Temporary Seeding (TS)

Definition

Establishment of temporary stand of grass and/or legumes by seeding and mulching soils that will be exposed for a period greater than 1 month but less than 12 months.

Purpose

To temporarily stabilize the soil and reduce damage from wind and/or water erosion and sedimentation until permanent stabilization is accomplished.

Applicability

- Within the first 7 days of suspending work on a grading operation that exposes erodible soils where such suspension is expected to last for 1 to 12 months. Such areas include soil stockpiles, borrow pits, road banks and other disturbed or unstable areas.
- Not for use on areas that are to be left dormant for more than 1 year. Use permanent vegetative measures in those situations.

Specifications

Seed Selection

Select grass species appropriate for the season and site conditions from **Figure TS-2**.

Timing Considerations

Seed with a temporary seed mixture within 7 days after the suspension of grading work in disturbed areas where the suspension of work is expected to be more than 30 days but less than 1 year. Seeding outside the optimum seeding dates given in **Figure TS-2** may result in either inadequate germination or low plant survival rates, reducing erosion control effectiveness.

Site Preparation

Install needed erosion control measures such as diversions, grade stabilization structures, sediment basins and grassed waterways in accordance with the approved plan.

Grade according to plans and allow for the use of appropriate equipment for seedbed preparation, seeding, mulch application, and mulch anchoring. All grading should be done in accordance with the **Land Grading** measure.

Seedbed Preparation

Loosen the soil to a depth of 3-4 inches with a slightly roughened surface. If the area has been recently loosened or disturbed, no further roughening is required. Soil preparation can be accomplished by tracking with a bulldozer, discing, harrowing, raking or dragging with a section of chain link fence. Avoid excessive compaction of the surface by equipment traveling back and forth over the surface. If the slope is tracked, the cleat marks shall be perpendicular to the anticipated direction of the flow of surface water (see **Surface Roughening** measure).

Apply ground limestone and fertilizer according to soil test recommendations (such as those offered by the University of Connecticut Soil Testing Laboratory or other reliable source). Soil sample mailers are available from the local Cooperative Extension System office. Appendix E contains a listing of the Cooperative Extension System offices.

If soil testing is not feasible on small or variable sites, or where timing is critical, fertilizer may be applied at the rate of 300 pounds per acre or 7.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet of 10-10-10 or equivalent. Additionally, lime may be applied using rates given in **Figure TS-1**.

Figure TS-1 Soil Texture vs. Liming Rates

Soil Texture	Tons / Acre of Lime	Lbs / 1000 ft^2 of Lime
Clay, clay loam and high organic soil	3	135
Sandy loam, loam, silt loam	2	90
Loamy sand, sand	1	45

Seeding

Apply seed uniformly by hand, cyclone seeder, drill, cultipacker type seeder or hydroseeder at a minimum rate for the selected seed identified in **Figure TS-2**. Increase seeding rates by 10% when hydroseeding.

Mulching

Temporary seedings made during optimum seeding dates shall be mulched according to the **Mulch for Seed** measure. Note when seeding outside of the optimum seeding dates, increase the application of mulch to provide 95%-100% coverage.

Maintenance

Inspect seeded area at least once a week and within 24 hours of the end of a storm with a rainfall amount of 0.5 inch or greater for seed and mulch movement and rill erosion.

Where seed has moved or where soil erosion has occurred, determine the cause of the failure. Bird feeding may be a problem if mulch was applied too thinly to protect seed. Re-seed and re- mulch. If movement was the result of wind, then repair erosion damage (if any), reapply seed and mulch and apply mulch anchoring. If failure was caused by concentrated runoff, install additional measures to control water and sediment movement, repair erosion damage, re-seed and re-apply mulch with anchoring or use **Temporary Erosion Control Blanket** measure.

Continue inspections until the grasses are firmly established. Grasses shall not be considered established until a ground cover is achieved which is mature enough to control soil erosion and to survive severe weather conditions (approximately 80% vegetative surface cover).

Figure TS-2 Temporary Seeding Rates and Dates

Species[4]	Seeding Rates (pounds) /Acre	Seeding Rates (pounds) /1000 sq. ft.	Optimum Seed Depth[2] (Inches)	Optimum Seeding Dates[1] 3/1 4/1 5/1 6/1 7/1 8/1 9/1 10/1 (3/15 4/15 5/15 6/15 7/15 8/15 9/15 10/15)	Plant Characteristics
Annual ryegrass Lolium multiflorum	40	1.0	0.5		May be added in mixes. Will mow out of most stands
Perennial ryegrass Lolium perenne	40	1.0	0.5		Use for winter cover. Tolerates cold and low moisture.
Winter Rye Secale cereale	120	3.0	1.0		Quick germination and heavy spring growth. Dies back in June with little regrowth.
Oats Avena sativa	86	2.0	1.0		In northern CT. will winter kill with the first killing frost and may throughout the state in severe winters.
Winter Wheat Triticum aestivum	120	3.0	1.0		Quick germination with moderate growth. Dies back in June with no regrowth.
Millet Echinochloa crusgalli	20	0.5	1.0		Warm season small grain. Dies with frost in September.
Sudangrass Sorghum sudanense	30	0.7	1.0		Tolerates warm temperatures and droughty conditions.
Buckwheat Fagopyrum esculentum	15	0.4	1.0		Hardy plant that will reseed itself and is good as a green manure crop.
Weeping lovegrass Eragostis curbula	5	0.2	0.25		Warm-season perennial. May bunch. Tolerates hot, dry slopes, acid infertile soils. Excellent nurse crop. Usually winter kills.
DOT All Purpose Mix[3]	150	3.4	0.5		Suitable for all conditions.

[1] May be planted throughout summer if soil moisture is adequate or can be irrigated. Fall seeding may be extended 15 days in the coastal towns.
[2] Seed at twice the indicated depth for sandy soils.
[3] See Permanent Seeding **Figure PS-3** for seeding mixture requirements.
[4] Listed species may be used in combinations to obtain a broader time spectrum. If used in combinations, reduce each species planting rate by 20% of that listed.

Source: USDA–NRCS