

DISTURBED AREA STABILIZATION (WITH MULCHING ONLY) Ds1

DEFINITION
Applying plant residues or other suitable materials, produced on the site if possible, to the soil surface.

PURPOSE
- To reduce runoff and erosion
- To conserve moisture
- To prevent surface compaction or crusting
- To control undesirable vegetation
- To modify soil temperature
- To increase biological activity in the soil

REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
Mulch or temporary grassing shall be applied to all exposed areas within 14 days of disturbance. Mulch can be applied as a singular erosion control device for up to six months, but it shall be applied at the appropriate depth, depending on the material used, and have a continuous 90% cover or greater of the soil surface.

Maintenance shall be required to maintain appropriate depth and cover. Temporary vegetation may be employed instead of mulch if the area will remain undisturbed for less than six months.

If any area will remain undisturbed for greater than six months, permanent vegetative techniques shall be employed. Refer to Ds2 - Disturbed Area Stabilization (With Temporary Seeding), Ds3 - Disturbed Area Stabilization (With Permanent Seeding), and Ds4 - Disturbed Area Stabilization (With Sodding).

SPECIFICATIONS
Mulching Without Seeding
This standard applies to graded or cleared areas where seedings may not have a suitable growing season to produce an erosion retardant cover, but can be stabilized with a mulch cover.

Site Preparation
Grade to permit the use of equipment for applying and anchoring mulch.
- Install needed erosion control measures as required such as dikes, diversions, berms, terraces and sediment barriers.
- Loosen compact soil to a minimum depth of 3 inches.

Mulching Materials
Select one of the following materials and apply at the depth indicated.
- Dry straw or hay shall be applied at a depth of 2 to 4 inches providing complete soil coverage. One advantage of this material is easy application.
- Wood waste (chips, sawdust or bark) shall be applied at a depth of 2 to 3 inches. Organic material from the clearing stage of development must show a minimum of 50% wood chips, and apply as much. This method of mulching can greatly reduce erosion control costs.

Polyethylene film shall be secured over banks or scuffed soil material for temporary protection. This material can be salvaged and reused.

Applying Mulch
When mulch is used without seeding, mulch shall be applied to provide full coverage of the exposed area.
- Dry straw or hay mulch and wood chips shall be applied uniformly by hand or by mechanical equipment.

If the area will eventually be covered with perennial vegetation, 20-30 pounds of nitrogen per acre in addition to the normal amount shall be applied to offset the uptake of nitrogen caused by the decomposition of the organic mulches.
- Apply polyethylene film on exposed areas.

Anchoring Mulch
Straw or hay mulch can be pressed into a disk harrow with the disk set straight or with a special "parker disk." Disk may be smooth or serrated and should be 20 inches or more in diameter and 8 to 12 inches apart. The edges of the disk should be dull enough not to cut the mulch but to press it into the soil leaving much of it in an erect position. Straw or hay mulch shall be anchored immediately after application.

Straw or hay mulch spread with special blower-type equipment may be anchored. Tractors, binders and hydraulic mulch spreaders specifically designed for laying straw can be substituted for mulch spreaders. Plastic mesh or netting with mesh no larger than one inch by one inch shall be installed according to manufacturer's specifications.
- Netting of the appropriate size shall be used to anchor wood waste. Openings of the netting shall not be larger than the average size of the wood waste chips.
- Polyethylene film shall be anchored trenched at the top as well as incrementally as necessary.

DISTURBED AREA STABILIZATION (WITH TEMPORARY SEEDING) Ds2

DEFINITION
The establishment of temporary vegetative cover with fast growing seedlings for seasonal protection on disturbed or denuded areas.

PURPOSE
- To reduce runoff and sediment damage of down stream resources
- To protect the soil surface from erosion
- To improve wildlife habitat
- To improve aesthetics
- To improve tilt, infiltration and aeration as well as organic matter for permanent plantings

REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
Mulch or temporary grassing shall be applied to all exposed areas within 14 days of disturbance. Temporary grassing, instead of mulch, can be applied to rough graded areas that will be exposed for less than six months. If an area is expected to be undisturbed for longer than six months, permanent perennial vegetation shall be used. If optimum planting conditions for temporary grassing is lacking, mulch can be used as a singular erosion control device for up to six months but it shall be applied at the appropriate depth, anchored, and have a continuous 90% cover or greater of the soil surface. Refer to specification Ds1 - Disturbed Area Stabilization (With Temporary Seeding).

CONDITIONS
Temporary vegetative measures should be coordinated with permanent measures to assure economical and effective stabilization. Most types of temporary vegetation are ideal to use as companion crops until the permanent vegetation is established. Note: Some species of temporary vegetation are not appropriate for companion crop plantings because of their potential to out-compete the desired species (e.g. annual ryegrass). Contact NRCS or the local SWCD for more information.

SPECIFICATIONS
Grading and Shaping
Excessive bank run-off shall be reduced by properly designed and installed erosion control practices such as closed drains, ditches, dikes, diversions, sediment barriers and others.
No shoring or grading is required to be used can be stabilized by hand-seeded vegetation or if hydraulic seeding equipment is to be used.

Seedbed Preparation
When a hydraulic seeder is used, seedbed preparation is not required. When using conventional or hand-seeding, seedbed preparation is not required if the soil material is loose and not sealed by rainfall.
When soil has been sealed by rainfall or conditions of smooth top, the soil shall be plowed, trenched or otherwise scarified to provide a place for seed to lodge and germinate.

Line and Fertilizer Application
Agricultural line is required unless soil tests indicate otherwise. Apply agricultural line at a rate determined by soil test for pH. Quick acting lime should be incorporated to modify pH during the germination period. If soil nutrients should also be considered when there is less than 3% organic matter in the soil. Graded areas require line application. Soils must be tested to determine required amounts of fertilizer and amendments. Fertilizer should be applied before land preparation and incorporated with a disk, ripper, or chisel. On sloping low slope (less than 3%) not accessible to equipment, fertilizer shall be hand-applied to the seed. Soil should be tested to determine soil and some hydraulic mulch, then topped with the remaining required application rate.

Seeding
Select a grass or grass-legume mixture suitable to the area and season of the year. Seed shall be applied uniformly by hand, cyclone seeder, drill, culti packer seeder, or pneumatic seeder (skirt including seed and fertilizer). Disk or culti-packer seeders should not be used. Seed one-quarter to one-half inch deep. Appropriate depth of planting is ten times the seed diameter. Soil should be "loose" lightly to cover seed with soil if seeded by hand (Table 6-1).

Mulching
Temporary vegetation can, in most cases, be established without the use of mulch, provided there is little to no erosion potential. However, the use of mulch can often accelerate and enhance germination and vegetation establishment. Mulch without seeding should be considered for short term protection. Refer to Ds1 - Disturbed Area Stabilization (With Mulching Only).

Irrigation
During times of drought, water shall be applied at a rate not causing runoff and erosion. The soil shall be thoroughly wetted to a depth that will insure germination of the seed. Subsequent applications should be made when needed.

DISTURBED AREA STABILIZATION (WITH PERMANENT VEGETATION) Ds3

DEFINITION
The planting of perennial vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes on exposed areas for final permanent stabilization. Permanent perennial vegetation shall be used to achieve final stabilization.

PURPOSE
- To protect the soil surface from erosion
- To reduce damage from sediment and runoff to down stream areas
- To improve wildlife habitat and visual resources
- To improve aesthetics

REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
This practice shall be applied immediately to rough graded areas that will be undisturbed for longer than six months. This practice or sodding shall be applied immediately to all areas of final grade. Final Stabilization means that all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed, and that for upland areas and areas not covered by permanent structures and areas located outside the waste disposal limits of a landfill cell that has been certified by the GA EPD for waste disposal, 100% of the soil surface is uniformly covered in permanent vegetation with a density of 70% or greater, or landscaped according to the plan uniformly covered with landscaping materials in planned landscaped areas, or equivalent permanent stabilization measures. Permanent vegetation shall consist of, planted trees, shrubs, perennial vines, or a crop of perennial vegetation appropriate for the region, such that within the growing season a 70% coverage by perennial vegetation shall be achieved. Final stabilization applies to each phase of construction: For linear construction projects on land used for agricultural or silvicultural purposes, final stabilization may be accomplished by stabilizing the disturbed land for its agricultural or silvicultural use. Until this standard is satisfied and permanent control measures and facilities are operational, interim stabilization measures and temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures shall not be removed.

CONDITIONS
Permanent perennial vegetation is used to provide a protective cover for exposed areas including cuts, fills, dikes, and other denuded areas.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS
- Use conventional planting methods where possible.
- When mixed plantings are done during marginal planting periods, companion crops shall be used.

No ill planting is effective when planting is done following a winter or winter annual cover crop. Sorgho lespedeza planted no-ill stands of dry is an excellent procedure.

Block sod provides immediate cover. It is especially effective in controlling erosion adjacent to concrete frames and other structures. Refer to Specification Ds4 - Disturbed Area Stabilization (With Sodding).

Irrigation should be used when the soil is dry or when summer plantings are done.

Low maintenance plants, as well as natives, should be used to ensure long lasting erosion control.

Mowing should not be performed during the quail nesting season (May to September).

Wildlife plantings should be included in critical area plantings.

Wildlife Plantings
Commercially available plants beneficial to wildlife species include the following:
- *Mast Bearing Trees*
Beech, Black Cherry, Blackgum, Chestnut, Chinquapin, Hackberry, Hickory, Honey Locust, Nalve Oak, Parsonim, Sassafras, Oak, Sweetgum.

All trees that produce nuts or fruits are favored by many game species. Hickory provides nuts used mainly by squirrels and bears.
Shrubs and Small Trees
Bayberry, Bicolor Lepspedeza, Crabapple, Dog-wood, Huckleberry or Nalve Blueberry, Mountain Laurel, Nalve Holly, Red Cedar, Red Mulberry, Sumac, Wax Myrtle, Wild Plum and Blackberry.

Plant in patches without tall trees to develop stable shrub communities. All produce fruits used by many kinds of wildlife, except lespedeza which produces seeds used by quail and songbirds.

Grasses, Legumes, Vines and Temporary Cover
Bahagrass, Bermudagrass, Grass-Legume mixtures, Partridge Pea, Annual Lespedeza, Orchardgrass (for mountains), Brown-top Millet (for temporary cover), and Nalve grasses.

Provides herbaceous cover in clearings for a game bird brood-rearing habitat. Appropriate legumes such as vetches, clovers, and lespedeza may be mixed with grass, but they may die out after a few years.

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

Grading and shaping may not be required where hydraulic seeding and fertilizing equipment is to be used. Vertical banks shall be sloped to enable plant establishment.

When conventional seeding and fertilizing are to be done, grade and shape where feasible and practical, so that equipment can be used safely and efficiently during seedbed preparation, seeding, mulching and maintenance of the vegetation.

Concentrations of water that will cause excessive soil erosion shall be diverted to a safe outlet. Diversions and other treatment practices shall conform with the appropriate standards and specifications.

Lime and Fertilizer Rates and Analysis
Agricultural line is required at the rate of one to two tons per acre unless soil tests indicate otherwise. Graded areas require line application. If lime is applied within six months of planting (without permanent vegetation), additional line is not required. Agricultural line shall be applied at the specifications of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Line spread by conventional equipment shall be "ground limestone." Ground limestone is calcic or dolomitic limestone ground so that 90 percent of the material will pass through a 10-mesh sieve, not less than 50 percent will pass through a 50-mesh sieve and not less than 25 percent will pass through a 100-mesh sieve.

Fast acting lime spread by hydraulic seeding equipment should be "fine ground limestone" spanning from the 180 micron size to the 60 micron size. Fine ground limestone is calcic or dolomitic limestone ground so that 95 percent of the material will pass through a 100-mesh sieve.

It is desirable to use dolomitic limestone in the Sand Hills, Southern Coastal Plain and Atlantic Coastal Plain Wetlands MLRAs. (See Figure 6-1)

Agricultural line is generally not required where only trees are planted.

Initial fertilization, nitrogen, topdressing, and maintenance fertilizer rates are listed in Table 6-5.1 or combination of species are listed in Table 6-5.1.

Lime and Fertilizer Application
When hydraulic seeding equipment is used, the initial fertilizer shall be applied to the seed. Inoculant (if needed), and wood cellulose or wood pulp fiber mulch shall be applied in a slurry. The inoculant, if needed, shall be mixed with the seed prior to being placed in the hydraulic seeder. The slurry mixture will be agitated during application to keep the ingredients thoroughly mixed. The mixture will be spread uniformly over the surface within one hour after being placed in the hydroseeder.

Fine ground limestone can be applied to the machinery or in combination with the top dressing.

When conventional seeding is being done, lime and fertilizer shall be applied uniformly in one of the following ways:
- Apply before or during the seeding operation.
- Apply before and during the seeding operation.
- Apply after the seed has been applied with the soil during seedbed preparation.
- Apply after the seed has been applied with the soil during seedbed preparation.
- Apply after the seed has been applied with the soil during seedbed preparation.

Irrigation
Irrigation will be applied at a rate that will not cause runoff.

Topdressing
Topdressing will be applied on all temporary and permanent (perennial) species planted alone or in mixtures with other species. Recommended rates of application are listed in Table 6-5.1.

Second Year and Maintenance Fertilization
Second year fertilizer rates and maintenance fertilizer rates are listed in Table 6-5.1.

Ds3 CONTINUED

Ryegrass shall not be used in any seeding mixtures containing perennial species due to its ability to out-compete desired species chosen for permanent perennial cover.

Seed Quality
The term "pure live seed" is used to express the quality of seed and is not shown on the label. Pure live seed, PLS, is expressed as a percent. Any of the seeds that are pure and will germinate. Information on percent germination and purity can be found on seed tags. PLS is determined by multiplying the percent of pure seed with the percent of germination, i.e.

$(PLS = \% \text{ germination} \times \% \text{ purity})$
Common Bermuda seed 70% germination, 80% purity
PLS = 70% germination x 80% purity PLS = 56%
The percent of PLS helps you determine the amount of seed you need. If the seeding rate is 10 pounds PLS, and the bulk seed is 56% PLS, the bulk seeding rate is:
 $10 \text{ lbs. PLS} \div .56 = 17.9 \text{ lbs. bulk}$
- You would need to plant 17.9 lbs. bulk to provide 10 lbs. of pure live seed.

Seedbed Preparation
Seedbed preparation may not be required where hydraulic seeding and fertilizing equipment is to be used. If conventional seeding is used, grade and shape where feasible and practical, so that equipment can be used safely and efficiently during seedbed preparation, seeding, mulching and maintenance of the vegetation.

Broadcast Plantings
- Tillage, at a minimum, shall adequately loosen the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches; alleviate compaction; incorporate line and fertilizer; smooth and firm the soil after for the proper placement of seed, sprigs, or plants; and allow for the anchoring of straw or hay mulch if a disk is to be used.
- Tillage may be done with any suitable equipment.
- Tillage should be done on the contour where feasible.
- On slopes too steep for the safe operation of tillage equipment, the soil surface shall be plowed or trenched across the slope with appropriate hand tools to provide two places 6 to 8 inches apart in which seed may lodge and germinate. Hydraulic seeding may also be used.

Individual Plants
- Where individual plants are to be set, the soil shall be prepared by excavating holes, opening furrows, or dibble planting.
- For nursery stock plants, holes shall be large enough to accommodate roots without crowding. Where pine seedlings are to be planted, subsoil under the row 36 inches deep on the contour. For six months prior to planting, subsoiling should be done when the soil is dry, preferably in August or September.

Inoculants
All legume seed shall be inoculated with appropriate nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The inoculant shall be a pure culture prepared specifically for the seed species and used within the dates on the label. A mixing medium recommended by the manufacturer shall be used to bond the inoculant to the seed. For conventional seeding, use twice the amount of inoculant recommended by the manufacturer. For hydraulic seeding, use four times the amount of inoculant recommended by the manufacturer shall be used.

All inoculated seed shall be protected from the sun and high temperatures and shall be planted the same day inoculated. No inoculated seed shall remain in the hydroseeder longer than one hour.

Planting
Hydraulic Seeding
Mix the seed (inoculated if needed), fertilizer, and wood cellulose or wood pulp fiber mulch with water and apply in a slurry uniformly over the area to be treated. Apply within one hour after the mixture is made.
Conventional Seeding
Seeding will be done on a freshly prepared and firmed seedbed. For broadcast planting, use a culti-packer seeder, drill, rotary seeder, or other mechanical seeder, or hand seeding to distribute the seed uniformly over the area to be treated. Cover the seed lightly with 1/8 to 1/4 inch of soil for small seed and 1/2 to 1 inch for large seed when using a culti-packer or other suitable equipment.

No-ill Seeding
No-ill seeding is permissible into annual cover or crops when planting is done following maturity of the cover crop or if the temporary cover stand is sparse enough to allow adequate growth of the permanent (perennial) species. No-ill seed bed shall be done with appropriate no-ill seeding equipment. The seed must be uniformly distributed and planted at the proper depth.

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PLANTS, PLANTING RATES, AND PLANTING DATES FOR TEMPORARY COVER OR COMPANION CROPS															
SPECIES	BROADCAST RATES PER ACRE	3/PLS PER 1000 FT2	AREA 4/	PLANTING DATES BY RESOURCE AREAS (DOUBLE LINES INDICATE OPTIMUM DATES, SINGLE LINES INDICATE PERMISSIBLE BUT MARGINAL DATES.)											
				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ds2 BARLEY (Hordeum vulgare) ALONE 3 bu. 3.3lbs. P (144lbs.) IN MIXTURES 1/2 bu. 0.6lbs. LESPEDeza ANNUAL (Lespedeza bicolor) ALONE 40 lbs. 0.9lbs. P IN MIXTURES 10 lbs. 0.2lbs.															14,000 SEED PER POUND. WINTER HARDY. USE ON PRODUCTIVE SOILS.
															200,000 SEED PER POUND. NOT SUITABLE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. USE INOCULANT EL.
															1,500,000 SEED PER POUND. MAY LAST FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MIX WITH SERICEA LESPEDEZA.
															137,000 SEED PER POUND. QUICK DENSE COVER. WILL PROVIDE TOO MUCH COMPETITION IN MIXTURES IF SEEDING AT HIGH RATES.
															88,000 SEED PER POUND. QUICK DENSE COVER. WILL REACH 5" IN HEIGHT. NOT RECOMMENDED FOR MIXTURES.
															13,000 SEED PER POUND. USE ON PRODUCTIVE SITES. NOT AS WINTER HARDY AS RYE OR BARLEY.
															15,000 SEED PER POUND. QUICK DENSE COVER. DROUGHT TOLERANT. WINTER HARDY.
															16,000 SEED PER POUND. QUICK DENSE COVER. DROUGHT TOLERANT. WINTER HARDY.
															227,000 SEED PER POUND. DENSE COVER. COMPETITIVE AGAINST WEEDS. NOT TO BE USED IN MIXTURES.
															15,000 SEED PER POUND. WINTER HARDY.

1. TEMPORARY COVER CROPS ARE VERY COMPETITIVE AND WILL GROW OUT PERENNIALS IF SEEDED TOO HEAVILY.
2. REDUCE SEEDING RATES BY 50% WHEN DRILLED.
3. PLS IS AN ABBREVIATION FOR PURE LIVE SEED.
4. P REPRESENTS THE SOUTHERN PIEDMONT MLRA.

MAINTENANCE STATEMENT:
ALL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES WILL BE CHECKED DAILY AND ANY DEFICIENCIES NOTED WILL BE CORRECTED BY THE END OF EACH DAY.
ADDITIONAL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES WILL BE INSTALLED IF DEEMED NECESSARY AFTER ON-SITE INSPECTION BY THE ISSUING AUTHORITY.

INSTALLATION STATEMENT:
THE INSTALLATION OF EROSION CONTROL MEASURES AND PRACTICES SHALL TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO OR CONCURRENT WITH LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES.

ALL CUT AND FILL SLOPES MUST BE SURFACED ROUGHENED AND VEGETATED WITHIN (3) DAYS OF THEIR COMPLETION.

ALL FILL SLOPES WILL HAVE SILT FENCE AT TOE OF SLOPE. - CLEARING LIMITS SHALL BE CLEARLY DELINEATED WITH EITHER TREE SAVE FENCE OR OTHER SUITABLE MEANS.

Table 6-5.1 Fertilizer Requirements				
TYPE OF SPECIES	YEAR	ANALYSIS OR EQUIVALENT N-P-K	RATE	N TOP DRESSING RATE
1. Cool season grasses	First Second Maintenance	6-12-12 6-12-12 10-10-10	1500 lbs. / ac. 1000 lbs. / ac. 400 lbs. / ac.	30-30 50-100 lbs. / ac. 1/2
2. Cool season grasses and legumes	First Second Maintenance	6-12-12 10-10-10 10-10-10	1500 lbs. / ac. 1000 lbs. / ac. 	