

Critical Area Planting

All other disturbed Areas

**(Supplement to: Construction Specification MN-6
Seeding, Sprigging and Mulching)**

Ground exposed during urban development or in areas such as earth fills, borrows area or stockpiles should be protected from wind or water erosion with mulch vegetation. The procedure outlined here has proven to be helpful in growing dense tough sod.



Establishing Perennial Vegetative Cover

1. Carry out the seedbed preparation and complete the seeding as soon as possible. Any delay increases the chances of erosion damage. When grading and shaping are completed after September 10th apply protective mulch and delay seeding until the following spring.
2. Prepare a seedbed. Use ordinary tillage methods where slopes are not excessive. On steep side slopes, tillage equipment, such as a disk or a section of a spike tooth harrow, may need to be pulled on an extended chain or cable while the power unit operates on a more level area at the top of the slope. Tillage should be to a depth of three or four inches
3. Steep slopes may prevent the operation of the regular farm equipment used for fertilizing and seeding. On such areas a cyclone seeder can be used or it may be spread by hand. Mixing the grass with a carrier such as sawdust will give a more even distribution and make seeding easier than if done alone.
4. An application of fertilizer is normally needed except when warm season native grasses are used; however, it must be thoroughly incorporated into the soil. Chemical fertilizer applied should be incorporated into the top four inches of soil during seedbed preparation.

RECOMMENDED FERTILIZER:

NITROGEN	<u>80</u>	lbs per Acre
PHOSPHORUS	<u>80</u>	lbs per Acre
POTASH	<u>80</u>	lbs per Acre

5. Recommended seed mixture:

<u>Kind of Grass</u>		<u>Seeding Rate (PLS)</u>
Smooth Brome	20	lbs per Acre (Pure Live Seed)
Perennial Rye	3	lbs per Acre (Pure Live Seed)
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6. **Mulching** A surface mulch of straw or grass hay will provide protection against erosion damage until the grass becomes established. Mature hay which contains seed is also excellent mulch material. Anchor the mulch into the soil with a weighted disk or secure with mulch net or tack down with asphalt. See Construction Specification MN-6 Seeding, Sprigging and Mulching for more information on mulching.
7. Restrict mowing until after a good sod is established.
8. Maintain the vegetative cover by applying fertilizer as recommended.

Fertilizer recommendations:

NITROGEN	<u>80</u>	lbs per Acre
PHOSPHORUS	<u>80</u>	lbs per Acre
POTASH	<u>80</u>	lbs per Acre

TEMPORARY COVER

Work up the seedbed and fertilizer the same as above. Plant one of the following temporary forage mixtures:

Annual Ryegrass – 30lb/acre (0.75 lb/1000 sq. ft.) Pure Live Seed
 White Clover – 5lb/acre (0.15lb/1000 sq. ft.) Pure Live Seed

or

Oats – 100 lb/acre (2.5lb/1000 sq. ft.) Pure Live Seed

Temporary cover should be replaced with perennial cover as soon as possible. Disk or mow the cover short and prepare a firm seedbed with a minimum disturbance of temporary cover.

NOTE: 40 is the factor to use in converting lbs per acre to approximate lbs per 1000 sq. ft.

Example: 100lbs/acre = 100/40 = 2.5 lbs. per 1000 square feet (approximately)