

SOIL PREPARATION, TOPSOILING
AND SOIL AMENDMENTS (B-4-2)

A. Soil Preparation

- Temporary Stabilization
 - Seedbed preparation consists of loosening soil to a depth of 3 to 5 inches by means of suitable agricultural or construction equipment, such as disc harrows or chisel plows or rippers mounted on construction equipment. After the soil is loosened, it must not be rolled or doctored smooth but left in the roughened condition. Slopes 3:1 or flatter are to be tracked with ridges running parallel to the contour of the slope.
 - Apply fertilizer and lime as prescribed on the plans.
 - Incorporate lime and fertilizer into the top 3 to 5 inches of soil by disking or other suitable method.
 - A soil test is required for any earth disturbance of 5 acres or more. The minimum soil conditions required for permanent vegetation establishment are:
 - Soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0.
 - Soluble salts less than 400 parts per million (ppm).
 - Soil contains less than 40 percent clay but enough fine grained material (greater than 30 percent silt plus clay) to provide the capacity to hold a moderate amount of moisture. An exception: if loesslike soil will be planted, then a sandy soil (less than 30 percent silt plus clay) would be acceptable.
 - Soil contains 1.5 percent minimum organic matter by weight.
 - Soil contains sufficient pore space to permit adequate root penetration.

- Application of amendments or topsoil is required if on-site soils do not meet the above conditions.
- Graded areas must be maintained in a true and even grade as specified on the approved plan, then scarified or otherwise loosened to a depth of 3 to 5 inches.
- Apply soil amendments as specified on the approved plan or as indicated by the results of a soil test.
- Mix soil amendments into the top 3 to 5 inches of soil by disking or other suitable means. Rotate lawn areas to provide a suitable soil medium for vegetation growth. Soils of concern have low moisture content, low nutrient levels, low pH, and/or unacceptable soil gradation.
- Topsoil salvaged from an existing site may be used provided it meets the standards as set forth in these specifications. Typically, the depth of topsoil to be salvaged for a given soil type can be found in the representative soil profile section in the Soil Survey published by USDA-NRCS.

B. Topsoiling

- Topsoil is placed over prepared subsoil prior to establishment of permanent vegetation. The purpose is to provide a suitable soil medium for vegetation growth. Soils of concern have low moisture content, low nutrient levels, low pH, and/or unacceptable soil gradation.
- Topsoil salvaged from an existing site may be used provided it meets the standards as set forth in these specifications. Typically, the depth of topsoil to be salvaged for a given soil type can be found in the representative soil profile section in the Soil Survey published by USDA-NRCS.
- Topsoiling is limited to areas having 2:1 or flatter slopes where:
 - The texture of the exposed subsoil/parent material is not adequate to produce vegetative growth.
 - The soil material is so shallow that the rooting zone is not deep enough to support plants or furnish continuing supplies of moisture and plant nutrients.
 - The original soil to be vegetated contains material toxic to plant growth.
 - The soil is so acidic that treatment with limestone is not feasible.
- Areas having slopes steeper than 2:1 require special consideration and design.

- Topsoil Specifications: Soil to be used as topsoil must meet the following criteria:
 - Topsoil must be a loam, sandy loam, clay loam, silty loam, sandy clay loam, or loamy sand. Other soils may be used if recommended by an Agronomist or soil scientist and approved by the appropriate approval authority. Topsoil must not be a mixture of contrasting textured subsoils and must contain less than 5 percent by volume of cinders, stones, slag, coarse fragments, gravel, sticks, roots, trash, or other materials larger than 1 1/2 inches in diameter.
 - Topsoil must be free of noxious plants or plant parts such as Bermuda grass, quack grass, Johnson grass, nut sedge, poison ivy, thistle, or others as specified.

- Topsoil substitutes or amendments, as recommended by a qualified agronomist or soil scientist and approved by the appropriate approval authority, may be used in lieu of natural topsoil.

- Topsoil Application

- Erosion and sediment control practices must be maintained when applying topsoil.

- Uniformly distribute topsoil in a 5 to 8 inch layer and lightly compact to a minimum thickness of 4 inches. Spreading is to be performed in such a manner that sodding or seeding can proceed with a minimum of additional soil preparation and tillage. Any irregularities in the surface resulting from topsoiling or other operations must be corrected in order to prevent the formation of depressions or water pockets.

- Topsoil must not be placed if the topsoil or subsoil is in a frozen or muddy condition, when the subsoil is excessively wet or in a condition that may otherwise be detrimental to proper grading and seedbed preparation.

C. Soil Amendments (Fertilizer and Lime Specifications)

- Soil tests must be performed to determine the exact ratios and application rates for both lime and fertilizer on sites having disturbed areas of 5 acres or more. Soil analysis may be performed by a recognized private or commercial laboratory. Soil samples taken for engineering purposes may also be used for chemical analysis.
- Fertilizers must be uniform in composition, free flowing and suitable for accurate application by appropriate equipment. Manure may be substituted for fertilizer with prior approval from the appropriate approval authority. Fertilizers must all be delivered to the site fully labeled according to the applicable laws and must bear the name, trade name or trademark and warranty of the producer.

- Lime materials must be ground limestone (hydrated or burnt lime may be substituted except when hydroseeding) which contains at least 50 percent total oxides (calcium oxide plus magnesium oxide). Limestone must be ground to such fineness that at least 50 percent will pass through a #100 mesh sieve and 90 to 100 percent will pass through a #20 mesh sieve.

- Lime and fertilizer are to be evenly distributed and incorporated into the top 3 to 5 inches of soil by disking or other suitable means.

- Where the subsoil is either: highly acidic or composed of heavy clays, spread ground limestone at the rate of 4 to 8 tons/acre (200-400 square feet per 1,000 square feet) prior to the placement of topsoil.

TEMPORARY SEEDING NOTES (B-4-4)

- Definition
- To stabilize disturbed soils with vegetation for up to 6 months.
- Purpose
- Conditions Where Practice Applies

- Exposed soils where ground cover is needed for a period of 6 months or less. For longer duration of time, permanent stabilization practices are required.

- Criteria

- Select one or more of the species or seed mixtures listed in Table B.1 for the appropriate Plant Hardiness Zone (from Figure B.3), and enter them in the Temporary Seeding Summary below along with application rates, seeding dates and seeding depths. If this Summary is not put on the plan and completed, then Table B.1 plus fertilizer and lime rates must be put on the plan.
- For sites having soil tests performed, use and show the recommended rates by the testing agency. Soil tests are not required for Temporary Seeding.
- When stabilization is required outside of a seeding season, apply seed and mulch or straw mulch alone as prescribed in Section B-4-3.A.1.b and maintain until the next seeding season.

Temporary Seeding Summary				
Hardness Zone (from Figure B.3):	Seed Mixture (from Table B.1):		Fertilizer Rate (10-20-20)	
Species	Application Rate (lb/acre)	Seeding Dates	Seeding Depths	Lime Rate (50 lb/1000 sq)
BARLEY	96	3/1 - 5/15, 8/15 - 10/15	1"	436 lb/acre (1000 sq)
OATS	72	3/1 - 5/15, 8/15 - 10/15	1"	436 lb/acre (1000 sq)
RYE	112	3/1 - 5/15, 8/15 - 10/15	1"	436 lb/acre (1000 sq)

PERMANENT SEEDING NOTES (B-4-5)

A. Seed Mixtures

- General Use

- Select one or more of the species or mixtures listed in Table B.3 for the appropriate Plant Hardiness Zone (from Figure B.3) and label on the site condition or purpose found on Table B.2. Enter selected mixture(s), application rates, and seeding dates in the Permanent Seeding Summary. The Summary is to be completed on the plan.

- Additional planting specifications for exceptional sites such as shorelines, stream banks, or dunes or for special purposes such as wildlife or aesthetic treatment may be found in USDA-NRCS Technical Field Office Guide, Section 342 - Critical Area Planting.

- For sites having disturbed area over 5 acres, use and show the rates recommended by the soil testing agency. For areas receiving low maintenance, apply urea form fertilizer (46-0-0) at 3 1/2 pounds per 1000 square feet (150 pounds per acre) at the time of seeding in addition to the soil amendments shown in the Permanent Seeding Summary.

- Turfgrass Mixtures

- Areas where turfgrasses may be desired include lawns, parks, playgrounds, and commercial sites which will receive a medium to high level of maintenance.

- Select one or more of the species or mixtures listed below based on the site conditions or purpose. Enter selected mixture(s), application rates, and seeding dates in the Permanent Seeding Summary. The summary is to be placed on the plan.

- Kentucky Bluegrass/Full Sun Mixture: For use in areas that receive intensive management. Irrigation required in the areas of central Maryland and Eastern Shore. Recommended Certified Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars Seeding Rate: 15 to 2.0 pounds per 1000 square feet. Choose a minimum of three Kentucky bluegrass cultivars with each ranging from 10 to 35 percent of the total mixture by weight.

- Kentucky Bluegrass/Perennial Rye: Full Sun Mixture: For use in full sun areas where rapid establishment is necessary and when turf will receive medium to intensive management. Certified Perennial Ryegrass Cultivars/Certified Kentucky Bluegrass Seeding Rate: 2 pounds mixture per 1000 square feet. Choose a minimum of three Kentucky bluegrass cultivars with each ranging from 10 to 35 percent of the total mixture by weight.

- Tall Fescue/Kentucky Bluegrass: Full Sun Mixture: For use in drought prone areas and/or for areas receiving low to medium management in full sun to medium shade. Recommended mixture includes; Certified Tall Fescue Cultivars 95 to 100 percent, Certified Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars 0 to 5 percent. Seeding Rate: 5 to 8 pounds per 1000 square feet. One or more cultivars may be blended.

- Kentucky Bluegrass/Fine Fescue: Shade Mixture: For use in areas with shade in Bluegrass lawns. For establishment in high quality, intensively managed turf area. Mixture includes; Certified Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars 30 to 40 percent, Certified Fine Fescue and 60 to 70 percent. Seeding Rate: 1 1/2 to 3 pounds per 1000 square feet.

- Notes:
 - Select turfgrass varieties from those listed in the most current University of Maryland Publication, Agronomy Memo #77, "Turfgrass Cultivar Recommendations for Maryland"

- Choose certified material. Certified material is the best guarantee of cultivar purity. The certification program of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Turf and Seed Section, provides a reliable means of consumer protection and assures a pure genetic line.

- Ideal Times of Seeding for Turf Grass Mixtures Western MD: March 15 to June 1, August 1 to October 1 (Hardiness Zones: 5b, 6a) Central MD: March 1 to May 15, August 15 to October 15 (Hardiness Zone: 6a) Southern MD, Eastern Shore: March 1 to May 15, August 15 to October 15 (Hardiness Zones: 7a, 7b)

- Till areas to receive seed by disking or other approved methods to a depth of 2 to 4 inches, level and rake the areas to prepare a proper seedbed. Remove stones and debris over 1 1/2 inches in diameter. The resulting seedbed must be in such condition that future mowing of grasses will pose no difficulty.

- If soil moisture is deficient, supply new seedlings with adequate water for plant growth (1/2 to 1 inch every 3 to 4 days depending on soil texture) until they are firmly established. This is especially true when seedlings are made late in the planting season, in abnormally dry or hot seasons, or on adverse sites.

Permanent Seeding Summary				
Hardness Zone (from Figure B.3):	Seed Mixture (from Table B.3):		Fertilizer Rate (10-20-20)	
No.	Species	Application Rate (lb/acre)	Seeding Dates	Seeding Depths
1	BARLEY	100	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
2	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
3	OATS	72	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
4	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
5	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
6	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
7	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
8	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
9	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
10	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
11	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
12	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
13	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
14	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
15	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
16	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
17	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
18	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
19	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
20	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
21	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
22	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
23	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
24	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
25	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
26	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
27	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
28	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
29	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
30	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
31	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
32	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
33	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
34	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
35	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
36	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
37	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
38	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
39	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
40	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
41	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
42	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
43	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
44	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
45	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
46	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
47	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
48	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
49	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
50	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
51	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
52	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
53	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
54	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
55	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
56	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
57	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
58	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
59	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
60	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
61	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
62	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
63	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
64	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
65	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
66	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
67	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
68	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
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72	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
73	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
74	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
75	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
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77	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
78	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
79	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
80	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
81	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
82	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
83	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
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87	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
88	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
89	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
90	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
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96	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
97	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
98	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
99	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.
100	RYE	112	Mar. 1 - May 15, Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	1 1/2 - 1 7/2 in.

STANDARD STABILIZATION NOTE	
FOLLOWING INITIAL SOIL DISTURBANCE OR RE-DISTURBANCE, PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY STABILIZATION MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN:	
a.) THREE (3) CALENDAR DAYS AS TO THE SURFACE OF ALL PERIMETER DICES, SWALES, DITCHES, PERIMETER SLOPES AND ALL SLOPES STEEPER THAN 3 HORIZONTAL TO 1 VERTICAL (3:1); AND	
b.) SEVEN (7) CALENDAR DAYS AS TO ALL OTHER DISTURBED OR GRADED AREAS ON THE PROJECT SITE NOT UNDER ACTIVE GRADING.	

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS
FOR
STOCKPILE AREA
(B-4-8)

- Definition
- Purpose
- Conditions Where Practice Applies

- Maintenance

- The stockpile area must be continuously meet the requirements for Adequate Vegetative Establishment in accordance with Section B-4 Vegetative Stabilization. Soil slopes must be maintained at no steeper than a 2:1 ratio. The stockpile area must be kept free of erosion. If the vertical height of a stockpile exceeds 20 feet for 2:1 slopes, 30 feet for 3:1 slopes, or 40 feet for 4:1 slopes, benching must be provided in accordance with Section B-3 Land Grading.