

INSTALLATION

Temporary Seeding:

- Test soil to determine pH nutrient levels.
- Apply soil amendments as recommended by the soil test. If testing is not done, apply 400 to 600 pounds per acre of 12-12-12 analysis fertilizer, or equivalent.
- Work the soil amendments into the upper two to four inches of the soil with a disk or rake across the slope.
- Mulch alone is an acceptable temporary cover and may be used in lieu of temporary seeding, provided that it is appropriately anchored.
- Monitor for erosion damage and adequate cover. Reseed, fertilize, and apply mulch when and where necessary.
- Make sure the sites stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) is always followed for temporary seeding procedures. If the procedures outlined in the SWPPP do not adequately stabilize the site, it will be necessary to modify the SWPPP to meet the conditions of the site.

Table 2. Temporary seeding Specifications

Seed Species	Rate per Acre	Optimum Dates ¹
Wheat or Rye	150 lbs.	Sept. 15 - Oct. 30
Spring Oats	100 lbs.	March 1 - April 15
Annual Ryegrass	40 lbs.	March 1 - May Aug. 1 - Sept. 1
German Millet	40 lbs.	May 1 - June 1
Sudangrass	35 lbs.	May 1 - July 30
Buckwheat	60 lbs.	April 15 - June 1
Sorghum	35 lbs.	May 1 - July 15

¹Seeding done outside the optimum seeding dates increases the chances of seeding failure.

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TEMPORARY SEEDING AND MULCHING



Temporary seeding involves the establishment of rapid-growth annual grasses or small grains to stabilize disturbed areas until such time as a permanent, non-erosive cover can be established. Mulching is the application of plant residues like straw or wood chips to enhance and protect vegetative establishment and minimize erosion potential.

Overview:

- Temporary seeding and mulching provides vegetative cover where permanent seeding is not desirable or practical.
- Temporary seeding reduces sediment-laden stormwater runoff from being transported to downstream areas and waterways.
- Bare soil in excavated or fill areas must be seeded, mulched, or covered immediately after final grading work is completed.
- Mulching provides temporary surface stabilization.
- Mulching conserves soil moisture, moderates soil temperature, and promotes seed germination and seeding growth.

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Mulching:

- Apply mulch at the recommended rate shown in Table 1.
- Spread the mulch material uniformly using hands, hayfork, mulch blower, or hydraulic mulch machine.
- Anchor straw or hay mulch immediately after application. Acceptable methods to stabilize much include:
 - Crimp with a mulch anchoring tool, a weighted farm disk with dull serrated blades set straight, or track cleats of a small bulldozer
 - Apply hydraulic mulch with short cellulose fibers
 - Apply a liquid tackifier/straw binder
 - Cover with netting secured by staples
- Mulching is not recommended in concentrated flows such as ditches, channels, swales, and at pipe discharges. Consider erosion control blankets or other more protective measures.
- Make sure the sites stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) is always followed for mulching procedures. If the procedures outlined in the SWPPP do not adequately stabilize the site, it will be necessary to modify the SWPPP to meet the conditions of the site.

Table 1. Mulch Specifications

Material	Rate per Acre	Comments
Straw or hay	2 tons	Should be dry, free of undesirable seeds. Spread by hand or machine. Must be crimped or anchored.
Wood fiber or cellulose	1 ton	Apply with a hydraulic mulch machine and use with tacking agent

EXAMPLES



Example of temporary seeding to cover open areas where construction is not taking place.



Straw applied evenly over newly seeded areas to provide temporary erosion control.



Temporary seed and mulch not applied to the slope. Erosion of soil occurs during rain event.



Straw mulch being placed by hand over bare soil.



Hydro seeding applied to bare soil to speed up slope stabilization.

Temporary seeding and mulching is a cost-effective erosion and sediment control measure. It can be used in many locations including stream banks, drainage ways, ditches, road cuts, utility right-of-ways, detention basins, and new construction sites.