

Temporary Seeding

Temporary seeding establishes 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.

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.

ODNR Temporary Seeding Specifications

Specifications for
Temporary Seeding

Table 7.8.1 Temporary Seeding Species Selection

Seeding Dates	Species	Lb./1000 ft ²	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 (8 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	

Note: Other approved species may be substituted.
Use much only or dormant seeding

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Soil Amendments—Temporary vegetation seeding rates shall establish adequate stands of vegetation, which may require the use of soil amendments. Rate rates for lime and fertilizer shall be used.
- 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.



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.

Mulching

A protective layer of mulch, usually of straw, applied to bare soil is used to abate erosion by shielding it from raindrop impact. Mulch also helps establish vegetation by conserving moisture and creating favorable conditions for seeds to germinate.

Mulch should be used liberally throughout construction to limit the areas that are bare and susceptible to erosion. Mulch can be used in conjunction with seeding to establish vegetation or by itself to provide erosion control when the season does not allow grass to grow. Mulch and other vegetative practices must be applied on all disturbed portions of construction- sites that will not be re-disturbed for more than 21 days.

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.



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.

Specifications for Mulching

1. Mulch and other appropriate vegetative practices shall be applied to disturbed areas within 7 days of grading if the area is to remain dormant (undisturbed) for more than 21 days or on areas and portions of the site which can be brought to final grade.
2. Mulch shall consist of one of the following:
 - Straw - Straw shall be unrotted small grain straw applied at the rate of 2 tons/ac. or 90 lb./1,000 sq. ft. (two to three bales). The straw mulch shall be spread uniformly by hand or mechanically so the soil surface is covered. For uniform distribution of hand-spread mulch, divide area into approximately 1,000 sq. ft. sections and place two 45-lb. bales of straw in each section.
 - Hydroseeders - Wood cellulose fiber should be used at 2,000 lb./ac. or 46 lb./1,000 sq. ft.
 - Other - Acceptable mulches include mulch matings and rolled erosion control products applied according to manufacturer's recommendations or wood mulch/chips applied at 10-20 tons/ac.
3. Mulch Anchoring - Mulch shall be anchored immediately to minimize loss by wind or runoff. The following are acceptable methods for anchoring mulch.
 - Mechanical - Use a disk, crimper, or similar type tool set straight to punch or anchor the mulch material into the soil. Straw mechanically anchored shall not be finely chopped but be left generally longer than 6 inches.
 - Mulch Nettings - Use according to the manufacturer's recommendations, following all placement and anchoring requirements. Use in areas of water concentration and steep slopes to hold mulch in place.
 - Synthetic Binders - For straw mulch, synthetic binders such as Acrylic DLR (Agri-Tac), DCA-70, Petrosel, Terra Tack or equal may be used at rates recommended by the manufacturer. All applications of Synthetic Binders must be conducted in such a manner where there is no contact with waters of the state.
 - Wood Cellulose Fiber - Wood cellulose fiber may be used for anchoring straw. The fiber binder shall be applied at a net dry weight of 750 lb./acre. The wood cellulose fiber shall be mixed with water and the mixture shall contain a maximum of 50 lb./100 gal. of wood cellulose fiber.