

B-13 STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

FOR

SEEDING AND MULCHING

Definition

The application of seed and mulch to establish vegetative cover.

Purpose

To protect disturbed soils from erosion during and at the end of construction.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

To the surface of all perimeter controls, slopes, and any disturbed area not under active grading.

Criteria

A. Seeding

1. Specifications

- a. All seed must meet the requirements of the Maryland State Seed Law. All seed must be subject to re-testing by a recognized seed laboratory. All seed used must have been tested within the 6 months immediately preceding the date of sowing such material on any project. Refer to Table B.4 regarding the quality of seed. Seed tags must be available upon request to the inspector to verify type of seed and seeding rate.
- b. Mulch alone may be applied between the fall and spring seeding dates only if the ground is frozen. The appropriate seeding mixture must be applied when the ground thaws.
- c. Inoculants: The inoculant for treating legume seed in the seed mixtures must be a pure culture of nitrogen fixing bacteria prepared specifically for the species. Inoculants must not be used later than the date indicated on the container. Add fresh inoculants as directed on the package. Use four times the recommended rate when hydroseeding. Note: It is very important to keep inoculant as cool as possible until used. Temperatures above 75 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit can weaken bacteria and make the inoculant less effective.
- d. Sod or seed must not be placed on soil which has been treated with soil sterilants or chemicals used for weed control until sufficient time has elapsed (14 days min.) to permit dissipation of phytotoxic materials.

2. Application

- a. Dry Seeding: This includes use of conventional drop or broadcast spreaders.
  - i. Incorporate seed into the subsoil at the rates prescribed on Temporary Seeding Table B.1, Permanent Seeding Table B.3, or site-specific seeding summaries.
  - ii. Apply seed in two directions, perpendicular to each other. Apply half the seeding rate in each direction. Roll the seeded area with a weighted roller to provide good seed to soil contact.

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B. Mulching

1. Mulch Materials (in order of preference)

- a. Straw consisting of thoroughly threshed wheat, rye, oat, or barley and reasonably bright in color. Straw is to be free of noxious weed seeds as specified in the Maryland Seed Law and not musty, moldy, caked, decayed, or excessively dusty. Note: Use only sterile straw mulch in areas where one species of grass is desired.
- b. Wood Cellulose Fiber Mulch (WCFM) consisting of specially prepared wood cellulose processed into a uniform fibrous physical state.
  - i. WCFM is to be dyed green or contain a green dye in the package that will provide an appropriate color to facilitate visual inspection of the uniformly spread slurry.
  - ii. WCFM, including dye, must contain no germination or growth inhibiting factors.
  - iii. WCFM materials are to be manufactured and processed in such a manner that the wood cellulose fiber mulch will remain in uniform suspension in water under agitation and will blend with seed, fertilizer and other additives to form a homogeneous slurry. The mulch material must form a blotter-like ground cover, on application, having moisture absorption and percolation properties and must cover and hold grass seed in contact with the soil without inhibiting the growth of the grass seedlings.
  - iv. WCFM material must not contain elements or compounds at concentration levels that will be phytotoxic.
  - v. WCFM must conform to the following physical requirements: fiber length of approximately 10 millimeters, diameter approximately 1 millimeter, pH range of 4.0 to 8.5, ash content of 1.6 percent maximum and water holding capacity of 90 percent minimum.

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2. Application

- a. Apply mulch to all seeded areas immediately after seeding.
  - b. When straw mulch is used, spread it over all seeded areas at the rate of 2 tons per acre to a uniform loose depth of 1 to 2 inches. Apply mulch to achieve a uniform distribution and depth so that the soil surface is not exposed. When using a mulch anchoring tool, increase the application rate to 2.5 tons per acre.
  - c. Wood cellulose fiber used as mulch must be applied at a net dry weight of 1500 pounds per acre. Mix the wood cellulose fiber with water to attain a mixture with a maximum of 50 pounds of wood cellulose fiber per 100 gallons of water.
3. Anchoring
- a. Perform mulch anchoring immediately following application of mulch to minimize loss by wind or water. This may be done by one of the following methods (listed by preference), depending upon the size of the area and erosion hazard:
    - i. A mulch anchoring tool is a tractor drawn implement designed to punch and anchor mulch into the soil surface a minimum of 2 inches. This practice is most effective on large areas, but is limited to flatter slopes where equipment can operate safely. If used on sloping land, this practice should follow the contour.
    - ii. Wood cellulose fiber may be used for anchoring straw. Apply the fiber binder at a net dry weight of 750 pounds per acre. Mix the wood cellulose fiber with water at a maximum of 50 pounds of wood cellulose fiber per 100 gallons of water.
    - iii. Synthetic binders such as Acrylic DLR (Agro-Tack), DCA-70, Petroset, Terra Tax II, Terra Tack AR or other approved equal may be used. Follow application rates as specified by the manufacturer. Application of liquid binders needs to be heavier at the edges where wind catches mulch, such as in valleys and on crests of banks. Use of asphalt binders is strictly prohibited.
    - iv. Lightweight plastic netting may be stapled over the mulch according to manufacturer recommendations. Netting is usually available in rolls 4 to 15 feet wide and 300 to 3,000 feet long.

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ESD # 7121

Professional Certification: I hereby certify that these documents were prepared or approved by me, and that I am a duly licensed professional engineer under the laws of the State of Maryland.  
License No. 21718, Expiration Date: 2017-09-16

Architect



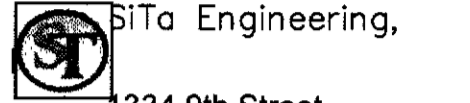
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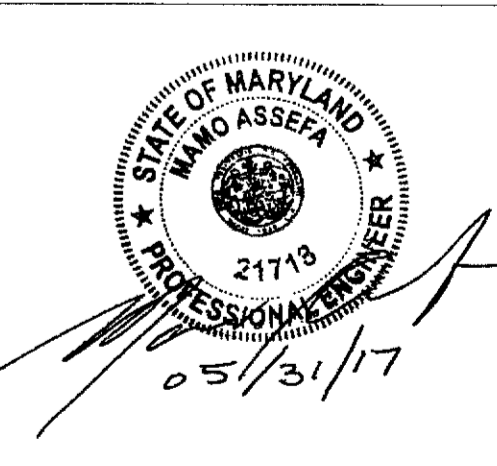
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4	SWM-ES	05/20/2017
3	SWM-ES	09/29/2016
2	SWM-ES	08/15/2016
1	BID-SET	02/5/2016
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE
REVISION HISTORY		



Date: 02/5/2016  
Project # 1501.01

EROSION AND  
SEDIMENT CONTROL  
DETAIL 3

C-3.40