Erosion & Sediment Control for Construction Sites

Technical Note: Temporary Seeding

Temporary seeding provides erosion control on bare areas between construction operations. This seeding is not the same as putting in the final seeding. Grasses, which grow quickly, are seeded and mulched to produce a quick, temporary soil stabilization. It effectively minimizes the area of a construction site prone to erosion. It should be used everywhere the sequence of construction operations permit short-term vegetation to be established.

Cover on the surface breaks up the raindrop impact and holds the soil in place. A roughened soil surface aids in water being impounded rather than moving off the surface.

Temporary seedings should be applied within seven days on exposed soil surfaces where additional work is not scheduled within 21- 45 days.

The value of temporary seeding is that it breaks up the raindrop impact. This allows time for water to infiltrate into the soil or move slowly across the surface.

The straw mulch and quick growing grasses will protect the exposed soil surface during critical periods of heavy rainfall in spring and summer, and dormant periods in fall and winter.

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

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Specifications for Temporary Seeding

Temporary seeding is an erosion control practice. It provides a protective cover on the surface to break up raindrop impact. It can effectively minimize soil movement by using fast germinating grasses and straw mulch. It is effective on all areas, including slopes. Temporary seeding needs to be established within seven days on all bare areas that are not going to be disturbed for 21 to 45 days. This will reduce erosion and soil loss. Also, temporary seeding needs to be established within two days on areas within fifty feet of a stream.

Temporary Seeding Species Selection

Seeding Dates	Species	Lb./1,000 ft.2	Per Ac.
March 1 - August 15	Oats	3	4 bushel
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lbs.
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40 lbs.
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40 lbs.
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lbs.
August 16 - November 1	Rye	3	2 bushel
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lbs.
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40 lbs.
	Wheat	3	2 bushel
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lbs.
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40 lbs.
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40 lbs.
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lbs.
November 1 - February 28	*Use mulch only, sodding practices or dormant seeding.*		

Seeding

Seeding needs to be:

- *Applied as early in the day as possible, but no later than at the end of the day to benefit from moisture still in the surface layer.*
- *Applied uniformly over the area to be protected with a cyclone seeder, drill, hydroseeder or cultipacker seeder.*
- *Immediately protect with straw mulch.*
- *Applied on areas that are not to be graded or reworked for 21 to 45 days or more.*
- *Lime and fertilize based on soil tests for nutrient requirements for adequate growth.*

Seed and mulch individual building lots after backfilling around the foundations and before building supplies are delivered.

Mulching

Mulching is a vital component of a temporary seeding. It protects the seeding during establishment and helps to dissipate the raindrop impact. Apply:

- *Straw at the rate of 90 lbs. per 1,000 square feet (2-3 bales) or 2 tons per acre.*
- *Or other mulches according to manufacturers specifications.*

Timeliness

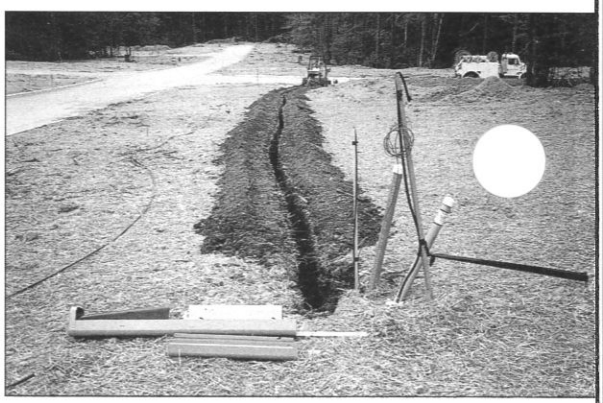
Getting the seed and mulch on the surface in a timely manner is critical to success.

- *Immediately after the work is completed.*
- *No later than at the end of the day.*

Lime and Fertilizer

Most soils in a construction area are void of plant food. Nutrients need to be supplied to provide for adequate plant growth.

- *Take a soil test to determine actual amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous and potash needed.*
- *Or apply 15 pounds of 10-10-10 per 1,000 square feet.*
- *Add lime at the rate of 100 pounds per 1,000 square feet.*



Temporary cover does not stop construction work from continuing.

Maintenance

The seeding needs to be inspected regularly:

- *Inspect at least weekly.*
- *Reseed and apply mulch that has been blown off or washed away.*
- *Irrigate periodically to provide or maintain adequate moisture.*
- *Reseed and mulch areas that do not germinate.*
- *Reseed and mulch areas disturbed by construction activities.*

Rule of Thumb: This is an erosion control practice. Keep the soil covered, or temporary seeding does not work.