Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRMs)

Plan Symbol

Description

Turf Reinforcement Mats are products composed primarily of nondegradable products that enhance the ability of living plants to stabilize soils. They bind with roots to reinforce the soil matrix with longevity greater than 5-years.

When and Where to Use It

Use TRMs where vegetation alone will not hold a slope or streambank. TRMs enable the use of "green" solutions in areas where only "hard" solutions such as riprap or concrete linings were viable in the past.

TRM Categories

- Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, and Type 4.

Types 1 & 2 TRMs are a strong three-dimensional stable net structure. A degradable fiber matrix may be included to provide immediate coverage for bare soil.

- **Type 1** matting should be placed on slopes **2H:1V or flatter** or in channels where the calculated design shear stress is **4.0 lb/ft2 or less** and the design flow velocity is **up to 10 fps**.
- **Type 2** matting should be placed on slopes **1.5H:1V or flatter** or in channels where the calculated design shear stress is **6.0 lb/ft2 or less** and the design flow velocity is **up to 15 fps**.
- **Type 3** TRMs are a strong three-dimensional stable net structure providing sufficient thickness, strength, and void space to capture and retain soil and allow for the development of root growth and vegetation within the matrix. Matting of this type should be placed on slopes **1H:1V or flatter** or in channels where the calculated design shear stress is **8.0 lb/ft2 or less** and the design flow velocity is **up to 20 fps**
- **Type 4** (High Survivability) TRMs are specially designed geosynthetics for erosion control applications on steep slopes and vegetated waterways.

  - All components of Type 4 TRMs should be 100% synthetic and resistant to biological, chemical, and ultraviolet degradation.

  - Matting of this type should be placed on slopes **1H:1V or greater** or in channels where the calculated design shear stress is **up to 12 lb/ft2** and the design flow velocity is **up to 25 fps**.

  - This category is used when field conditions exist with high loading and/or high survivability requirements such as maintenance, structural backfills protecting critical structures, utility cuts, potential traffic areas, abrasion, higher factors of safety and/or general durability concerns.

All primary TRM matrix materials are defined as long-term, non-degradable materials designed to reduce soil erosion and assist in the growth, establishment, and protection of vegetation for a period of time exceeding 5 years.

The major structural components of Type 1 and Type 2 TRMs are 100% synthetic and resistant to biological, chemical, and ultraviolet degradation. A degradable fiber matrix may be included to provide immediate coverage for bare soil. All components of Type 3 and Type 4 TRMs are 100% synthetic and resistant to biological, chemical, and ultraviolet degradation.

Installation

Grade and compact areas to be protected with TRMs as indicated on the plans.

Remove large rocks, soil clods, vegetation, and other sharp objects that could keep the TRM from intimate contact with subgrade.

Prepare seedbed by loosening 2 to 3 inches of soil above final grade.

The proper installation of TRMs is different for each product, therefore the recommended installation procedure from the specific manufacturer should be followed.

When requested, a Manufacturer's Representative may be required to be on-site to oversee and approve the initial installation of the TRM. When requested, a letter from the Manufacturer approving the contractor installation may be required.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Check areas protected by TRMs for dislocation or failure every 7 calendar days and within 24-hours after each storm that produces ½-inch or more of rain.
- Conduct regular inspections until grasses are firmly established.
- Adhere to the pinning or stapling pattern as shown on the Manufacturer's installation sheet. If there is evidence that the TRM is not securely fastened to the soil, install extra pins or staples to inhibit the TRM from becoming dislodged.
- If washout or breakage occurs, repair all damaged areas immediately by restoring the soil on slopes or channels to its finished grade, re-apply fertilizer and seed, and replacing the appropriate TRM material as needed.

TRM Channel Design Criteria

When designing a permanent conveyance with a grassed or vegetative lining, the design should address the bare condition prior to vegetation being established. A geotextile lining may be applied to protect the conveyance during this period. It is important to use both the tractive force and the permissible velocity methods to determine the level of protection that is required.

The design of TRMs is based on the anticipated shear stresses and maximum flow velocities the fabric will encounter. Once the design shear stresses and maximum flow velocities are known, a corresponding TRM that meets the conditions may be selected from the SCDOT approved products list.

- The governing equation for maximum channel shear stress is:

$$\tau = \gamma \, d_n \, S$$

Where :

τ	=	maximum shear stress (lbs/ft^2)
γ	=	unit weight of water = 62.4 lbs/ft^3
d_n	=	maximum normal channel flow depth (ft)
S	=	channel bed slope (ft/ft)

The following variables are required to determine the maximum velocity in a channel for a 10-year 24-hour storm event.

- Design peak flow rate value in cubic feet per second (cfs) for the 10-year 24-hour storm,
- Channel dimensions designed to carry the peak flow rate. For simplicity, all channels will be assumed to be trapezoidal in shape,
- Channel bed slope,
- Manning's channel roughness coefficient (n) of the TRM based on the following,
  - Bare matting with no vegetation,
  - Matting with maintained vegetation, and
  - Matting with un-maintained vegetation, and
- Normal channel flow depth (d_n) based on peak flow rate, channel dimensions, and Manning's n value.

- The governing equation for maximum velocity is Manning's Equation:

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

Where :

V	=	Maximum velocity (ft/sec)
n	=	Manning's channel roughness coefficient
R	=	Hydraulic radius of the flow based on d_n (ft)
S	=	Channel bed slope (ft/ft)

TRM Slope Application

TRM Channel Application

Preventive Measures and Troubleshooting Guide

Field Condition	Common Solutions
Improper anchoring.	Dig trench along the top and bury the blankets. Use staples to anchor according to manufacturer's recommendations.
Undercutting due to inadequate preparation.	Prepare the soil surface. Remove rocks, clods, and other obstructions. Fill in rills in uneven areas to promote good contact between mat and soil.
Excessive water flows across stabilized slope surface.	Use other BMPs to limit flow on stabilized area. Use other BMPs to reduce slope lengths. Do not use to stabilize areas with swift moving concentrated flows.