

Temporary Seeding

Temporary seeding and mulching is without a doubt the most cost effective erosion and sediment control measure. Not only is it the most effective way to treat large areas of unstable soil, it can be used in almost every possible situation. Stream banks, drainage ways, ditches, road cuts, utility right-of-ways, detention basins, new construction, and timber harvest sites can all be treated with temporary seeding and straw mulching.

Temporary seeding and mulching can be applied at **anytime** of the year and still be effective. As long as the ground is not covered with snow, the straw mulching can stabilize the soil until the root systems of the grass can become established. Hydroseeding has quickest seed germination rates, but seed accompanied with straw mulching provides both instant and long term erosion control.

ODNR Temporary Seeding Specifications

Temporary Seeding Species Selection			
Seeding Dates	Species	Lb./1,000 ft. ²	Per Ac.
March 1 to August 15	Oats	3	4 bushel
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lb.
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40 lb.
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40 lb.
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lb.
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40 lb.
August 16 to November 1	Rye	3	2 bushel
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lb.
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40 lb.
	Wheat	3	2 bushel
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lb.
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40 lb.
	Perennial Ryegrass	1	40 lb.
	Tall Fescue	1	40 lb.
	Annual Ryegrass	1	40 lb.
November 1 to Spring Seeding	Use heavy straw-mulch & dormant seeding, wood chips, or permanent sodding.		

Note: Other approved seed species may be substituted.



Once the utilities are in place in a subdivision, seeded right-of-ways are expected to be installed by the developer and maintained by the homebuilder until a permanent lawn can be put in.



The grass from the hydro-seeding at this site was fully established three weeks after it was applied with little precipitation.



These photos were taken near a stream crossing before and after proper seeding and straw mulching BMPs were implemented.

Straw Mulching

Mulching is an essential element in erosion control. It prevents rain droplets from detaching soil particles from exposed areas as well as retaining the necessary moisture needed for the germination and growth of seeded areas of a disturbed soil site. Once wet or packed under snow, straw mulch also locks itself into the soil thus stabilizing the surface layer and preventing soil detachment from initiating.

Straw is the most common and cost effective mulch and is highly recommended for all sites. In areas that have steep grades or are prone to high winds and/or concentrate surface water flows, stapped **fiber matting** and meshes should be used, as they are less prone to blow or washed away. **Wood chips** are another cost effective alternative which when used in conjunction with a silt fence can be very effective. Wood chips are often readily available on most construction sites.

Sublots: mulching the temporary seeding of a subplot shall extend the length of curb at a minimum width of 30 feet from the curb. Mulching shall remain on site from the time the initial clearing is done on the site to the completion of the landscaping by the homeowner. Note: **1 straw bale per 10 feet of curb** is the minimum amount of mulching for a single lot to adequately cover the 30 foot wide temporary seeding area. Example: 100' of lot frontage, a minimum of 10 bails is required.

ODNR Rainwater and Land Development Manual Specifications:

- Applications of temporary seeding shall include mulch *immediately* after seeding.
- Straw shall be unrotted and small grained. It shall be applied at a rate of 2 tons/acre or 90lbs /1,000 sq. ft.
- For **subplot** seeding, straw shall be applied at a minimum rate of **1 bale per every 10 feet of curb, at a width of 30 feet of the entire length of the lot.**
- Straw mulch shall be anchored immediately to minimize loss by wind or water. Anchoring methods include crimping, netting, matting, or synthetic binders or tackifiers. See product recommendations and specification for complete details.
- **Hydro seeders-** If wood cellulose fiber is used, it shall be used at 2,000lb/ac. or 46lb./1,000 sq. ft. All hydro-seeding shall be cover with above specified straw mulch rates.
- **Wood chips** applied at 6 dry tons per acre may also be used. A minimum thickness of 4 inches of chips must be applied to an area 30 feet from the curb. Additionally, silt fence must be installed on the perimeter of the subplot to prevent wood chips from washing off site.



The straw-mulch in this photo was applied on top of a dormant seed in late November and met the minimum width requirement of 30 feet.



This photo was taken the second week of February. The straw protected the exposed soil until the underlying grass seed could germinate in the second week of March.



Neither seed nor straw mulch was used on this subplot at any point during the construction phase of this project. Subsequently, sediment was allowed to wash into the storm sewer system and ultimately directly into Lake Erie.