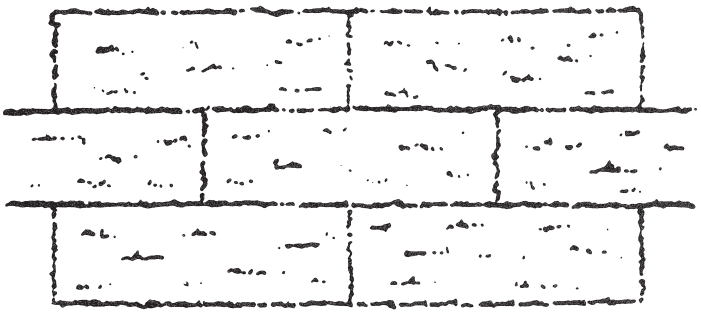
Prior to laying sod, clear the soil surface of trash, debris, roots, branches, stones, and clods larger than 2 inches in diameter. Fill or level low spots in order to avoid standing water. Rake or harrow the site to achieve a smooth and level final grade.

Complete soil preparation by rolling or cultipacking to firm the soil. Avoid using heavy equipment on the area, particularly when the soil is wet, as this may cause excessive compaction, and make it difficult for the sod to take root.

Sod installation—A step-by-step procedure for installing sod is illustrated in Figure 6.12a and described below.

1. Moistening the sod after it is unrolled helps maintain its viability. Store it in the shade during installation.

2. Rake the soil surface to break the crust just before laying sod. During the summer, lightly irrigate the soil, immediately before laying the sod to cool the soil, reduce root burning, and dieback.



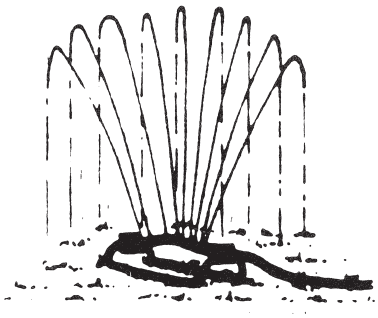
Lay sod in a staggered pattern with strips butted tightly against each other. A sharpened mason's trowel can be used to tuck down the ends and trim pieces.

Correct

Incorrect

Butting—angled ends caused by the automatic sod cutting must be matched correctly.

Roll sod immediately to achieve firm contact with the soil.



Water to a depth of 4″ as soon as the sod is laid, and continue watering as needed.

Mow when the sod is established (2-3 wks). Set the mower high (2-3″).

Figure 6.12a Proper installation of grass sod (modified from Va SWCC).

3. Do not sod on gravel, frozen soils, or soils that have been treated recently with sterilants or herbicides.

4. Lay the first row of sod in a straight line with subsequent rows placed paralled to and butting tightly against each other. Stagger strips in a brick-like pattern. Be sure that the sod is not streached or overlapped and that all joints are butted tightly to prevent voids. Use a knife or sharp spade to trim and fit irregularly shaped areas.

5. Install strips of sod with their longest dimension perpendicular to the slope. On slopes 3:1 or greater, or wherever erosion may be a problem, secure sod with pegs or staples.

6. As sodding of clearly defined areas is completed, roll sod to provide firm contact between roots and soil.

7. After rolling, irrigate until the soil is wet 4 inches below the sod.

8. Keep sodded areas moist to a depth of 4 inches until the grass takes root. This can be determined by gently tugging on the sod—resistance indicates that rooting has occurred.

9. Mowing should not be attempted until the sod is firmly rooted, usually 2-3 weeks.

Sodded waterways—Sod provides a resilient channel lining, providing immediate protection from concentrated runoff and eliminating the need for installing mats or mulch. The following points apply to the use of sod in waterways:

1. Prepare the soil as described in Practice 6.30, *Grass-lined Channels*. The sod type must be able to withstand the velocity of flow specified in the channel design (*Appendix 8.05*).

2. Lay sod strips perpendicular to the direction of flow, with the lateral joints staggered in a brick-like pattern. Edges should butt tightly together (Figure 6.12b).

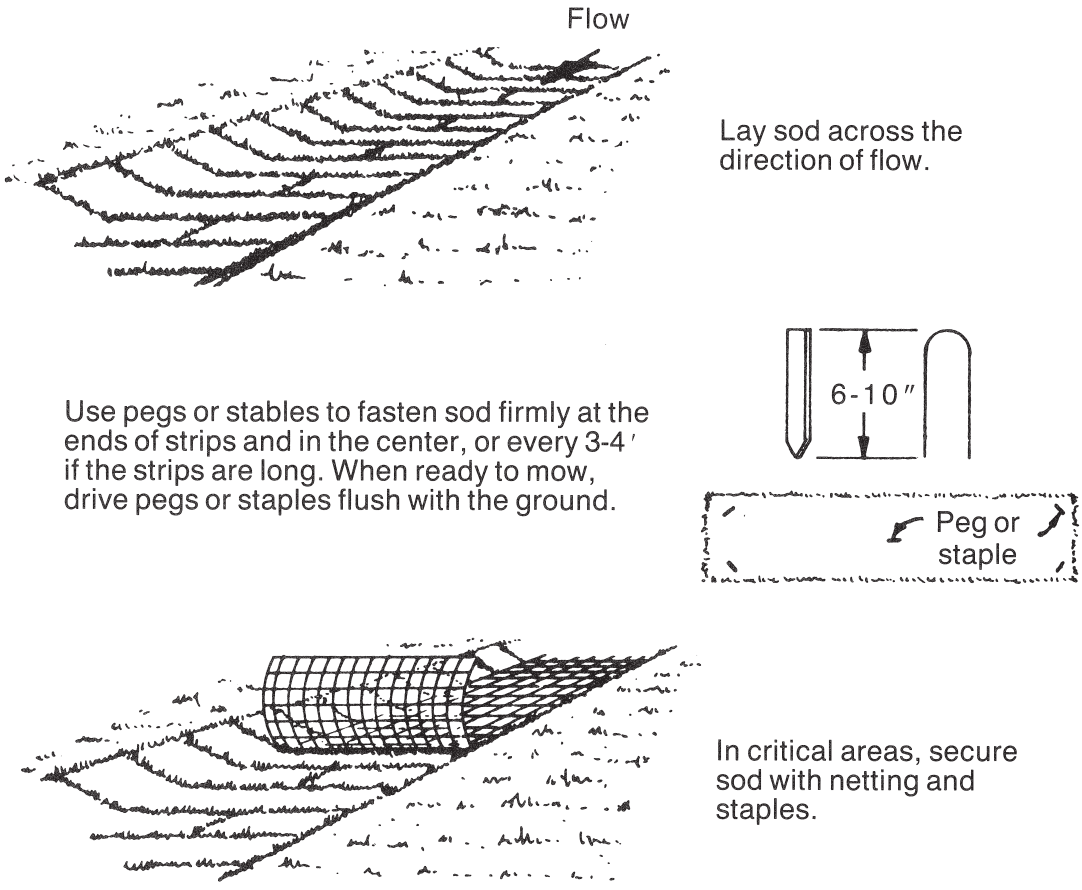


Figure 6.12b Installation of sod in waterways (modified from Va SWCC).

Table 6.12b
Characteristics of the Principal Lawn Grasses Grown as Sod in North Carolina

Species or Mixture	Adaptation					Maintenance		
	Shade	Heat	Cold	Drought	Wear	Annual Fertilizer (lb N/1000 ft²)	Mowing Height (in.)	Mowing Frequency
Kentucky bluegrass	good	fair	good	good	good	2.5-4	2	med.
Kentucky bluegrass/ Tall fescue	good	good	good	good	good	2.5-3	3	high
Tall fescue	good	good	good	good	good	2.5-3.5	3	high
Hybrid Bermudagrass	poor	good	poor	excel.	excel.	5-6	1	high
Centipedegrass	fair	good	poor	good	poor	0.5	1	low
St. Augustinegrass	good	good	poor	good	poor	2.5	2-3	med.
Zoysiagrass	fair	good	fair	excel.	good	1.5	1	high

Adapted from *Carolina Lawns*, NCAES Bulletin no. AG-69.

3. After rolling or tamping to create a firm contact, peg or staple individual sod strips to resist washout during establishment. Jute or other netting material may be pegged over the sod for extra protection on critical areas.

Maintenance

After the first week, water as necessary to maintain adequate moisture in the root zone and prevent dormancy of the sod.

Do not remove more than one-third of the shoot in any mowing. Grass height should be maintained between 2 and 3 inches unless otherwise specified.

After the first growing season, established sod requires fertilization, and may also require lime. Follow soil test recommendations when possible, or use the rates in Table 6.12b.

References

Site Preparation
6.04, Topsoiling

Surface Stabilization
6.11, Permanent Seeding

Runoff Conveyance Measures
6.30, Grass-lined Channels

Inlet Protection
6.53, Sod Drop Inlet Protection

Appendices
8.02, Vegetation Tables
8.05, Design of Stable Channels and Diversions

6.13

TREES, SHRUBS, VINES, AND GROUND COVERS

GC

Definition

Stabilizing disturbed areas by establishing a vegetative cover of trees, shrubs, vines, or ground covers.

Purpose

To stabilize the soil with vegetation other than grasses or legumes, to provide food and shelter for wildlife, and to provide windbreaks or screens.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Trees, shrubs, vines, and ground covers may be used on steep or rocky slopes where mowing is not feasible; as ornamentals for landscaping purposes; or in shaded areas where grass establishment is difficult.

Planning Considerations

Woody plants and ground covers provide alternatives to grasses and legumes as low-maintenance, long-term erosion control. However, they are normally planted only for special, high-value applications, or for aesthetic reasons because there is additional cost and labor associated with their use.

Very few of these plants can be dependably planted from seed, and none of them are capable of providing the rapid cover possible with grasses. Trees and shrubs in particular require a long time to produce cover adequate to control erosion. Consequently, efforts must first focus on short-term stabilization using densely-growing herbaceous species or a dependable mulch.

There are many different species of woody plants and ground covers from which to choose. Most are not as broadly adapted as herbaceous species, and care must be taken in their selection. It is essential to select planting material suited to both the intended use and site. Specific characteristics and requirements of recommended species are given in *Appendix 8.02* as an aid to their selection.

The large selection of available plant material makes it impractical to give planting specifications for even the most common species. Instead, general planting guidelines are given here.

ZONES OF ADAPTATION

Zones of climatic adaptation of landscape plants are referred to as "Plant Hardiness Zones" (Figure 6.13a). North Carolina encompasses portions of zones 6, 7, 8, and 9, but most of the State falls into zones 7 and 8. Most of the plants listed in Table 8.02b (*Appendix 8.02*) are climatically adapted throughout the state. Plant selection is most limited for high elevations in the Mountains and the extreme northwest corner of the state (zone 6).

TREES

Although trees are among the best soil stabilizers, years are required for the development of forest cover adequate to meet sedimentation control objectives. Efforts must first focus on establishing densely-growing species to stabilize the site and protect the area between immature trees.

For areas in which tree or shrub plantings are planned, initial seedings of grasses and legumes may need to be altered somewhat to reduce competition with the woody species. Unless the site is highly erodible, seeding rates may

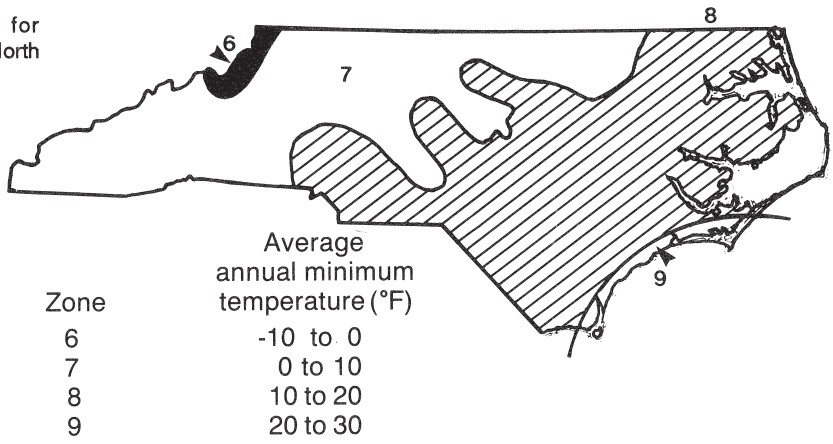


Figure 6.13a Plant hardiness zones for woody plants and ground covers in North Carolina.

be reduced, or competitive species may be omitted. Species such as tall fescue, which produce vigorous early growth, are highly competitive. Annual lespedezas, which start growing relatively late in the spring, are much less competitive with tree seedlings. On highly erodible sites the addition of a low seeding rate of weeping lovegrass may be effective.

Two alternative approaches to establishing tree cover on disturbed sites are: (1) planting seedlings of the desired species, usually at the earliest suitable date, or (2) allowing natural invasion by native species. Most unmowed sites in North Carolina will be colonized, usually within a few years, by pine species dominant in the locality.

Planting speeds tree establishment, ensures adequate stands, and allows selection of species composition. Where forest production is the objective, planting is preferable to natural invasion. Where invasion is acceptable, tree planting is not necessary if there is a seed source near the site.

Black locust is the only tree useful for conservation and revegetation that is readily established by adding seeds to the initial seeding mixture (Practice 6.11, *Permanent Seeding*, Table 6.11i). It is only adapted to the Mountain region where it is recommended for particularly erodible sites.

Black locust grows rapidly, and is tolerant of shallow, dry, infertile soils. Being a legume, it contributes nitrogen and nutrient-rich litter to the soil, thereby preparing the way for succession by more valuable hardwoods. It has other characteristics that also foster successional development; it is fairly short-lived, intolerant of shade, and unable to regenerate under its own or other tree canopies.

Seeded stands of black locust can be almost impenetrable for 6-8 years. The trees are thorny, and can be hazardous to people and equipment. At the same time they provide effective protection from traffic—a highly beneficial function on fragile sites.

SHRUBS

Shrubs vary in form from small trees to sprawling, woody ground covers. They differ from most trees in that several small trunks arise from a common base.

As a supplement to herbaceous, plantings shrubs can be used to:

- increase the aesthetic value of plantings,
- provide screening,
- enhance windbreaks,
- provide food and cover for wildlife,
- accelerate the transition to a diverse landscape, and
- provide post-construction landscaping.

GROUND COVERS

As used by landscapers, "ground cover" refers to low-growing, herbaceous or woody plants that spread vegetatively to produce a dense, continuous cover. They are used in landscape plantings, or as an alternative to turf. Typically only a few ornamental grasses are included in this category. Many ground covers, such as English ivy, are vines that spread along the ground but also climb on buildings, fences, or other vegetation.

Ground covers differ in growth form, growth rate, and shade tolerance. They may be evergreen or deciduous. Some are suitable only as part of a high-maintenance landscape; others can be used to stabilize large areas with little maintenance.

In addition to stabilizing disturbed soil, vines and ground covers perform the following functions:

- They maintain cover in heavily shaded areas where turf will not thrive.
- They provide attractive cover that does not need mowing.
- They restrict pedestrian traffic (people are likely to avoid walking through a thick bed of ivy or a planting of juniper).

Specifications

Areas planted to shrubs or trees must also be covered with a suitable mulch, or seeded to permanent vegetation, to protect the site until the woody plants become established. Refer to Practices 6.11, *Permanent Seeding*, and 6.14, *Mulching*, to select methods for stabilizing these areas. Do not use plants that will shade-out the woody seedlings. A circle of mulch around seedlings helps them compete with herbaceous plants.

TREES

Sources—Trees can be dug on-site with a tree spade, or purchased from a nursery. Large trees come with their roots and the attached soil wrapped in burlap, and small trees and shrubs are sold in plastic containers or as bare-root stock. The soil ball of containerized and burlapped trees should be 12 inches in diameter for each inch of trunk diameter.

Black locust is a tree that can be readily established by seed. It is an excellent tree for stabilization purposes, but is only adapted to the Mountain region. Seeds can be included in the initial seeding mixture (Practice 6.11, *Permanent Seeding*, Table 6.11i).

Planting bare-root tree seedlings—Bare-root seedlings should be handled only while dormant in late winter, early spring, or after leaf fall in autumn. Availability of stock usually limits planting to winter or spring. Store packages of seedlings in a shaded location out of the wind. If it is necessary to store moss-packed seedlings for more than two weeks, add one pint of water per package. Do not add water to clay-treated seedlings.

Do not allow roots to dry out during planting by carrying seedlings exposed to air and sun. Keep moss-packed seedlings in a container packed with wet moss or filled with thick muddy water. Cover clay-treated seedlings with wet burlap.

A method for hand planting bare-root seedlings is illustrated in Figure 6.13b. With a tree planting bar or spade, make a notch deep enough to accommodate the roots. Place the roots in the notch to the same depth as in the nursery, then firm soil around roots by pressing the notch closed. Water immediately and mulch the area within 2 ft of the plant. Several weeks after planting, broadcast a handful of 10-10-10 fertilizer around each plant, at least 1 ft from the base.

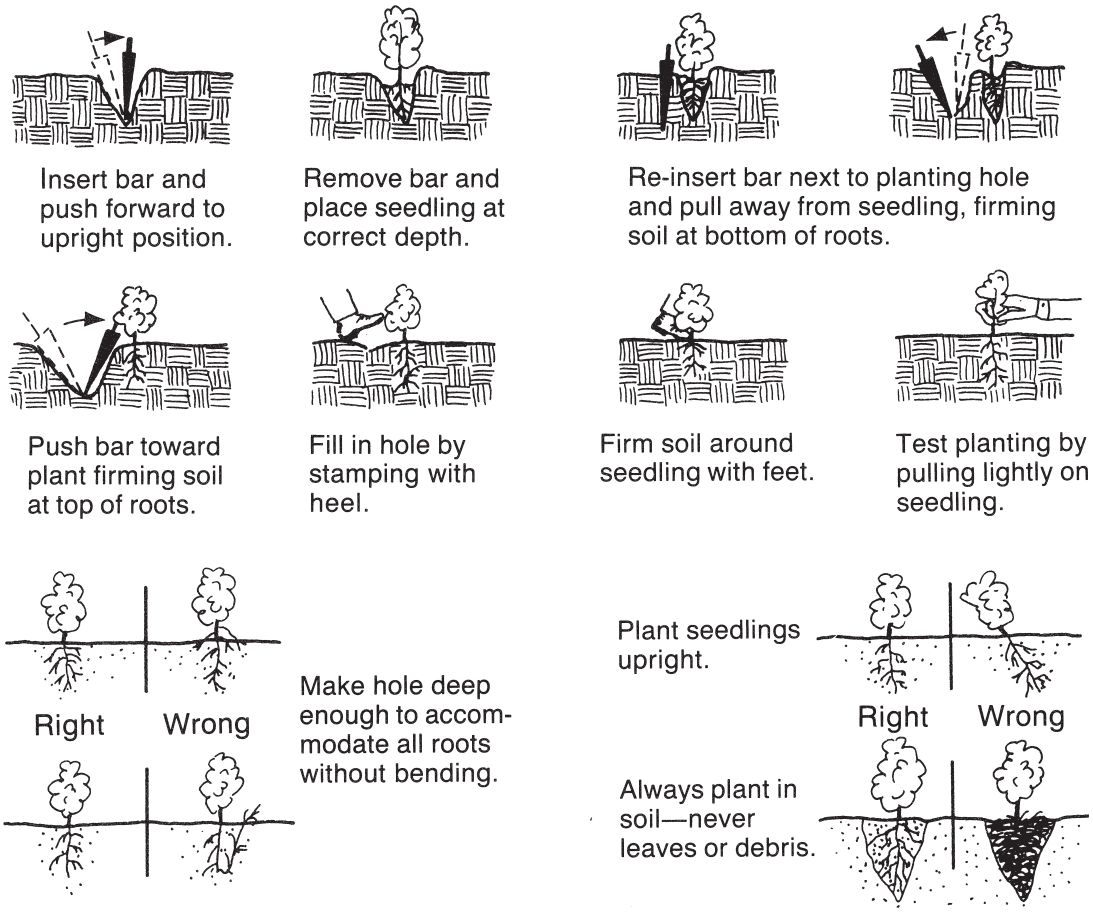


Figure 6.13b Planting bare-root seedlings (modified from Va. Div. of Forestry).

On large sites where slopes are not prohibitive, bare-root seedlings can be efficiently planted in furrows using a tractor-drawn vegetable transplanter.

Planting balled-and-burlapped or container-grown trees—(Figure 6.13c). Late fall (Nov. - Dec.) is the preferred planting time for deciduous trees and evergreens, although they may be planted year-round. Avoid summer planting.

Keep the soil around the roots moist until planting. Branches should be bound with soft rope to prevent damage during transport.

Each planting hole must be deep and wide enough to allow proper placement of the root ball. Ideally, the hole should be twice the size of the root ball. When digging the hole, keep topsoil separate from subsoil. If the subsoil is high in clay, allow extra room (one-half again the height of the root ball). Backfill the hole with enough topsoil or peat moss to position the base of the tree at the same level as in the nursery.

If the plant is in a container, carefully remove it, taking the soil surrounding the roots with it. This may require cutting the container. Loosen the twine and burlap at the top of balled-and-burlapped plants, and check to make sure that no other wrapping is present before planting.

Before replacing subsoil, mix it with one-third peat moss or well-rotted manure. Backfill the hole, firming the soil as it is replaced, and leave a depression around the trunk within the excavated area to hold water. Cover the base of the trunk to the same level as before it was removed (Figure 6.13c). Water thoroughly, and rewater as necessary to keep the roots moist.

Stake small trees with vertical stakes driven into the ground, just beyond the root ball (Figure 6.13c). Secure large trees with guy wires. Cushion wire, where it contacts the tree, with rubber hose. Wrap the trunks of young trees to protect them from sunburn and pests.

Fertilize trees in late fall or early spring, **before leaves emerge**. Using a punchbar, crowbar, or auger, make holes 18 inches deep and about 2 ft apart around the drip line of each tree. Distribute the fertilizer evenly among the holes to bring it in contact with tree roots, and close.

SHRUBS

Selecting shrubs—The best shrubs for erosion control have characteristics such as fast growth, ease of establishment, large lateral spread or prostrate growth, year-round foliage (evergreens), disease and insect resistance, ability of the roots to fix nitrogen, and adaptation to a broad range of soil conditions. Selections should be based on a specific site and purpose.

Many different species and varieties of shrubs are available that grow well in North Carolina. Those described in Table 8.02b (*Appendix 8.02*) are generally available, and are useful for stabilization and erosion control. In most situations it will not be necessary to look further than this listing. For very specific uses consult local nurserymen or the State Extension Horticulturist.

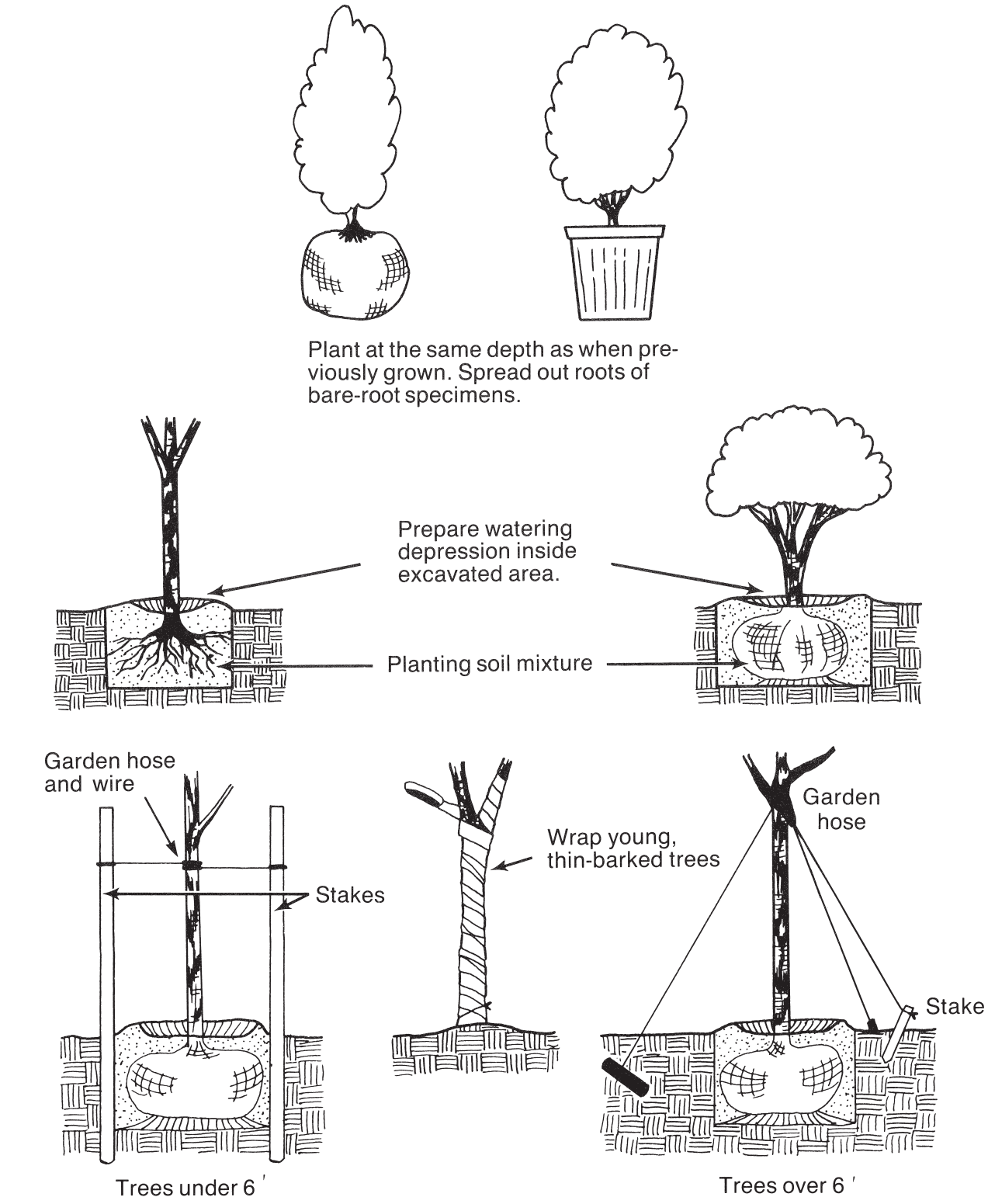


Figure 6.13c Planting balled-and-burlapped and container-grown trees (modified from Va. Div. of Forestry).

Obtaining shrubs—Shrubs are normally planted as bare-root stock or container-grown plants. Container-grown seedlings, 1 year old, are usually recommended for their ease of planting and cost.

Planting is best done in early fall or early spring. Follow the general procedures for tree care and planting (Figures 6.13b and c).

Maintenance requirements depend on the particular shrub. In all cases watering is important in getting plants established. Once established, fertilizing every 3 years is generally sufficient. A heavy layer of mulch around the base of each plant reduces weeds and retains moisture. Mulch may consist of woodchips, sawdust pine needles, or straw.

VINES AND GROUND COVERS

Selecting plants—For most stabilization purposes, fast-growing, evergreen, low-maintenance ground covers are preferable. Some pertinent characteristics that should help in selecting appropriate ground covers are given in Table 8.02b *(Appendix 8.02*).

When to plant—Ground covers are best planted in early fall or early spring. Spring planting is preferred in the mountains.

Site preparation—Good soil is important in establishing ground covers because their dense growth requires large amounts of nutrients and water. Well-drained soils high in organic matter work best. When possible, apply organic matter in the form of peat, sawdust, or well-rotted manure, and incorporate to 4-6 inches.

Add lime and fertilizer according to soil tests, or add 100 lb/1,000 ft^2 ground agricultural limestone, and 50 lb/1,000 ft^2 of 10-10-10 fertilizer and incorporate into the top 4-6 inches of soil. Add organic matter in an amount up to one-third the total soil volume, either over the whole area (layer 2 inches deep mixed into the top 6 inches) or in each planting hole if the area is large.

On steep slopes, till the soil in contour rows, or dig single holes for each plant. Blend the needed lime, fertilizer, and organic material with the soil removed from each hole or furrow. Mix fertilizer thoroughly with the soil before planting, and use it sparingly to avoid burning roots.

To eliminate harmful competition from weeds, a pre-emergent herbicide may be useful if weeding is not practical.

Planting—Most ground covers are planted from container-grown nursery stock. Planting density determines how quickly full cover is achieved; a 1-foot spacing is often suggested for rapid cover. Large plants such as junipers can be spaced on 3-feet centers.

Transplanting to the prepared seedbed can be done using a small trowel or a spade. Make a hole large enough to accommodate the roots and soil. Backfill and firm the soil around the plant, water immediately, and keep well watered until established.

Mulching—Competition from volunteer plants inhibits development and maintenance of the ground cover. A thick durable mulch such as shredded bark or wood chips should prevent erosion and reduce weeds. Mulch the entire planting area.

On steep slopes (3:1) or highly erodible soils, install netting or matting prior to planting, and tuck plants into the soil through slits in the net. Plant in a staggered pattern.

Maintenance—Most ground covers need yearly trimming to promote growth. Trim back from trees, flower beds, fences, and buildings. Add mulch where needed and fertilize, as described above, every 3-4 years.

References

Site Preparation
6.04, Topsoiling

Surface Stabilization
6.11, Permanent Seeding
6.14, Mulching

Appendix
8.02, Vegetation Tables

6.14

MULCHING

M

Definition

Application of a protective blanket of straw or other plant residue, gravel, or synthetic material to the soil surface.

Purpose

To protect the soil surface from the forces of raindrop impact and overland flow. Mulch fosters the growth of vegetation, reduces evaporation, insulates the soil, and suppresses weed growth. Mulch is frequently used to accent landscape plantings.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Mulch temporary or permanent seedings immediately. Areas that cannot be seeded because of the season should be mulched to provide temporary protection of the soil surface. Use an organic mulch in this case (but not wood fiber), and seed the area as soon as possible. Mulch around plantings of trees, shrubs, or ground covers to stabilize the soil between plants.

Planning Considerations

A surface mulch is the most effective, practical means of controlling runoff and erosion on disturbed land prior to vegetation establishment. Mulch reduces soil moisture loss by evaporation, prevents crusting and sealing of the soil surface, moderates soil temperatures, provides a suitable microclimate for seed germination, and may increase the infiltration rate of the soil.

Organic mulches such as straw, wood chips, and shredded bark have been found to be the most effective. Do not use materials which may be sources of competing weed and grass seeds. Decomposition of some wood products can tie up significant amounts of soil nitrogen, making it necessary to modify fertilization rates, or add fertilizer with the mulch (Table 6.14a).

A variety of mats and fabrics have been developed in recent years for use as mulch, particularly in critical areas such as waterways and channels. Various types of netting materials are also available to anchor organic mulches.

Chemical soil stabilizers or soil binders, when used alone, are less effective than other types of mulches. These products are primarily useful for tacking wood fiber mulches.

The choice of materials for mulching should be based on soil conditions, season, type of vegetation, and size of the area. A properly applied and tacked mulch is always beneficial. It is especially important when conditions for germination are not optimum, such as midsummer and early winter, and on difficult areas such as cut slopes and slopes with southern exposures.

ORGANIC MULCHES

Straw is the mulch most commonly used in conjunction with seeding. The straw should come from wheat or oats (“small grains”), and may be spread by hand or with a mulch blower. Straw may be lost to wind, and must be tacked down.

Wood chips are suitable for areas that will not be closely mowed, and around ornamental plantings. Chips do not require tacking. Because they decompose slowly, they must be treated with 12 pounds of nitrogen per ton to prevent

Table 6.14a
Mulching Materials and Application Rates

Material	Rate Per Acre	Quality	Notes
Organic Mulches			
Straw	1-2 tons	Dry, unchopped, unweathered; avoid weeds.	Should come from wheat or oats; spread by hand or machine; must be tacked down.
Wood chips	5-6 tons	Air dry	Treat with 12 lbs nitrogen/ton. Apply with mulch blower, chip handler, or by hand. Not for use in fine turf.
Wood fiber	0.5-1 tons		Also referred to as wood cellulose. May be hydroseeded. Do not use in hot, dry weather.
Bark	35 cubic yards	Air dry, shredded or hammer-milled, or chips.	Apply with mulch blower, chip handler, or by hand. Do not use asphalt tack.
Corn stalks	4-6 tons	Cut or shredded in 4-6 in. lengths.	Apply with mulch blower or by hand. Not for use in fine turf.
Sericea lespedeza seed-bearing stems	1-3 tons	Green or dry; should contain mature seed.	
Nets and Mats[1]			
Jute net	Cover area	Heavy, uniform; woven of single jute yarn.	Withstands waterflow. Best when used with organic mulch.
Fiberglass net	Cover area		Withstands waterflow. Best when used with organic mulch.
Excelsior (wood fiber) mat	Cover area		Withstands waterflow.
Fiberglass roving	0.5-1 tons	Continuous fibers of drawn glass bound together with a non-toxic agent.	Apply with a compressed air ejector. Tack with emulsified asphalt at a rate of 25-35 gal/1,000 sq ft.
Chemical Stabilizers[2]			
Aquatain Aerospray Curasol AK Petroset SB Terra Tack Crust 500 Genaqua 743 M-145	follow manufacturer's specifications		Not beneficial to plant growth.

[1]Refer to Practice No. 6.30, *Grass Lined Channels.*

[2]Use of trade names does not imply endorsement of product.

nutrient deficiency in plants. This can be an inexpensive mulch if chips are obtained from trees cleared on the site.

Bark chips and shredded bark are by-products of timber processing often used in landscape plantings. Bark is also a suitable mulch for areas planted to grasses and not closely mowed. It may be applied by hand or with a mulch blower. Unlike wood chips, the use of bark does not require additional nitrogen fertilizer.

Wood fiber refers to short cellulose fibers applied as a slurry in hydroseeding operations. Wood fiber does not require tacking, although tacking agents or soil binders can easily be added to the slurry. Wood fiber hydroseeder slurries may be used to tack straw mulch on steep slopes, critical areas, and where harsh climatic conditions exist. **Wood fiber mulch does not provide sufficient erosion protection to be used alone**.

There are other organic materials that make excellent mulches, but may only be available locally or seasonally, for example: dried sewage sludge, corn stalks, animal manure, pine boughs, cotton burs, peanut hulls, and hay. Creative use of these materials can reduce costs.

CHEMICAL MULCHES AND SOIL BINDERS

A wide range of synthetic mulching compounds is available to stabilize and protect the soil surface. These include emulsions or dispersions of vinyl compounds, asphalt, or rubber mixed with water. They may be used alone, or may be used to tack wood fiber hydromulches.

When used alone, chemical mulches do not insulate the soil or retain moisture, and therefore do little to aid seedling establishment. They are easily damaged by traffic, are usually more expensive than organic mulches, and they decompose in 60-90 days.

Check labels on chemical mulches and binders for environmental concerns. Take precautions to avoid damage to fish, wildlife, and water resources.

NETS, MATS, AND ROVING

Netting is very effective in holding mulch in place on waterways and slopes before grasses become established.

Mats promote seedling growth in the same way as organic mulches. They are very useful in establishing grass in channels and waterways. A wide variety of synthetic and organic materials are available. “Excelsior” is a wood fiber mat, and should not be confused with wood fiber slurry.

When installing nets and mats, it is critical to obtain a firm, continuous contact between the material and the soil. Without such contact, the material is useless, and erosion will occur underneath.

Fiberglass roving consists of continuous strands of fiberglass which, when blown onto the soil surface from a special compressed air ejector, form a mat of glass fibers. This mat must then be tacked down with asphalt.

Select a material based on site and practice requirements, availability of material, labor, and equipment. Table 6.14a lists commonly used mulches and some alternatives.

Before mulching, complete the required grading, install sediment control practices, and prepare the seedbed. Apply seed before mulching **except** in the following cases:

- Seed is applied as part of a hydroseeder slurry containing wood fiber mulch.
- A hydroseeder slurry is applied over straw.

APPLICATION OF ORGANIC MULCH

Organic mulches are effective where they can be tacked securely to the surface. Material and specifications are given in Table 6.14a.

Spread mulch uniformly by hand, or with a mulch blower. When spreading straw mulch by hand, divide the area to be mulched into sections of approximately 1,000 ft^2, and place 70-90 lb of straw (1 1/2 to 2 bales) in each section to facilitate uniform distribution. After spreading mulch, no more than 25% of the ground surface should be visible. In hydroseeding operations a green dye, added to the slurry, assures a uniform application.

ANCHORING ORGANIC MULCH

Straw mulch must be anchored immediately after spreading. The following methods of anchoring mulch may be used:

Mulch anchoring tool—A tractor-drawn implement designed to punch mulch into the soil, a mulch anchoring tool provides maximum erosion control with straw. A regular farm disk, weighted and set nearly straight, may substitute, but will not do a job comparable to the mulch anchoring tool. The disk should not be sharp enough to cut the straw. These methods are limited to slopes no steeper than 3:1, where equipment can operate safely. Operate machinery on the contour.

Liquid mulch binders—Application of liquid mulch binders and tackifiers should be heaviest at the edges of areas and at crests of ridges and banks, to resist wind. Binder should be applied uniformly to the rest of the area. Binders may be applied after mulch is spread, or may be sprayed into the mulch as it is being blown onto the soil. Applying straw and binder together is the most effective method. Liquid binders include asphalt and an array of commercially available synthetic binders.

Emulsified asphalt is the most commonly used mulch binder. Any type thin enough to be blown from spray equipment is satisfactory. Asphalt is classified according to the time it takes to cure. Rapid setting (RS or CRS designation) is formulated for curing in less than 24 hours, even during periods of high humidity; it is best used in spring and fall. Medium setting (MS or CMS) is formulated for curing within 24 to 48 hours, and slow setting (SS or CSS) is formulated for use during hot, dry weather, requiring 48 hours or more curing time.

Apply asphalt at 0.10 gallons per square yard (10 gal/1,000 ft^2). Heavier applications cause straw to "perch" over rills.

In traffic areas, uncured asphalt can be picked up on shoes and cause damage to rugs, clothing etc. Use types RS or CRS to minimize such problems.

Synthetic binders such as Petroset, Terratack, and Aerospray may be used, as recommended by the manufacturer, to anchor mulch. These are expensive, and therefore usually used in small areas or in residential areas where asphalt may be a problem (Use of trade names does not constitute an endorsement).

Mulch nettings—Lightweight plastic, cotton, jute, wire, or paper nets may be stapled over the mulch according to the manufacturer's recommendations (see "Nets and Mats" below).

Peg and twine—Because it is labor-intensive, this method is feasible only in small areas where other methods cannot be used. Drive 8-10 inch wooden pegs to within 3 inches of the soil surface, every 4 feet in all directions. Stakes may be driven before or after straw is spread. Secure mulch by stretching twine between pegs in a criss-cross-within-a-square pattern. Turn twine two or more times around each peg. Twine may be tightened over the mulch by driving pegs further into the ground.

Vegetation—Rye (grain) may be used to anchor mulch in fall plantings, and German millet in spring. Broadcast at 15 lb/acre before applying mulch.

CHEMICAL MULCHES

Chemical mulches may be effective for soil stabilization if used between May 1 and June 15, or Sept. 15 and Oct. 15, provided that they are used on slopes **no steeper** than 4:1, and that proper seedbed preparation has been accomplished, including surface roughening where required.

Chemical mulches may be used to bind other mulches, or with wood fiber in a hydroseeded slurry at any time. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for application.

FIBERGLASS ROVING

Fiberglass roving ("roving") is wound into a cylindrical package so that it can be continuously withdrawn from the center using a compressed air ejector. Roving expands into a mat of glass fibers as it contacts the soil surface. It is often used over a straw mulch, but must still be tacked with asphalt.

Spread roving uniformly over the area at a rate of 0.25 to 0.35 lb/yd^2. Anchor with asphalt immediately after application, at a rate of 0.25 to 0.35 gal/yd^2.

As a channel lining, and at other sites of concentrated flow, the roving mat must be further anchored to prevent undermining. It may be secured with stakes placed at intervals no greater than 10 feet along the drainageway, and randomly throughout its width, but not more than 10 feet apart. As an option to staking, the roving can be buried to a depth of 5 inches at the upgrade end and at intervals of 50 feet along the length of the channel.

NETS AND MATS

Nets alone generally provide little moisture conservation benefits and only

limited erosion protection. Therefore, they are usually used in conjunction with an organic mulch such as straw.

Except when wood fiber slurry is used, netting should always be installed **over** the mulch. Wood fiber may be sprayed on top of an installed net.

Mats, including "excelsior" (wood fiber) blankets, are considered protective mulches and may be used alone, on erodible soils, and during all times of the year. Place the matting in firm contact with the soil, and staple securely.

INSTALLATION OF NETTING AND MATTING

Products designed to control erosion should be installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Any mat or blanket-type product used as a protective mulch should provide cover of at least 30% of the surface where it is applied. Installation is illustrated in Figure 6.14a.

1. Apply lime, fertilizer, and seed **before** laying the net or mat.

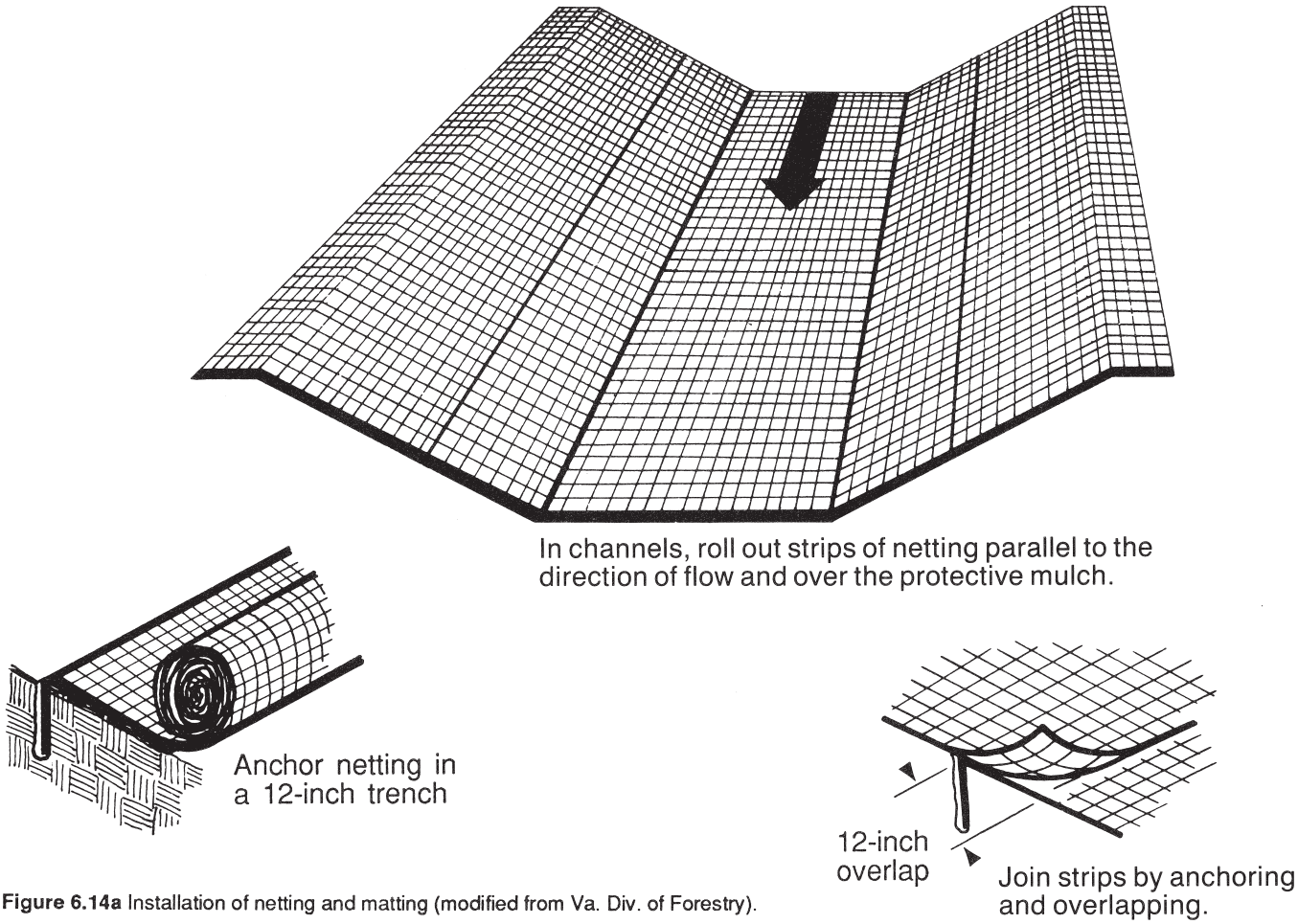


Figure 6.14a Installation of netting and matting (modified from Va. Div. of Forestry).

2. Start laying the net from the top of the channel or slope, and unroll it down the grade. **Allow netting to lay loosely on the soil or mulch cover but without wrinkles—do not stretch**.

3. To secure the net, bury the upslope end in a slot or trench no less than 6 inches deep, cover with soil, and tamp firmly as shown in Figure 6.14a. Staple the net every 12 inches across the top end and every 3 ft around the edges and bottom. Where 2 strips of net are laid side by side, the adjacent edges should be overlapped 3 inches and stapled together. Each strip of netting should also be stapled down the center, every 3 ft. **Do not stretch the net when applying staples**.

4. To join two strips, cut a trench to anchor the end of the new net. Overlap the end of the previous roll 18 inches, as shown in Figure 6.14a, and staple every 12 inches just below the anchor slot.

Maintenance

Inspect all mulches periodically, and after rainstorms to check for rill erosion, dislocation or failure. Where erosion is observed, apply additional mulch. If washout occurs, repair the slope grade, reseed and reinstall mulch. Continue inspections until vegetation is firmly established.

References

Surface Stabilization
6.11, Permanent Seeding

Appendix
8.02, Vegetation Tables

6.15

RIPRAP

RR

Definition

A layer of stone designed to protect and stabilize areas subject to erosion.

Purpose

To protect the soil surface from erosive forces and/or improve stability of soil slopes that are subject to seepage or have poor soil structure.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Riprap is used for the following applications:

- cut-and-fill slopes subject to seepage or weathering, particularly where conditions prohibit establishment of vegetation,
- channel side slopes and bottoms,
- inlets and outlets for culverts, bridges, slope drains, grade stabilization structures, and storm drains
- streambank and stream grades,
- shorelines subject to wave action.

Planning Considerations

Riprap is a versatile, highly erosion-resistant material that can be used effectively in many locations and in a variety of ways to control erosion on construction sites.

GRADED VERSUS UNIFORM RIPRAP

Riprap is classed as either graded or uniform. Graded riprap includes a wide mixture of stone sizes. Uniform riprap consists of stones nearly all the same size.

Graded riprap is preferred to uniform riprap in most applications because it forms a dense, flexible cover. Uniform riprap is more open, and cannot adjust as effectively to movement of the stones. Graded riprap is also cheaper to install requiring less hand work for installation than uniform riprap, which must be placed in a uniform pattern. Uniform riprap may give a more pleasing appearance.

Riprap sizes are designated by either the mean diameter or the weight of the stones. The diameter specification is often misleading since the stones are usually angular. However, common practice is to specify stone size by the diameter of an equivalent size of spherical stone. Table 6.15a lists some typical stones by weight, spherical diameter, and the corresponding rectangular dimensions. These stone sizes are based upon an assumed specific weight of 165 lb/ft^3.

A method commonly used for specifying the range of stone sizes in graded riprap is to designate a diameter for which some percentage, by weight, will be smaller. For example, "d_{85}" specifies a mixture of stones in which 85% of the stone by weight would be smaller than the diameter specified. Most designs are based on "d_{50}", or median size stones.

Riprap and gravel are often designated by N.C. Department of Transportation specifications (Table 6.15b).

Table 6.15a
Size or Riprap Stones

Weight (lb)	Mean Spherical Diameter (ft)	Length (ft)	Rectangular Shape Width/Height (ft)
50	0.8	1.4	0.5
100	1.1	1.8	0.6
150	1.3	2.0	0.7
300	1.6	2.6	0.9
500	1.9	3.0	1.0
1000	2.2	3.7	1.3
1500	2.6	4.7	1.5
2000	2.8	5.4	1.8
4000	3.6	6.0	2.0
6000	4.0	6.9	2.3
8000	4.5	7.6	2.5
20000	6.1	10.0	3.3

source: Va SWCC

When considering riprap for surface stabilization, it is important to anticipate visual impacts, including weed control, hazards from snakes and other animals, danger of slides and hazards to areas below steep riprap slopes, damage and possible slides from children moving stones, and general safety.

Proper slope selection and surface preparation are essential for successful long-term functioning of riprap. Adequate compaction of fill areas and proper use of filter blankets are necessary.

Sequence of construction—Schedule disturbance of areas that require riprap protection so that the placement of riprap can follow immediately after grading. When riprap is used for outlet protection, place the riprap before or in conjunction with the installation of the structure so that it is in place before the first runoff event.

Design Criteria

Gradation—Riprap should be a well-graded mixture with 50% by weight larger than the specified design size. The diameter of the largest stone size in such a mixture should be 1.5 times the d_{50} size with smaller sizes grading down to 1 inch.

The designer should determine the riprap size that will be stable for design conditions. Having determined the design stone size, the designer should select the size or sizes that equal or exceed that minimum size based on riprap gradations commercially available in the area.

Thickness—Construction techniques, dimensions of the area to be protected, size and gradation of the riprap, the frequency and duration of flow, difficulty and cost of maintenance, and consequences of failure should be considered when determining the thickness of riprap linings. The minimum thickness should be 1.5 times the maximum stone diameter, but in no case less than 6 inches.

Quality of stone—Stone for riprap may consist of field stone or quarry stone. The stone should be hard, angular, of such quality that it will not break down

Table 6.15b
Sizes for Riprap and Erosion Control Stone Specified by the N.C. Department of Transportation

Riprap		Erosion Control	
Class 1	**Class 2**	**Class A**	**Class B**
5 to 200 lb	25 to 250 lb	2” to 6”	5” to 15”
30% shall weigh a minimum of 60 lbs each	60% shall weigh a minimum of 100 lb each		
No more than 10% shall weigh less than 15 lb each	No more than 5% shall weigh less than 50 lb each	10% tolerance top and bottom sizes	
		Equally distributed, no gradation specified	Equally distributed, no gradation specified

source: North Carolina Aggregates Association

on exposure to water or weathering, and suitable in all other respects for the purpose intended. The specific gravity of the individual stones should be at least 2.5.

Size of stone—The sizes of stones used for riprap protection are determined by purpose and specific site conditions.

- **Slope stabilization**—Riprap stone for slope stabilization, not subject to flowing water or wave action, should be sized for stability for the proposed grade. The gradient of the slope to be stabilized should be less than the natural angle of repose of the stone selected. Angle of repose of riprap stones may be estimated from Figure 6.15a.

  Riprap used for surface stabilization of slopes does not add significant resistance to sliding or slope failure, and should not be considered a retaining wall. The inherent stability of the soil must be satisfactory before riprap is used for surface stabilization. Slopes approaching 1.5:1 may require special stability analysis.

- **Outlet protection**—Design criteria for sizing stone, and determining the dimensions of riprap pads at channel or conduit outlets are presented in Practice 6.41, *Outlet Stabilization Structure*.

- **Channel stabilization and streambank protection**—Design criteria for sizing stone for stability of channels are contained in *Appendix 8.05*.

Filter blanket—A filter blanket is a layer of material placed between the riprap and the underlying soil to prevent soil movement into or through the riprap.

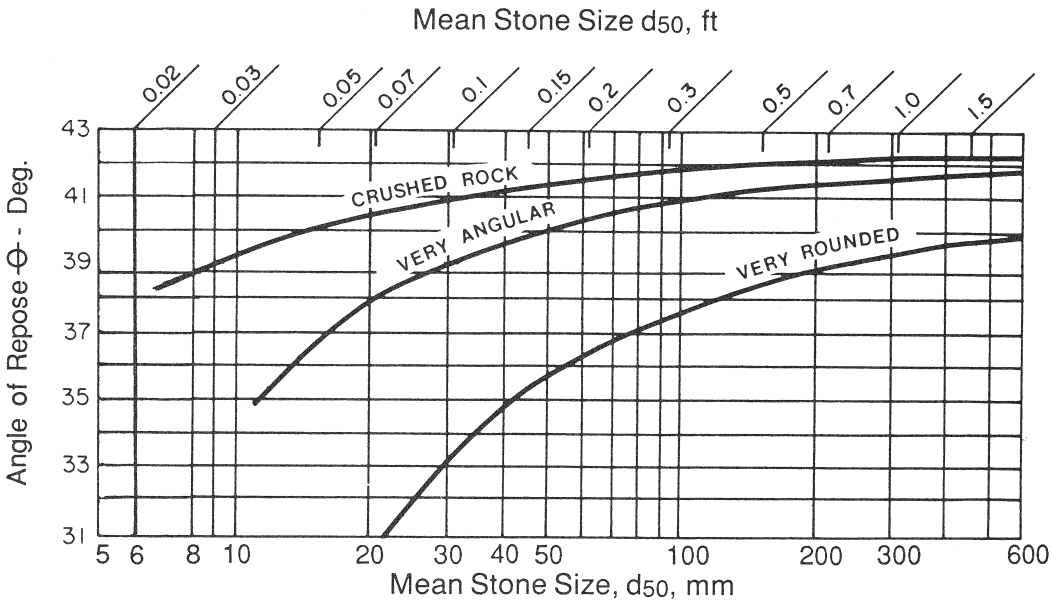


Figure 6.15a Angle of repose for different rock shapes and sizes.
Adapted from: FHWA, HEC-15, pg. 49 - April 1988

A suitable filter may consist of a well-graded gravel or sand-gravel layer or a synthetic filter fabric manufactured for this express purpose. The design of a gravel filter blanket is based on the ratio of particle size in the overlying filter material to that of the base material in accordance with the criteria below. The designed gravel filter blanket may consist of several layers of increasingly large particles from sand to erosion control stone.

A gravel filter blanket should have the following relationship for a stable design:

$$\frac{d_{15}\ \text{filter}}{d_{85}\ \text{base}} \leq 5$$

$$5 \leq \frac{d_{15}\ \text{filter}}{d_{15}\ \text{base}} \leq 40$$

$$\frac{d_{50}\ \text{filter}}{d_{50}\ \text{base}} \leq 40$$

In these relationships, filter refers to the overlying material, and base refers to the underlying material. These relationships must hold between the filter material and the base material (soil foundation), and between the riprap and the filter. More than one layer of filter material may be needed. Each layer of filter material should be at least 6 inches thick.

A synthetic filter fabric may be used with or in place of gravel filters. The following particle size relationships should exist:

- Filter fabric covering a base with granular particles containing 50% or less (by weight) of fine particles (less than U.S. Standard Sieve no. 200 [0.074mm]):

  a. $$\frac{d_{85}\ \text{base (mm)}}{\text{EOS* filter fabric (mm)}} > 1$$

  b. total open area of filter should not exceed 36%.

- Filter fabric covering other soils:

  a. EOS is no larger than U.S. Standard Sieve no. 70 (0.21mm),

  b. total open area of filter should not exceed 10%.

  **EOS - Equivalent opening size compared to a U.S. standard sieve size.*

No filter fabric should have less than 4% open area, or an EOS less than U.S. Standard Sieve No. 100 (0.15mm). The permeability of the fabric must be greater than that of the soil. The fabric may be made of woven or nonwoven monofilament yarns, and should meet the following minimum requirements:

- thickness 20 - 60 mils,
- grab strength 90 - 120 lb, and
- conform to ASTM D-1682 or ASTM D-177.

Filter blankets should always be provided where seepage is significant, or where flow velocity and duration of flow or turbulence may cause the underlying soil particles to move through the riprap.

Construction Specifications

Subgrade preparation—Prepare the subgrade for riprap and filter to the required lines and grades shown on the plans. Compact any fill required in the subgrade to a density approximating that of the surrounding undisturbed material or overfill depressions with riprap. Remove brush, trees, stumps, and other objectionable material. Cut the subgrade sufficiently deep that the finished grade of the riprap will be at the elevation of the surrounding area. Channels should be excavated sufficiently to allow placement of the riprap in a manner such that the finished inside dimensions and grade of the riprap meet design specifications.

Sand and gravel filter blanket—Place the filter blanket immediately after the ground foundation is prepared. For gravel, spread filter stone in a uniform layer to the specified depth. Where more than one layer of filter material is used, spread the layers with minimal mixing.

Synthetic filter fabric—Place the cloth filter directly on the prepared foundation. Overlap the edges by at least 12 inches, and space anchor pins every 3 ft along the overlap. Bury the upstream end of the cloth a minimum of 12 inches below ground and where necessary, bury the lower end of the cloth or over lap with the next section as required. See Figure 6.14a Page 6.14.6.

Take care not to damage the cloth when placing riprap. If damage occurs remove the riprap, and repair the sheet by adding another layer of filter material with a minimum overlap of 12 inches around the damaged area. If extensive damage is suspected, remove and replace the entire sheet.

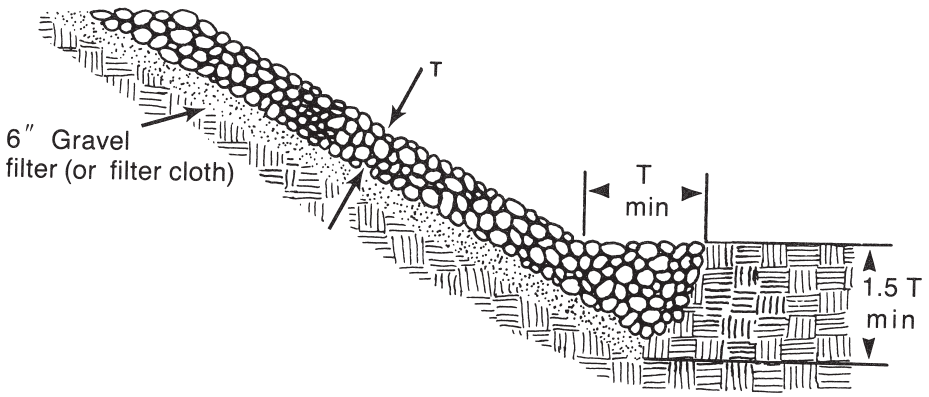
Where large stones are used or machine placement is difficult, a 4-inch layer of fine gravel or sand may be needed to protect the filter cloth.

Stone placement—Placement of riprap should follow immediately after placement of the filter. Place riprap so that it forms a dense, well-graded mass of stone with a minimum of voids. The desired distribution of stones throughout the mass may be obtained by selective loading at the quarry, and controlled dumping during final placement. Place riprap to its full thickness in one operation. Do not place riprap by dumping through chutes or other methods that cause segregation of stone sizes. Take care not to dislodge the underlying base or filter when placing the stones.

The toe of the riprap slope should be keyed to a stable foundation at its base as shown in Figure 6.15b. The toe should be excavated to a depth about 1.5 times the design thickness of the riprap, and should extend horizontally from the slope.

The finished slope should be free of pockets of small stone or clusters of large stones. Hand placing may be necessary to achieve the proper distribution of stone sizes to produce a relatively smooth, uniform surface. The finished grade of the riprap should blend with the surrounding area. No overfall or protrusion of riprap should be apparent.

Figure 6.15b Riprap slope protection (modified from VDH&T).



Maintenance

In general, once a riprap installation has been properly designed and installed it requires very little maintenance. Riprap should be inspected periodically for scour or dislodged stones. Control of weed and brush growth may be needed in some locations.

References

Runoff Conveyance Measures
6.31, Riprap-lined and Paved Channels

Outlet Protection
6.41, Outlet Stabilization Structure

Appendices
8.05, Design of Stable Channels and Diversions
8.06, Design of Riprap Outlet Protection

6.16

VEGETATIVE DUNE STABILIZATION

DS

Definition

Use of adapted vegetation and mechanical means to catch and hold sand, and build or repair dunes.

Purpose

To maintain a barrier dune system that protects low-lying backshore areas during storms of short duration; to stabilize sandy areas disturbed by construction activities; and to protect roads, buildings, and valued areas from encroachment by blowing sand. Dunes act as barriers to waves, as energy dissipators, and as reservoirs of sand that reduce foreshore recession during storms. Dunes are not effective against persistent, continuous beach recession when shoreline changes are occurring.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

On coastal foredunes or in areas on barrier islands, away from the foredune area, where stabilization of sand is necessary.

Planning Considerations

There are only a few plant species that are tolerant of the stresses of the beach environment. Plants must be able to survive burial by blowing sand, sand blasting, salt spray, saltwater flooding, drought, heat, and low nutrient supply. Perennial grasses are the primary stabilizers of frontal dunes. The North Carolina coast is a transition zone between the northern-dominant American beachgrass and the southern-dominant sea oats. Bitter panicum is also an important perennial grass on foredunes in North Carolina.

American beachgrass is the most practical vegetation to plant for initial coastal dune stabilization. It is easy to propagate, harvest, store, and transplant; it establishes and grows rapidly, trapping sand effectively by the middle of the first growing season. The vigorous rhizome system of American beachgrass makes it effective for filling sparse stands.

The main disadvantages of American beachgrass are that it is susceptible to heat and drought in North Carolina, and that stands begin to die out when the supply of sand and nutrients is cut off. Consequently, it persists for only a few years behind the crest of the frontal dune. It is also susceptible to disease and insect pests. To overcome these problems, a small amount of sea oats and bitter panicum can be included in beachgrass plantings. Replace dead beachgrass patches with sea oats, bitter panicum or seashore elder.

Sea oats is a warm-season dune grass ranging from southeastern Virginia to Mexico. It is vigorous, drought and heat tolerant, and is relatively free of pests. Sea oats is more tolerant of reduced sand and nutrient supply than American beachgrass and persists in backdune areas. The disadvantages of sea oats are that it is more difficult to propagate in field nurseries than American beachgrass, and commercial availability is limited. Potted plants can easily be grown from seed, but this method of production makes costs higher than for American beachgrass.

Bitter panicum—Commercial sources of bitter panicum are also limited. It grows and multiplies well in field nurseries, but it is more difficult to dig, store,

and transport than American beachgrass. There is a wide range of types of bitter panicum ranging from slender to large stemmed and from low-growing and decumbent to tall and erect.

Specifications

Plant selection—American beachgrass is the most practical species for large-scale dune plantings in North Carolina, due to its commercial availability, low cost, ease of transplanting, and quick establishment. Use cultivars adapted to North Carolina such as Hatteras and Bogue. Cape is a northern strain, not recommended for North Carolina because it declines rapidly after the first growing season.

Include sea oats and/or bitter panicum (10% is adequate) in dune plantings of American beachgrass to fill bare spots created as the beachgrass dies out.

Site preparation—Low areas benefit from installation of wind fences to accumulate blowing sand, raising the elevation and decreasing the chance of flooding by salt water. Tillage or liming are not required for planting on beach sand.

Planting—Plant small areas and steep slopes by hand. Place single plants into separate holes made with a shovel or dibble bar. Firm the sand around plants. Complete planting specifications are given in Table 6.16a.

Large, flat sites can be planted more economically using a tractor-drawn transplanter with planting shoes extended to make furrows 8-10 inches deep.

Bitter panicum roots at every node on its stem. Place runners in a trench and cover, leaving 6-8 inches sticking out of the sand.

Fertilizer—A good supply of nutrients promotes rapid establishment of transplants, increases growth and sand-trapping capacity, and improves chances of survival. Therefore fertilizer is usually required for establishment and maintenance, particularly in areas that are heavily used, because dune sand is low in plant nutrients. Periodic maintenance fertilization may also be necessary to maintain stands in areas not receiving a fresh sand supply. Grasses on the front of foredunes, receiving blowing sand, have adequate plant nutrients, and do not respond to fertilization.

Do not apply fertilizer to dune vegetation until it is certain that root growth has begun. If fertilizer is applied before or at planting, there is a risk of losing nitrogen to leaching before plant uptake occurs. During the first growing season, apply 15 lb/1,000 ft^2 or 10-10-10 fertilizer in April followed by 1.3 lb of nitrogen in June, and again around the first of September. Maintenance fertilization should be continued through the third growing season (Table 6.16b).

Maintenance

Replant areas lost to erosion. Fertilize twice during the second growing season and once a year thereafter if needed (Table 6.16b). Replace American beachgrass that dies out with sea oats, bitter panicum, or seashore elder.

Table 6.16a
Planting Specifications for: Coastal Sands Exposed to Salt Spray and/or Wind Erosion

Planting mixture

Species	Rate
Hatteras American beachgrass	1 healthy stem/hill

Interplant 5-10% sea oats and/or bitter panicum if possible.

Planting dates

American beachgrass: November - March
Sea oats and bitter panicum: March - June

Planting depth

American beachgrass and sea oats: 8-10 inches
Bitter panicum: 6 inches

Spacing

To repair or maintain existing dunes plant at a spacing of 1.5 ft x 1.5 ft. To build dunes by trapping sand, a graduated spacing pattern should be used that allows sand to penetrate to the center of the planting, creating a wide, flat dune; spacing should be as follows.

Number of Rows	Row Spacing (ft)
4	3
4	2
4*	1.5
4	2
4	3

* - center of dune

Fertilization

Refer to Table 6.16b for suggested dates and rates of dune fertilization.

Mulch

Do not mulch.

Maintenance

Do not mow. Fertilize as needed; fill in dead areas of American beachgrass by transplanting sea oats, bitter panicum, or seashore elder.

Table 6.16b
Dune Fertilization Schedule for Maintenance (Rates are pounds per 1,000 Square Feet)

Date	First year	Second Year	Subsequent Years (if needed)
	American Beachgrass		
March 15	---	10 lbs 10-10-10	10 lbs 10-10-10
April 15	15 lbs 10-10-10	---	---
June 15	4 lbs ammonium nitrate	---	---
Sept. 1	4 lbs ammonium nitrate	3 lbs ammonium nitrate	---
	Sea Oats and Bitter Panicum		
April 15	---	10 lbs 10-10-10	10 lbs 10-10-10
May 1	15 lbs 10-10-10	---	---
June 15	4 lbs ammonium nitrate	---	---
July 1	---	3 lbs ammonium nitrate	---
August 1	4 lbs ammonium nitrate	---	---

Souce: *Building and Stabilizing Dunes with Vegatation.* UNC Sea Grant Publication 82-05, S. W. Broome et al., 1982

6.17

RECP

ROLLED EROSION CONTROL PRODUCTS

Definition

Rolled erosion control products are manufactured or fabricated into rolls designed to reduce soil erosion and assist in the growth, establishment and protection of vegetation. Examples of RECP's are blankets, nets, and matting.

Purpose

Erosion control mats and blankets are intended to protect soil and hold seed and mulch in place on slopes and in channels so that vegetation can become well established. Turf reinforcement mats can be used to permanently reinforce grass in drainage ways during high flows. Nets are made of high tensile material woven into an open net which overlays mulch materials. Blankets are made of interlocking fibers, typically held together by a biodegradable or photodegradable netting (for example, excelsior or straw blankets). They generally have lower tensile strength than nets, but cover the ground more completely. Coir (coconut fiber) fabric comes as both nets and blankets.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Rolled Erosion Control Products (RECP's) should be used to aid permanent vegetated stabilization of slopes 2:1 or greater and with more than 10 feet of vertical relief. RECP's should also be used when mulch cannot be adequately tacked and where immediate ground cover is required to prevent erosion damage.

RECP's should be used to aid in permanent stabilization of vegetated channels when runoff velocity will exceed 2 ft/sec on bare earth during the 2-year rainfall event that produces peak runoff. The product selected must have a permissible shear stress that exceeds the shear stress of the design runoff event.

Planning Considerations

- Good ground contact is critical to the effectiveness of these products. If good ground contact is not achieved, runoff can concentrate under the product, resulting in significant erosion.
- Nets must be used in conjunction with mulch. Excelsior, woven straw blankets and coir (coconut fiber) blankets may be installed without mulch. There are many other types of erosion control nets and blankets on the market that may be appropriate in certain circumstances. In general, most nets (e.g. jute matting) require mulch in order to prevent erosion because they have a fairly open structure. Blankets typically do not require mulch because they usually provide complete protection of the surface.
- Most netting used with blankets is photodegradable, meaning they break down under sunlight (not UV stabilized). However, this process can take months or years even under bright sun. Once vegetation is established, sunlight does not reach the mesh. It is not uncommon to find non-degraded netting still in place several years after the installation. This can be a problem if maintenance requires the use of mowers or ditch cleaning equipment. In addition, birds and small animals can become trapped in the netting.

- Biodegradable blankets are available for use in sensitive areas. These organic blankets are usually held together with a fiber mesh and stitching which may last up to a year.

Design Criteria

The following discussion and examples of design are adapted from *"Green Engineering, Design Principles and Applications Using Rolled Erosion Control Products"* by C. Joel Sprague.

Slope Protection: **Reducing raindrop and overland flow erosion.** The Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), as shown below, is commonly used to estimate erosion due to rainfall and sheet runoff.

$$A = R * K * LS * C * P$$

where:

A = soil loss in tons/acre/year
R = rain factor
K = soil erodibility
LS = topographic factor
C = cover factor
P = practice factor

The United States Department of Agriculture's handbook, "Predicting Soil Erosion by Water: A Guide to Conservation Planning with the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), 1997," provides agriculture-oriented values for all of these variables. Yet, when the equation is used to estimate construction-related erosion, the following unique C- and P-factors developed specifically for these applications should be used.

The C-Factor—C-factors are equal to the reduction in soil loss when using a specific erosion control system when compared to the comparable bare soil (control) condition. The designer will require C-factors representing various conditions from unvegetated to fully vegetated, including vegetation, which has been mulched or, alternatively, protected by an RECP, in order to determine an appropriate factor to be used to represent the design condition. (See Table 6.17a for a range of C-factors.)

Table 6.17a C-Factor for Various Slope Treatments

Treatment	Dry Mulch Rate		C-Factor for Growing Period*			
	kg/m^3	Slope %	<6 Weeks	1.5-6 Months	6-12 Months	Annualized**
No mulching or seeding	—	all	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Seeded grass	none	all	0.70	0.10	0.05	0.15
	0.22	<10	0.20	0.07	0.03	0.07
	0.34	<10	0.12	0.05	0.02	0.05
	0.45	<10	0.06	0.05	0.02	0.04
	0.45	11 - 15	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.04
	0.45	16 - 20	0.11	0.05	0.02	0.04
	0.45	21 - 25	0.14	0.05	0.02	0.05
	0.45	26 - 33	0.17	0.05	0.02	0.05
	0.45	34 - 50	0.20	0.05	0.02	0.05
Second-year grass	—	all	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Organic and Synthetic Blankets	—	all	0.07	0.01	0.005	0.02
Composite Mats	—	all	0.07	0.01	0.005	0.02
Synthetic Mats	—	all	0.14	0.02	0.005	0.03
Fully Vegetated Mats	—	all	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005

* Approximate time periods for humid climates: Conversion: kg/m^3 x 4.45 = tons/acre.

** Annualized C-Factor = (<6 weeks value x 6/52) + (1.5-6 months value x 20/52) + (6-12 months value x 26/52).

Table 6.17b Permissible Shear Stress, τ_P, of Various RECP's

Category	Product Type	Max. Permissible Shear Stress (lb/ft^2)	Slopes* Up To
Degradable RECP's (Unvegetated)	Nets and Mulch	0.1 - 0.2	20:1
	Coir Mesh	0.4 - 3.0	3:1
	Blanket - Single Net	1.55 - 2.0	2:1
	Blanket - Double Net	1.65 - 3.0	1:1
Nondegradable RECP's	Unvegetated TRM**	2 - 4	1:1
	Partially Vegetated TRM	4 - 6	>1:1
	Fully Vegetated	5 - 10	>1:1

* Steeper slope limits may apply. For further information, contact the manufacturer.

** Turf Reinforcement Mat.

The P-Factor—when examining erosion by itself, is commonly taken as 1.0, since this assumes that no special "practices" (i.e. terracing, contouring, etc.) will be used. Yet, the use of silt fences or other storm water management/ sediment control practices may be integrated into the RUSLE using a P-factor that is less than 1.0, which reflects the effectiveness of the sediment control practice in removing sediment from runoff.

Sample Problem 6.17a

A steep slope is to be protected from erosion using RECP. The 3H:1V slope is 100 feet long and comprised of silty loam. The RUSLE will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of RECP in limiting annual soil loss. Following are the inputs to the RUSLE equation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

R = 250
K = 0.33
LS = 6.2
P = 1.0 (assuming no sediment control)

From Table 6.17a:

$C_{unprotected}$ = 1.00
$C_{protected}$, year 1 = 0.03
$C_{protected}$, year 2+ = 0.005

$A_{unprotected}$ = 250 x 0.33 x 6.2 x 1.0 x 1.0 = 511 tons/acre/year
$A_{protected}$, year 1 = 250 x 0.33 x 6.2 x 0.03 x 1.0 = 15 tons/acre/year
$A_{protected}$, year 2+ = 250 x 0.33 x 6.2 x 0.005 x 1.0 = 3 tons/acre/year

This example shows that vegetation, protected by an RECP, is 97 percent effective in reducing erosion in the first year and 99.5 percent effective in the longer-term.

Table 6.17b aids in selecting an appropriate type of RECP for the project-specific slope.

Drainage Channels Concepts—Permissible shear design is commonly used to determine if a channel liner is stable. This method requires the input of an appropriate expected flow rate (discharge) as well as the determination of flow depth. A broader presentation of channel design is located in Appendix 8.05, *Design of Stable Channels and Diversions.*

The design flow rate will be based on local storm frequency design standards and flow depth is calculated - commonly using Manning's equation. With these inputs the designer can then perform a permissible shear design, which compares the permissible shear of the prospective liner materials to the expected flow-induced shear as calculated using the equation below.

$$\tau_c = Y\ D\ S$$

where:

Y = unit weight of water (62.4lb/ft^3)
D = depth of flow (ft)
S = channel slope (ft/ft)

If the permissible shear stress, τ_p, is greater than the computed shear, τ_c, the lining is considered acceptable. Values for permissible shear stress, τ_p, for linings are based on research conducted at laboratory facilities and in the field. Typical values are given in Table 6.17b. The permissible shear stress, τ_p, indicates the force per unit area resulting from flowing water required to create instability of the lining material and/or adjacent soil.

Manning's Equation and Roughness Coefficient, n—The condition of uniform, steady flow in a channel at a known discharge is computed using the Manning's Equation below. Numerous computer programs are available to facilitate the use of this equation since a trial-and-error solution relating channel width, B, and depth, D, is required.

$$Q = (1.49/n)\ (A)\ (R)^{2/3}\ (S)^{1/2}$$

Manning's equation for determining velocity:

$$V = (1.49/n)\ (R)^{2/3}\ (S)^{1/2}$$

where:

Q = discharge (cfs)
V = average velocity in cross section (ft/s)
n = Manning's roughness coefficient
A = cross-sectional area (ft^2)
R = hydraulic radius = A/P (ft)
P = wetted perimeter (ft)
S = energy gradient (commonly taken as equivalent to the channel bed slope, ft/ft)

The appropriate Manning's "n" to use when designing with RECP's depends on whether one is designing for bare soil retention and vegetation establishment (short-term) or for fully grassed conditions (long term), or both. The "n" values for RECP's can vary significantly with material type and flow depth, but they typically range from 0.02 to 0.04 and are usually provided by the manufacturer.

In lieu of product-specific information, the following values can be used as approximations.

$n_{unvegetated}$ = 0.02
$n_{vegetated}$ = refer to Table 6.17c and Figure 6.17a
n_{lined} = refer to Table 8.05e

Table 6.17c Grass Retardance Categories

Average Grass Length	Retardance
>24 in.	A
10 in. to 24 in.	B
6 in. to 10 in.	C
2 in. to 6 in.	D
Less than 2 in.	E

Figure 6.17a Hydraulic roughness of grass

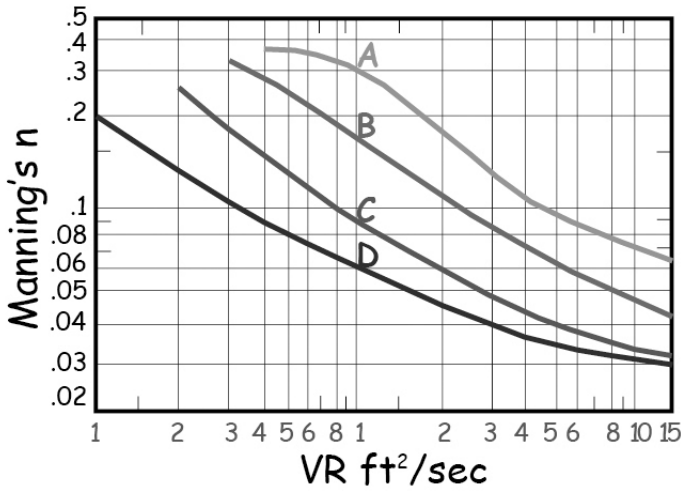


Figure 6.17b Limiting values for bare and TRM protected soils

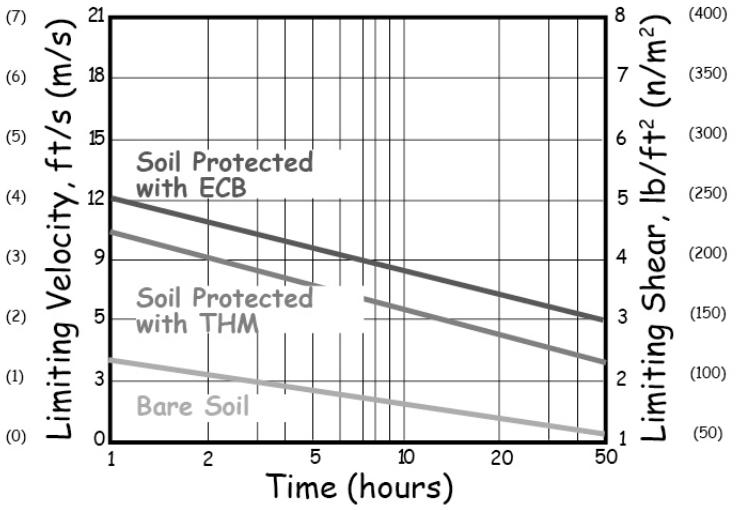
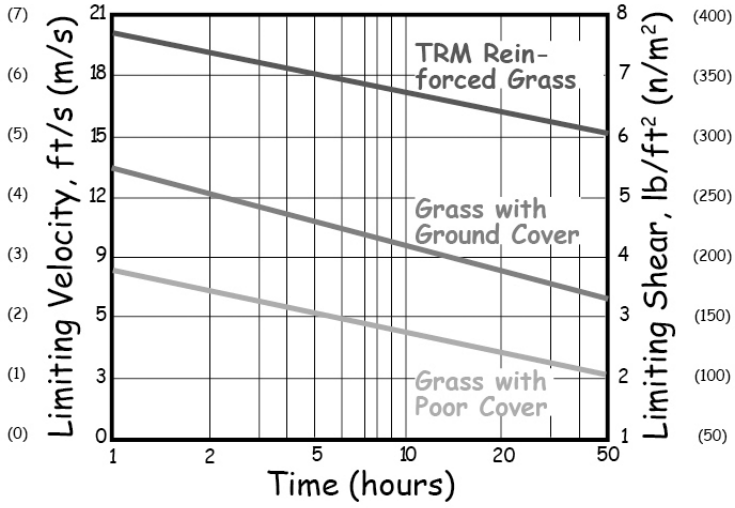


Figure 6.17c Limiting values for plain and TRM reinforced grass



Sample Problem 6.17b

Determine if an RECP-lined drainage channel will be stable for a long-term peak flow (10-year design storm) of 70 cfs down a 20:1 slope (S=0.05) with a 4 foot bottom width and 1:1 side slopes. The duration of flow is 50 hours for long-term and one hour for short-term design. The grass cover is expected to be in retardance group D. Short-term stability can be checked using the two-year design storm, which produces a short-term peak flow of 45 cfs.

Long-term design = vegetated channel stability

- Use $Q_{peak} = Q_{10\text{-}year} = 70$ cfs
- From Figure 6.17c: Limiting shear = 6 lb/ft^2
- Assume $n_{vegetated} = 0.05$

Solve for the depth of flow using iterations of Manning's equation. An Excel spreadsheet located on the internet at http://www.dlr.enr.state.nc.us/pages/sedimenttecassist.html or commercially available channel software is recommended.

For trapezoidal channels:

$$(bd + zd^2)\left[\frac{(bd + zd^2)}{b + 2d\,(z^2 + 1)^{1/2}}\right]^{2/3} = \frac{Qn}{1.49S^{1/2}}$$

From trial-and-error, d = 1.7ft

Determine area of flow A, from $A = (bd + zd^2)$
$= 9.8ft^2$

Since slope < 1:10, calculate VR using:
$V_{estimate} = 7.1$ft/s;
VR= (7.1ft/s) (1.11) = 7.88ft/s
From Figure 6.17a: Use n = 0.032. Recalculate d = 1.34ft
$A = 7.14ft^2$

Check shear stress $\tau_C = YDS$
= (62.4) (1.34) (0.05)
= 4.18 lb/ft^2
4.18 < 6 lb/ft^2, therefore acceptable

Sample Problem 6.17b con't.

Short-term design = bare soil channel stability

- Use $Q_{peak} = Q_{2\text{-year}} = 45$ cfs
- From Figure 6.17b: Limiting shear = 4.5 lb/ft^2
- For mat on bare soil, n = 0.03

Determine depth of flow via trail-and-error using Manning's Equation:

For trapezoidal channels: $(bd + zd^2)$

$$(bd + zd^2)\left[\frac{(bd + zd^2)}{b + 2d\,(z^2 + 1)^{1/2}}\right]^{2/3} = \frac{Qn}{1.49S^{1/2}}$$

From trial-and-error, d = 1.0ft

Check shear stress $\tau = YDS$
= (62.4) (1.0) (0.05)
= 3.12 lb/ft^2
3.12 < 4.5 lb/ft^2, therefore acceptable

Construction Specifications

Construction

Even if properly designed, if not properly installed, RECP's will probably not function as desired. Proper installation is imperative. Even if properly installed, if not properly timed and nourished, vegetation will probably not grow as desired. Proper seed/vegetation selection is also imperative.

Grade the surface of installation areas so that the ground is smooth and loose. When seeding prior to installation, follow the steps for seed bed preparation, soil amendments, and seeding in *Surface Stabilization*, 6.1. All gullies, rills, and any other disturbed areas must be fine graded prior to installation. Spread seed before RECP installation. (**Important**: Remove all large rocks, dirt clods, stumps, roots, grass clumps, trash, and other obstructions from the soil surface to allow for direct contact between the soil surface and the RECP.)

Terminal anchor trenches are required at RECP ends and intermittent trenches must be constructed across channels at 25-foot intervals. Terminal anchor trenches should be a minimum of 12 inches in depth and 6 inches in width, while intermittent trenches need be only 6 inches deep and 6 inches wide.

Installation for Slopes— Place the RECP 2-3 feet over the top of the slope and into an excavated end trench measuring approximately 12 inches deep by 6 inches wide. Pin the RECP at 1 foot intervals along the bottom of the trench, backfill, and compact. Unroll the RECP down (or along) the slope maintaining direct contact between the soil and the RECP. Overlap adjacent rolls a minimum of 3 inches. Pin the RECP to the ground using staples or pins in a 3 foot center-to-center pattern. Less frequent stapling/pinning is acceptable on moderate slopes.

Installation in Channels— Excavate terminal trenches (12 inches deep and 6 inches wide) across the channel at the upper and lower end of the lined channel sections. At 25-foot intervals along the channel, anchor the RECP across the channel either in 6 inch by 6 inch trenches or by installing two closely spaced rows of anchors. Excavate longitudinal trenches 6 inches deep and wide along channel edges (above water line) in which to bury the outside RECP edges. Place the first RECP at the downstream end of the channel. Place the end of the first RECP in the terminal trench and pin it at 1 foot intervals along the bottom of the trench.

Note: The RECP should be placed upside down in the trench with the roll on the downstream side of the bench.

Once pinned and backfilled, the RECP is deployed by wrapping over the top of the trench and unrolling upstream. If the channel is wider than the provided rolls, place ends of adjacent rolls in the terminal trench, overlapping the adjacent rolls a minimum of 3 inches. Pin at 1 foot intervals, backfill, and compact. Unroll the RECP in the upstream direction until reaching the first intermittent trench. Fold the RECP back over itself, positioning the roll on the downstream side of the trench, and allowing the mat to conform to the trench.

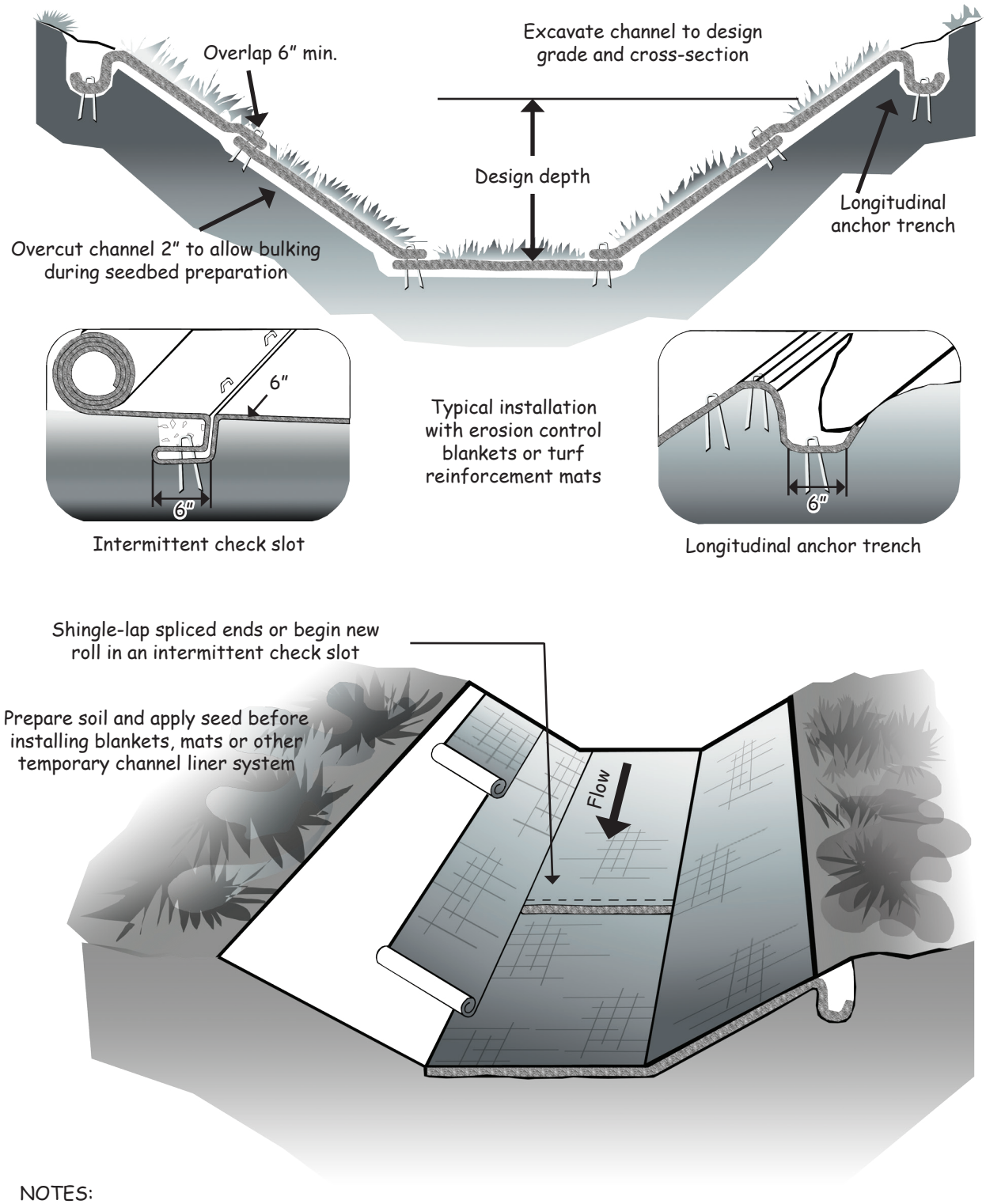
Then pin the RECP (two layers) to the bottom of the trench, backfill, and compact. Continue up the channel (wrapping over the top of the intermittent trench) repeating this step at other intermittent trenches, until reaching the upper terminal trench.

At the upper terminal trench, allow the RECP to conform to the trench, secure with pins or staples, backfill, compact and then bring the mat back over the top of the trench and onto the existing mat (2 to 3 feet overlap in the downstream direction), and pin at 1 foot intervals across the RECP. When starting installation of a new roll, begin in a trench or shingle-lap ends of rolls a minimum of 1 foot with upstream RECP on top to prevent uplifting. Place the outside edges of the RECP(s) in longitudinal trenches, pin, backfill, and compact.

Anchoring Devices—11 gauge, at least 6 inches length by 1 inch width staples or 12 inch minimum length wooden stakes are recommended for anchoring the RECP to the ground.

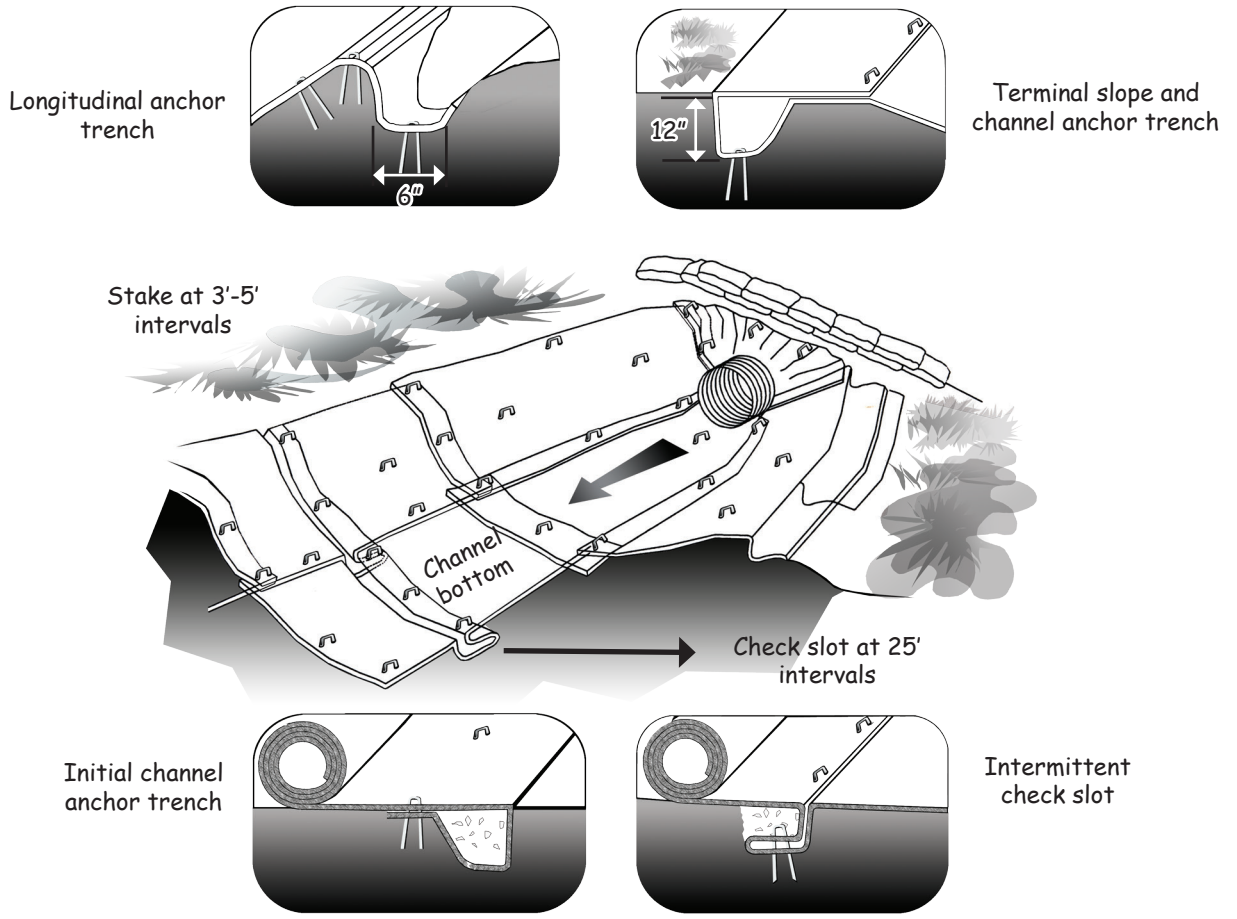
Drive staples or pins so that the top of the staple or pin is flush with the ground surface. Anchor each RECP every 3 feet along its center. Longitudinal overlaps must be sufficient to accommodate a row of anchors and uniform along the entire length of overlap and anchored every 3 feet along the overlap length. Roll ends may be spliced by overlapping 1 foot (in the direction of water flow), with the upstream/upslope mat placed on top of the downstream/downslope RECP. This overlap should be anchored at 1 foot spacing across the RECP. When installing multiple width mats heat seamed in the factory, all factory seams and field overlaps should be similarly anchored.

Figure 6.17d Temporary Channel Liners; Washington State Department of Ecology

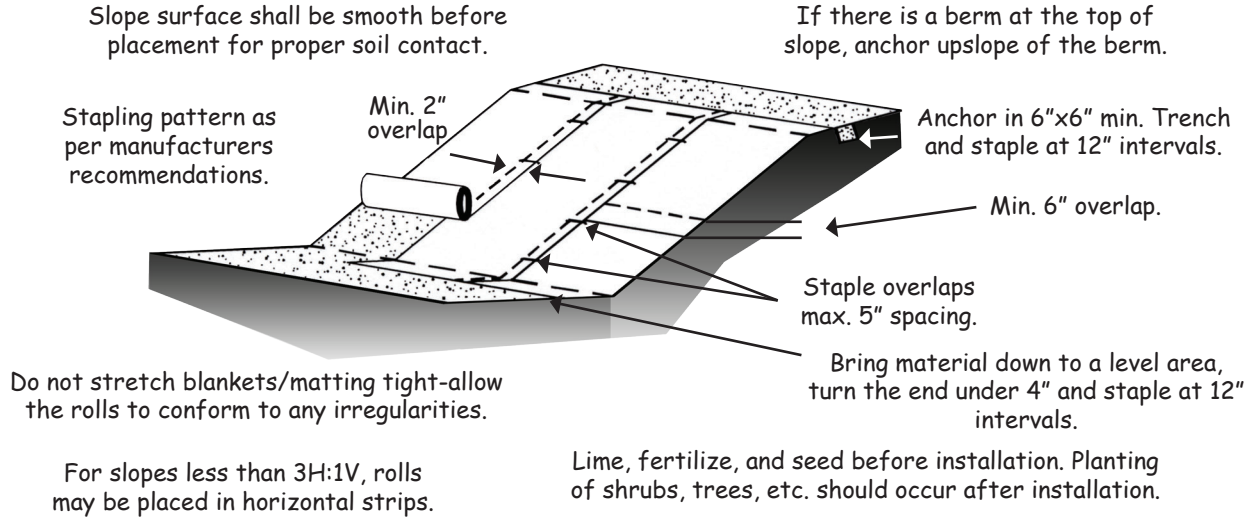


NOTES:
1. Design velocities exceeding 2 ft/sec require temporary blankets, mats or similar liners to protect seed and soil until vegetation becomes established.
2. Grass-lined channels with design velocities exceeding 6 ft/sec should include turf reinforcement mats

Figure 6.17e Channel Installation and Slope Installation; Washington State Ecology Department



NOTE:
1. Check slots to be constructed per manufacturers specifications.
2. Staking or stapling layout per manufacturers specifications.



Maintenance

1. Inspect Rolled Erosion Control Products at least weekly and after each significant (1/2 inch or greater) rain fall event repair immediately.

2. Good contact with the ground must be maintained, and erosion must not occur beneath the RECP.

3. Any areas of the RECP that are damaged or not in close contact with the ground shall be repaired and stapled.

4. If erosion occurs due to poorly controlled drainage, the problem shall be fixed and the eroded area protected.

5. Monitor and repair the RECP as necessary until ground cover is established.

References

Sprague, C. Joel. TRI/ Environmental, Inc. "Green Engineering, Design principles and applications using rolled erosion control products"

Storm Water Management Manual for Western Washington, Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/index.html

Erosion Control Technology Council, http://www.ectc.org

6.18 COMPOST BLANKETS

C BLK

Definition

Compost is the organic product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material, occurring under aerobic conditions that has been sanitized through the generation of heat and stabilized to the point that it is appropriate for its particular application. Active composting is characterized by a high-temperature phase that sanitizes the product and allows a high rate of decomposition. This is followed by a lower-temperature phase that allows the compost to stabilize while it continues to decompose at a slower rate. Compost should possess no objectionable odors. It shall not contain substances toxic to plants, and shall not resemble the raw material from which it was derived. Compost is not a fertilizer.

It is recommended that compost utilized on construction sites in North Carolina meet the minimum rules and regulations for proper thermophilic composting set forth by NCDENR, defined by USEPA, described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 503, Appendix B, and as described in Table 6.18a.

Most compost contains a wood based fraction (e.g., bark, ground brush, wood chips, etc.) which is typically removed before the compost is used as a soil amendment. However, this coarser, woody fraction of the compost plays an important role in erosion and sediment control. For certain compost applications it may be advantageous to add fresh, ground bark or composted, properly sized wood based material to a compost product to improve its efficacy in a particular application.

Compost materials may be considered fill material when placed in wetlands or riparian buffers. Prior to installation in these areas consult with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and the NCDENR Division of Water Quality for permitting requirements.

Compost Blankets

A compost blanket is a slope stabilization, erosion control, and vegetation establishment practice used on construction sites to stabilize bare, disturbed, or erodible soils. Compost blankets may be used for temporary erosion control and in the process of providing permanent vegetative cover.

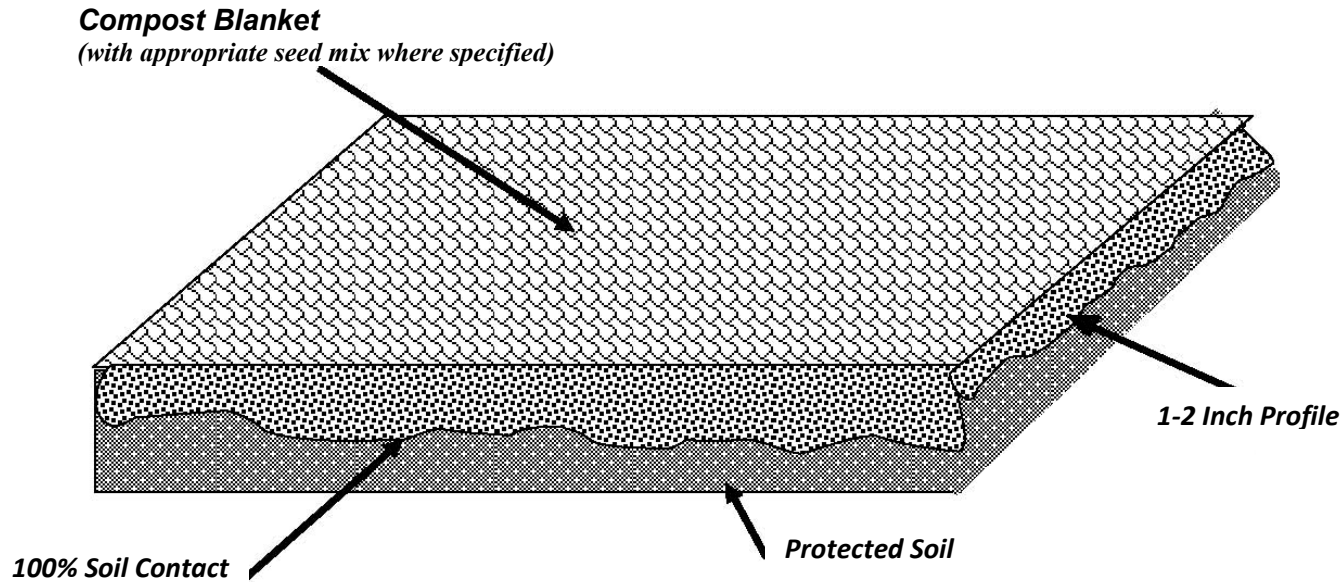


Figure 6.18a Compost Blanket Installation

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Compost blankets should be considered when soil is poor. Compost blankets can be placed on rocky slopes and shallow or infertile soils to improve the growth medium for grasses. Care should be taken not to apply compost where it can raise the nutrient level of streams. When the blanket is specified for permanent stabilization, vegetative cover shall be incorporated with the compost at rates shown in the seeding specification on the approved plan and maintained until the permanent cover is established. Where specified for temporary stabilization the blanket must be installed and maintained as specified in the construction sequence on the approved plan. A temporary vegetative cover or nurse crop should be considered for incorporation with temporary compost blankets.

Planning Considerations

Compost blankets have a mulch function and cover 100% of the soil surface, and therefore provide the beneficial effects characteristic to mulches, including: reduced raindrop impact and splash erosion, reduced runoff energy and sheet erosion, buffered soil temperature for plants, decreased moisture evaporation, increased moisture holding capacity at the soil surface, reduced runoff volume and velocity, and increased infiltration. Where planned and applied correctly to a properly prepared subgrade, compost blankets can aid in amending the soil. This can provide benefits to the soil's structure; increased aggregation, aeration, infiltration and percolation, moisture holding capacity, activity of beneficial microbes, availability of nutrients; decreased runoff volume and velocity, and decreased erosion; increased plant health; and long-term site sustainability.

A compost blanket may be considered appropriate for erosion and sediment control in conjunction with other methodologies, during the construction process. Compost blankets should only be used to control sheet flow from rainfall. Blankets may not be utilized in areas of concentrated runoff. Blankets may not

be utilized in areas subject to vehicular traffic and use by heavy equipment. Very coarse compost should be avoided, if the slope is to be landscaped or seeded, as it will make planting and crop establishment more difficult.

When planning the use of compost blankets, it is recommended to use products that are certified by the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing (STA) Program (**www.compostingcouncil.org**). This practice will allow for the acquisition of products that are analyzed on a routine basis, using the specified test methods. STA participants are also required to provide a standard product label to all customers, allowing easy comparison to other products. Compost use for compost blankets should be considered mature as defined by USCC-STA Biological Assays Seedling Emergence and Relative Growth test.

Design Criteria

Compost blankets may be used for temporary erosion/sediment control applications. This application is appropriate for slopes up to a 2:1 grade (horizontal distance: vertical distance), and only be used in areas that have sheet flow drainage patterns (not areas that receive concentrated flows). Slopes steeper than 2:1 may require special installation techniques (consult compost supplier for recommendations). The chemical, physical and biological parameters of compost blankets approved for use in this application are described in Table 6.18a. Only compost products that meet all applicable state and federal regulations pertaining to its production and distribution may be used. Approved compost products must meet related state and federal chemical contaminant (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, etc.) and pathogen limit standards pertaining to the source materials from which it is derived.

Table 6.18a – Compost Blanket Parameters

Parameters[1,4]	Reported as (units of measure)	Surface Mulch to be Vegetated	Surface Mulch to be left Un-vegetated	Test Method	Test Method Name
pH[2]	pH units	5.0 - 8.5	N/A	TMECC 04.11-A	Electrometric pH Determinations for Compost. 1:5 Slurry Method
Soluble Salt Concentration[2] (electrical conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 5	Maximum 5	TMECC 04.10-A	Electrical Conductivity for Compost. 1:5 Slurry Method (Mass Basis)
Moisture Content	%, wet weight basis	30 – 60	30 – 60	TMECC 03.09-A	Total Solids and Moisture at 70±5°C
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	25 – 65	25-100	TMECC 05.07-A	Matter Method. Loss On Ignition Organic Matter Method
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	• 3" (75 mm), 100% passing • 1" (25mm), 90- 100% passing • 3/4" (19mm), 65-100% passing • 1/4" (6.4 mm),	• 3" (75 mm), 99% passing • 1" (25mm), 90-100% passing • 3/4" (19mm), 65-100% passing • 1/2" (12.5 mm),	TMECC 02.12-B	Laboratory Sample Preparation. Sample Sieving for Aggregate Size Classification

		0-75% passing • Maximum particle length of 6" (152mm)	0-30% passing • Maximum particle length of 6" (152mm)		
Stability[3] Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate	mg CO_2-C per g OM per day	< 8	N/A	TMECC 05.08-B	Respirometry. Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate
Maturity (Bioassay) Percent Emergence Relative Seedling Vigor	% (average) % (average)	100% 100%	90-100% 90-100%	TMECC 05.05-A	
Physical Contaminants (man-made inerts)	%, dry weight basis	< 1	< 1		Biological Assays. Seedling Emergence and Relative Growth

1 Recommended test methodologies are provided in Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost (TMECC, The US Composting Council)

2 Each specific plant species requires a specific pH range. Each plant also has a salinity tolerance rating, and maximum tolerable quantities are known. When specifying the establishment of any plant or turf species, it is important to understand their pH and soluble salt requirements, and how they relate to the compost in use.

3 Stability/Maturity rating is an area of compost science that is still evolving, and as such, other various test methods could be considered. Also, never base compost quality conclusions on the result of a single stability/maturity test.

4 Landscape architects and project (field) engineers may modify the allowable compost specification ranges based on specific field conditions and plant requirements.

Construction Specifications

The following steps shall be taken for the installation of compost blankets for erosion/sediment control. The information shall also be included in the construction sequence on the approved erosion and sediment control plan.
Prepare the soil by removing large clods, rocks, stumps, roots as described in Chapter 6 of this manual.

Apply the compost blanket to 100% of the area as required on the approved plan.

1. The blanket shall cover 100% of the bare or disturbed soil area, whereas, no native soil shall be visible in or through the compost blanket. It shall be applied at the application rates, as specified in Table 6.18b. Seed shall be thoroughly mixed with the compost prior to application or surface applied to the compost blanket at time of application at the appropriate rates as prescribed by the approved plan.

2. Compost blankets shall be installed at least 10 ft over and beyond the shoulder of the slope and/or into the edge of existing vegetation to ensure runoff does not undercut the blanket. When installing into the edge of existing vegetation, care must be taken not to disturb the existing root mat.

3. Compost blanket application rates should be designed and specified based on specific site (e.g., soil characteristics, existing vegetation) and climatic conditions, as well as particular project related requirements and calculated storm water runoff.

4. Compost blankets installed on slopes greater than or equal to 4:1 shall be tracked. Blankets on 3:1 slopes shall be tracked and secured with an adequate rolled erosion control product. (See Practice Standard 6.17 *Rolled Erosion Control Products* (RECP) for installation procedure.) Where high winds and wind erosion are expected, RECPs shall be installed over the compost blanket, regardless of slope. All other installation procedures and specifications will be as shown on the approved plan and described in the approved construction sequence. Compost shall be uniformly applied as described in the approved construction sequence with the appropriate equipment. If required, thorough watering may be used to improve settling of the blanket.

Table 6.18b– Compost Blanket Application Rates

Annual Rainfall/Flow Rate	**Total Precipitation & Rainfall Erosivity Index**	**Application Rate For Vegetated* Compost Surface Mulch**	**Application Rate For Unvegetated Compost Surface Mulch**
Low	1”-25”, 20-90	1”–1 ½” (25 mm – 37.5mm)	1”–1 ½” (25 mm – 37.5mm)
Average	26”-50”, 91-200	1”–1 ½” (25 mm – 37.5mm)	1 ½”–2” (37 mm – 50 mm)
High	51” and above, 201 and above	1”-2” (25 mm - 50 mm)	2”-4” (50mm – 100mm)

*these lower application rates should only be used in conjunction with seeding, and for compost blankets applied during the prescribed planting season for the particular region.

Maintenance

Inspect compost blankets weekly and within 24 hours of a rainfall event of ½ inch or greater. If failure or damage to the blanket occurs or if vegetation does not establish within the expected germination time of the selected seed type, reapply compost and seed to the affected area to return it to the original condition. Take additional measures as necessary to establish permanent ground cover. Compost blankets shall be inspected until permanent vegetation is established. RECP placed over the compost blanket should be repaired if it has been moved or damaged by wind or storm runoff and/or if part of or the whole blanket is not in contact with the soil surface.

Compost Sampling And Characterization Of Compost

Sampling procedures to be used for purposes of this specification (and the Seal of Testing Assurance program) are as provided in 02.01 Field Sampling of Compost Materials, 02.01-B Selection of Sampling Locations for Windrows and Piles of the Test Methods for the Examination of Compost and Composting (TMECC), Chapter 2, Section One, Sample Collection and Laboratory Preparation, jointly published by the USDA and USCC (2002 publishing as a part of the USDA National Resource Conservation Technical Bulletin Series). The sample collection section is available online at http://compostingcouncil.org/tmecc/.

Test Methods to be used for purposes of this specification are as provided in The Test Methods for the Examination of Compost and Composting (TMECC), Jointly published by the USDA and USCC (2002 publishing as a part of the USDA National Resource Conservation Technical Bulletin Series). A list of such methods is provided online at http://compostingcouncil.org/tmecc/

References

Chapter 3 Vegetative Considerations
Chapter 6 Surface Stabilization
6.03, Surface Roughing
6.10, Temporary Seeding
6.11, Permanent Seeding
6.17, Rolled Erosion Control Products

Test Methods for the Examination of Compost and Composting TMECC), jointly published by the USDA and US Composting Council (2002 publishing as a part of the USDA National Resource Conservation Technical Bulletin Series). http://compostingcouncil.org/tmecc/

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Faucette, L.B., C.F. Jordan, L.M. Risse, M. Cabrera, D.C. Coleman, and L.T. West. 2005. Evaluation of storm water from compost and conventional erosion control practices in construction activities. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. 60:6:288-297.

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