

7.8 Temporary Seeding



Description

Temporary seedings establish temporary cover on disturbed areas by planting appropriate rapidly growing annual grasses or small grains. Temporary seeding provides erosion control on areas in between construction operations. Grasses, which are quick growing, are seeded and usually mulched to provide prompt, temporary soil stabilization. It effectively minimizes the area of a construction site prone to erosion and should be used everywhere the sequence of construction operations allows vegetation to be established.

Conditions Where the Practice Applies

Temporary seeding should be applied on exposed soil where additional work (grading, etc.) is not scheduled for more than 21 days. Permanent seeding should be applied if the areas will be idle for more than one year.

Planning Considerations

This practice has the potential to drastically reduce the amount of sediment eroded from a construction site. Erosion control efficiencies greater than 90% will be achieved with proper applications of temporary seeding. Because practices used to trap sediment are usually much less effective, temporary seeding is to be use even on areas where runoff is treated by sediment trapping practices. Because temporary seeding is highly effective and practical on construction sites, its liberal use is highly recommended.

Design Criteria

Specifications follow these explanations of important aspects of temporary seeding.

Plant Selection: Select the plants appropriate from the table in the Specifications for Temporary seeding. Choose varieties of tall fescue that are endophyte free or have non-toxic endophytes. Seeding rates for dormant seedings are increased by 50 percent. More information on dormant seedings is given in the permanent seeding section.

The length of time the area will idle and the season in which seeding occurs should influence the selection of seeding species. For areas remaining idle for over a year, a mixture containing perennial ryegrass is recommended. Cereal grains (rye, oats and wheat) are included in some of the mixtures as cover crops. These are annual plants that will die after producing seed. Realize that oats will not over-winter and continue to grow as wheat and rye do.

Site preparation: Temporary seeding is best done on a prepared soil seedbed of loose pulverized soil. However, seedings should not be delayed, if additional grading operations are not possible. At a minimum, remove large rock or debris that will interfere with seeding operations. If the ground has become crusted, a disk or a harrow should be used to loosen the soil. Overall the best soil conditions will exist immediately after grading operations cease, when soils remain loose and moist.

Soil amendments: A soil test is necessary to adequately predict the need for lime and fertilizer. Seedings that are expected to be long lasting (over 1-3 months), should have lime and fertilizer applied as recommended by a soil test. In lieu of a soil test, fertilizer can be broadcast and worked into the top inch of soil at the rate of 6 pounds/1000 ft² or 250 pounds per acre of 10-10-10 or 12-12-12.

Seeding Methods: Seed shall be applied uniformly with a cyclone spreader, drill, culti-packer seeder, or hydroseeder. When feasible, seed that has been broadcast shall be covered by raking or dragging and then lightly tamped into place using a roller or cultipacker. If hydroseeding is used, the seed and fertilizer will be mixed on-site and the seeding shall be done immediately and without interruption.

Maintenance

Areas failing to establish vegetative cover adequate to prevent erosion shall be reseeded as soon as such areas are identified.

Seeding performed during hot and dry summer months shall be watered at a rate of 1 inch per week.

Common Problems / Concerns

- Insufficient topsoil or inadequately tilled, limed, and/ or fertilized seedbed results in poor establishment of vegetation.
- An overly high seeding rate of nurse crop (oat, rye or wheat) in the seed mixture results in over competition with the perennials.
- Seeding outside of seeding dates results in poor vegetation establishment and a decrease in plant hardiness.
- An inadequate rate of mulch results in poor germination and failure.

Specifications
for
Temporary Seeding

Table 7.8.1 Temporary Seeding Species Selection

Seeding Dates	Species	Lb./1000 ft2	Lb/Acre
March 1 to August 15	Oats	3	128 (4 Bushel)
	Tall Fescue	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40
	Tall Fescue	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1.25	55
	Perennial Ryegrass	3.25	142
	Creeping Red Fescue	0.4	17
	Kentucky Bluegrass	0.4	17
August 16th to November	Oats	3	128 (3 bushel)
	Tall Fescue	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40
	Rye	3	112 (2 bushel)
	Tall Fescue	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40
	Wheat	3	120 (2 bushel)
	Tall Fescue	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40
	Perennial Rye	1	40
November 1 to Feb. 29	Tall Fescue	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40
	Annual Ryegrass	1.25	40
	Perennial Ryegrass	3.25	40
	Creeping Red Fescue	0.4	40
	Kentucky Bluegrass	0.4	40
November 1 to Feb. 29	Use mulch only or dormant seeding		

Note: Other approved species may be substituted.

1. Structural erosion and sediment control practices such as diversions and sediment traps shall be installed and stabilized with temporary seeding prior to grading the rest of the construction site.
2. Temporary seed shall be applied between construction operations on soil that will not be graded or reworked for 21 days or greater. These idle areas shall be seeded within 7 days after grading.
3. The seedbed should be pulverized and loose to ensure the success of establishing vegetation. Temporary seeding should not be postponed if ideal seedbed preparation is not possible.
4. Soil Amendments—Temporary vegetation seeding rates shall establish adequate stands of vegetation, which may require the use of soil amendments. Base rates for lime and fertilizer shall be used.
5. Seeding Method—Seed shall be applied uniformly with a cyclone spreader, drill, cultipacker seeder, or hydroseeder. When feasible, seed that has been broadcast shall be covered by raking or dragging and then lightly tamped into place using a roller or cultipacker. If hydroseeding is used, the seed and fertilizer will be mixed on-site and the seeding shall be done immediately and without interruption.

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Mulching Temporary Seeding

1. Applications of temporary seeding shall include mulch, which shall be applied during or immediately after seeding. Seedings made during optimum seeding dates on favorable, very flat soil conditions may not need mulch to achieve adequate stabilization.
2. Materials:
 - Straw—If straw is used, it shall be unrotted small-grain straw applied at a rate of 2 tons per acre or 90 lbs./ 1,000 sq. ft. (2-3 bales)
 - Hydroseeders—If wood cellulose fiber is used, it shall be used at 2000 lbs./ ac. or 46 lb./ 1,000-sq.-ft.
 - Other—Other acceptable mulches include mulch mattings applied according to manufacturer's recommendations or wood chips applied at 6 ton/ ac.
3. Straw Mulch shall be anchored immediately to minimize loss by wind or water. Anchoring methods:
 - Mechanical—A disk, crimper, or similar type tool shall be set straight to punch or anchor the mulch material into the soil. Straw mechanically anchored shall not be finely chopped but left to a length of approximately 6 inches.
 - Mulch Netting—Netting shall be used according to the manufacturers recommendations. Netting may be necessary to hold mulch in place in areas of concentrated runoff and on critical slopes.
 - Synthetic Binders—Synthetic binders such as Acrylic DLR (Agri-Tac), DCA-70, Petroset, Terra Track or equivalent may be used at rates recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Wood-Cellulose Fiber—Wood-cellulose fiber binder shall be applied at a net dry wt. of 750 lb./ac. The wood-cellulose fiber shall be mixed with water and the mixture shall contain a maximum of 50 lb. / 100 gal.