

NON-VEGETATIVE STABILIZATION MULCHING

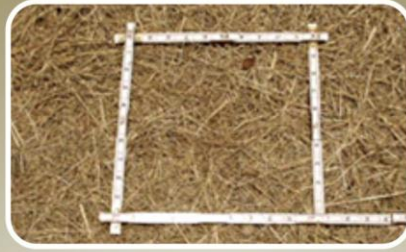


Photo credit: Maine DOT.

Example of adequate mulch coverage on 1sq.ft area.



Photo credit: Barry Tanning, Tetra Tech

Slope stabilization using mulch and mulch nets.



Provided to you by Calcasieu Parish
Police Jury Environmental Department



USE: Provide temporary stabilization of soil, increase infiltration, prevent soil compaction and decrease surface runoff. Used in conjunction with vegetative stabilization controls such as seeding, mulching can foster vegetative growth.

DESIGN CRITERIA:

- Apply mulch to any part of the site where soil has been disturbed and protective vegetation has been removed.
- On steeper slopes where the mulch is susceptible to movement by wind or water, mulch material should be hydraulically applied or the straw mulch should be appropriately anchored.
- Mulch should not be applied more than 2 inches deep on seeded sites, unless it is incorporated into the soil by tracking, disking, or other 'punching in' techniques.
- Mulch is not to be used in areas of concentrated flow.

INSTALLATION:

- Evenly distribute mulch on the soil surface, by machine or by hand to the desired depth.
- For applying straw to seeded sites, apply 1.5-2 tons/acre, 1-2 inches deep, covering 80% of the soil surface. For applying straw to unseeded sites, apply 2-3 tons/acre, 2-4 inches deep, covering at least 90% of the soil surface. For bark mulch, apply at a rate of approximately 6 tons/acre, at a depth of 2-3 inches. For hydraulic mulch mix, apply at rate of 1.5 tons/ac, mixed with seed and fertilizer, at recommended rates, in order to achieve uniform, effective coverage.
 - Anchor mulch as necessary to minimize loss by wind or water. Common anchoring techniques for hay or straw include crimping, tracking, disking, or punching into the soil, and spraying with asphaltic or organic tackifier.

MAINTENANCE:

If properly applied and anchored, little additional maintenance is required in the first 2-3 months. After high winds or significant storms, mulched areas should be checked for adequate cover and re-mulched if necessary.

OTHER TIPS:

Hay mulch has potential for introducing weed seed (unwanted plant material). Straw tends to contain very few seeds and thus is less likely to contaminate the site. On small sites (e.g., under one acre), where straw has been distributed by hand, it can be anchored by hand by punching it into the soil every 1-2 feet with a dull, round-nosed shovel.