



BMP of the Month (JUNE): Permanent vegetation

Submitted by Kate Wilson for SEEP

The purpose of establishing vegetation is to reduce erosion and sedimentation and to establish desirable plant species. This practice uses prescribed vegetation that will hold the soils, reduce stormwater runoff and act as a filtering system on long-term basis.

- Temporary seeding should be considered as slope protection and an erosion control practice for construction sites.
- Permanent seeding should be considered for any disturbed area where all construction or maintenance activities have ceased and is now ready for permanent vegetative cover.
- Grass can be established by seeding or sodding. Seeding is generally preferred because of the lower cost and greater flexibility in selecting grass species.
- Sodding is appropriate for any graded or cleared area that might erode and where a permanent, long-lived plant cover is needed immediately. Sod is often available only in limited varieties, which may not be the most suitable for erosion control and other purposes unless grown to order.
- Planting is the preferred method of revegetation where:
 - ✓ Any finished slope that will remain undisturbed for at least ten years, especially if the area is bordered by forests, wetlands or other naturally occurring woody vegetation
 - ✓ Extremely rocky slopes or sites
 - ✓ Streets or materials source sites that have been abandoned permanently
 - ✓ All types of landscaping, including urban thoroughfares and interchanges, and residential streets where landscape aesthetics are a concern
 - ✓ Wetlands and wildlife habitat areas where it may be critical to plant the desired species initially, so that the site is not overrun by weeds or undesirable plant species that detract from the intended use of the site
- Permanent seeding should be conducted in conjunction with various forms of mulching, matting and annual grass (cereal grain) as a nurse crop.
- Make sure that planting sites are adequately graded and that tree locations and planting areas (for shrubs, vines, and ground covers) are marked and approved before planting begins.
- Irrigation may have to be used in low precipitation area (arid/semi-arid) for establishment.

- Inspect all vegetated areas on a regular basis and after each major storm event to check for areas where corrective measures may have to be made.
- If possible, use species that are native to the area. Native species provide long-term soil stabilization which is aesthetically harmonious with natural vegetation and which requires little long-term maintenance

For more information on SEEP, please see: <http://www.plrcd.org/SEEP/>