

Temporary Seeding

Plan Symbol



Description

The purpose of temporary seeding is to reduce erosion and sedimentation by stabilizing disturbed areas that would otherwise lay bare for long periods of time before they are worked or stabilized. Temporary seeding is also used where permanent vegetation growth is not necessary or appropriate.

When and Where to Use It

Temporary seeding is used on exposed soil surfaces such as denuded areas, soil stockpiles, dikes, dams, banks of sediment basins, banks of sediment traps, and temporary road banks. Temporary seeding prevents and limits costly maintenance operations on other sediment control structures. Sediment clean-out requirements for sediment basins, sediment traps, and silt fence is reduced if the drainage area is seeded when grading and construction operation are not taking place.

Temporary stabilization is required within 14 days after construction activity is complete **unless construction activity is going to resume within 21 days**. Cover seeded areas with an appropriate mulch to provide protection from the weather. When the temporary vegetation does not grow quickly or thick enough to prevent erosion, re-seed as soon as possible. Keep seeded areas adequately moist. Irrigate the seeded area if normal rainfall is not adequate for the germination and growth of seedlings. Water seeded areas at controlled rates that are less than the rate at which the soil can absorb water to prevent runoff. Runoff of irrigation water wastes water and can cause erosion.

Seed Selection

Seed selection is based on geographical location, soil type and the season of the year in which the planting is to be done. Use the tables in Appendix C as a guide for conventional tillage methods (plowing, seedbed preparation, hydroseeding, etc). If a fast growing crop to nurse the permanent specie or species is required, then use the mix rate. Failure to carefully follow agronomic recommendations results in an inadequate stand of temporary vegetation that provides little or no erosion control.

Installation

Tillage

If the area has been recently plowed, no tillage is required other than raking or surface roughening to break any crust that has formed leaving a textured surface. Disk the soil for optimal germination when the soil is compacted less than 6-inches.

Soil Testing

Soil testing is available through Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service.

Lime

Lime is not required for temporary seeding unless a soil test shows that the soil pH is below 5.0. It may be desirable to apply lime during the temporary seeding operation to benefit the long-term permanent seeding. Apply a minimum of 1.5 tons of Lime/acre (70 pounds per 1000 square feet) if it is to be used.

Fertilizer

Apply a minimum of 500 pounds per acre of 10-10-10 fertilizer (11.5 pounds per 1000 square feet) or equivalent during temporary seeding unless a soil test indicates a different requirement. Incorporate fertilizer and lime (if used) into the top 4-6 inches of the soil by disking or other means where conditions allow.

Seeding

Loosen the soil surface before broadcasting the seed. Apply seed evenly by the most convenient method available for the type of seed used and the location of the temporary seeding. Typical application methods include but are not limited to cyclone seeders, rotary spreaders, drop spreaders, broadcast spreaders, hand spreaders, cultipacker seeder, and hydro-seeders. Cover applied seed by raking or dragging a chain, and then lightly firm the area with a roller or cultipacker.

Mulching

Use mulch with temporary seed applications to retain soil moisture and reduce erosion during the establishment of vegetation. Typical mulch applications include straw, wood fiber, hydromulches, BFM and FGM. Use hydromulches with a minimum blend of 70% wood fibers.

The most commonly accepted mulch used in conjunction with temporary seeding is small grain straw. This straw should be dry and free from mold damage and noxious weeds. The straw may need to be anchored with netting or emulsions to prevent it from being blown or washed away. Apply the straw mulch by hand or machine at the rate 1.5-2 tons per acre (90 pounds per 1000 square feet). Frequent inspections are necessary to check that conditions for growth are good.

Irrigation

Seeded areas should be kept adequately moist. Irrigate the seeded area if normal rainfall is not adequate for the germination and growth of seedlings. Water seeded areas at controlled rates that are less than the rate at which the soil can absorb water to prevent runoff. Runoff of irrigation water wastes water and can cause erosion.

Re-seeding

Re-seed areas where seeding does not grow quickly, thick enough, or adequately to prevent erosion. Base seed selection should on the requirements of local Specifications.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Inspect every 7 calendar days and within 24-hours after each rainfall event that produces ½-inches or more of precipitation.
- Cover seeded with mulch to provide protection. Frequent inspections are necessary to check that conditions for growth are good.
- Supply temporary seeding with adequate moisture. Supply water as needed, especially in abnormally hot or dry weather or on adverse sites. Control water application rates to prevent runoff.

- Base seed selection on local Specifications.
- Re-seed areas where the plants do not grow quick enough, thick enough, or adequately enough to prevent erosion should be re-seeded.



Temporary Seeding

Preventive Measures and Troubleshooting Guide

Field Condition	Common Solutions
Slope was improperly dressed before application.	Roughen slopes. Furrow along the contour of areas to be seeded.
Coverage is inadequate.	Follow recommended application rates. Count the number of seedbags to ensure the correct amount of material is being applied. Reapply to thin areas.
Seeds fail to germinate.	Apply straw mulch to keep seeds in place and to moderate soil moisture and temperature. In arid areas, temporary irrigation may be necessary.
Seeded slope fails.	Fill in rills and re-seed; fertilize, and mulch slopes.
Seeding is washed off slope.	Allow at least 24-hours for the materials to dry before a rain event. Follow manufacturer's recommendations. Reapply where necessary.
Excessive water flows across stabilized surface.	Use other BMPs to limit flow on stabilized area and to reduce slope lengths. Do not use to stabilize areas with swift moving concentrated flows.