

7.11 Sodding



Description

Sodding utilizes rolls or mats of turf grass to provide immediate stabilization to bare soils. It is especially useful in highly erosive areas such as drainage ways and on slopes that will be mowed.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Sod may be used where immediate cover is required or preferred, and where vegetation will be adequate stabilization such as minor swales, around drop inlets, and lawns.

Design Criteria

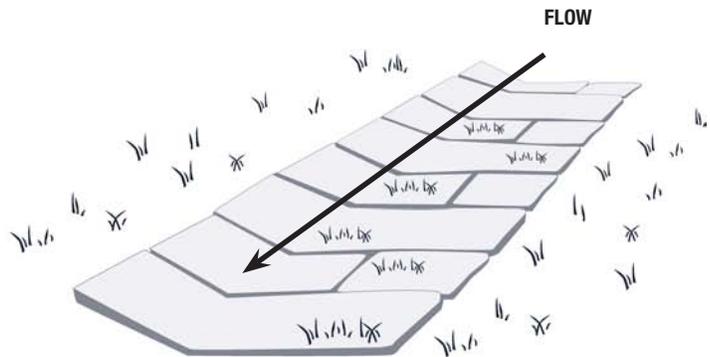
These are provided in the specifications that follow.

Maintenance

Adequate moisture is the most important factor to establishing sod. Sod must be watered immediately after installation, daily during first week and as necessary for the remainder of the initial rooting period, usually 2-4 weeks. An adequate watering will moisten to a depth of 4-6 inches. Although watering needs and frequency may taper off after this period, sodded areas are not often independent of watering until their second season of growth. Most foot traffic should be limited and mowing withheld until the sod is firmly rooted.



Lay sod in a staggered brick like pattern



Utilizing sod in waterways

Common Problems / Concerns

- An inadequately prepared site or soils can cause inadequate rooting and establishment. Hard soils can cause runoff to occur between the sod and soil layers and poor establishment of the root system. The area should be adequately cleared of clods, debris, have sufficient topsoil and be moistened during dry periods.
- The placement of sod on frozen soil, or in freezing temperatures will result in failure to establish grass.
- Drying of sod during and immediately following the placement of sod will result in death of the sod.

References

Pound W., Street J., 1991. *Lawn Establishment Bulletin 546*. The Ohio State University.

Specifications
for
Sodding

Materials

1. Sod shall be harvested, delivered and installed within a period of 48 hours. Sod not transplanted within this period shall be inspected and approved prior to installation.
2. The sod shall be kept moist and covered during hauling and preparation for placement.
3. Sod shall be machine cut at a uniform soil thickness of 0.75 inches, plus or minus 0.25 inches, at the time of cutting. Measurements for thickness shall exclude top growth and thatch.

Site Preparation

1. A subsoiler, plow or other implement shall be used to reduce soil compaction and allow maximum infiltration. Maximizing infiltration will help control both runoff rate and water quality. Subsoiling shall not be conducted on slip-prone areas where soil preparation should be limited only to what is necessary for establishing vegetation.
2. The area shall be graded and topsoil spread where needed. (see Topsoiling)
3. Soil Amendments:

Lime—Agricultural ground limestone shall be applied to acidic soils as recommended by a soil test. In lieu of a soil test, lime shall be applied at the rate of 100 lb./1,000 sq. ft. or 2 tons/ac.

Fertilizer—Fertilizer shall be applied as recommended by a soil test. In lieu of a soil test fertilizer shall be applied at a rate of 12 lb./1,000 sq. ft. or 500 lb./ac. of 10-10-10 or 12-12-12 analysis.

The lime and fertilizer shall be worked into the soil with a disk harrow, spring-tooth harrow, or other suitable field implement to a depth of 3 inches.

4. Before laying sod, the surface shall be uniformly graded and cleared of all debris, stones and clods larger than 3-in. diameter.

Sod Installation

1. During periods of excessively high temperatures, the soil shall be lightly irrigated immediately before laying the sod.
2. Sod shall not be placed on frozen soil.
3. The first row of sod shall be laid in a straight line with subsequent rows placed parallel to and tightly wedged against each other. Lateral joints shall be staggered in a brick-like pattern. Ensure that sod is not stretched or overlapped and that all joints are butted tight in order to prevent voids that would dry the roots.
4. On sloping areas where erosion may be a problem, sod shall be laid with the long edge parallel to the contour and with staggered joints. The sod shall be secured with pegs or staples.
5. As sodding is completed in any one section, the entire area shall be rolled or tamped to ensure solid contact of roots with the soil surface. Sod shall be watered immediately after rolling or tamping until the sod and soil surface below the sod are thoroughly wet. The operations of laying, tamping and irrigating for any piece of sod shall be completed within 8 hours.

Maintenance

1. In the absence of adequate rainfall, watering shall be performed daily or as often as necessary during the first week with sufficient quantities to maintain moist soil to a depth of 4-6 inches.
2. After the first week, sod shall be watered as necessary to maintain adequate moisture and ensure establishment.
3. The first mowing shall not be attempted until sod is firmly rooted.