Standard Detail & Specifications

Mulching

1. Materials and Amounts

a. *Straw* - Straw shall be unrotted small grain straw applied at the rate of 1-1/2 to 2 tons per acre, or 70 to 90 pounds (two bales) per 1,000 square feet. Mulch materials shall be relatively free of weeds and shall be free of noxious weeds such as; thistles, Johnsongrass, and quackgrass. Spread mulch uniformly by hand or mechanically. For uniform distribution of hand spread mulch, divide area into approximately 1,000 square feet sections and place 70-90 pounds (two bales) of mulch in each section.

b. *Wood chips* - Apply at the rate of approximately 6 tons per acre or 275 pounds per 1,000 square feet when available and when feasible. These are particularly well suited for utility and road rights-of-way. If wood chips are used, increase the application rate of nitrogen fertilizer by 20 pounds of N per acre (200 pounds of 10-10-10 or 66 pounds of 30-0-0 per acre).

c. *Hydraulically applied mulch* -The following conditions apply to hydraulically applied mulch:

i. Definitions:

a. Wood fiber mulch shall consist of specially prepared wood that has been processed to a uniform state, is packaged for sale as a hydraulic mulch for use with hydraulic seeding equipment, and consists of a minimum of 70% virgin or recycled wood fiber combined with 30% paper fiber and additives.

b. Blended fiber mulch shall consist of any hydraulic mulch that contains greater than 30% paper fiber. The paper component must consist of specially prepared paper that has been processed to a uniform fibrous state and is packaged for sale as a hydraulic mulch for use with hydraulic seeding equipment.

c. A bonded fiber matrix (BFM) consists of long strand, specially prepared wood fibers that have been processed to a uniform state held together by a water resistant bonding agent. BFMs shall contain no paper (cellulose) mulch but may contain small percentages of synthetic fibers to enhance performance.

d. Refer to **Figure 3.4.5a** for conditions and limitations of use for each of the above categories of hydraulic mulch.

ii. All components of the hydraulically applied mulches shall be pre-packaged by the manufacturer to assure material performance. Field mixing of the mulch components is acceptable, but must be done per manufacturers recommendations to ensure the proper results.

iii. Hydraulic mulches shall be applied with a viable seed and at manufacturer's recommended rates. Increased rates may be necessary based on site conditions.

iv. Hydraulically applied mulches and additives shall be mixed according to manufacturers recommendations.

iv. Materials within this category shall only be used when hydraulically applied mulch has been specified for use on the approved Sediment and Stormwater Plan, or supplemental approval from the plan approval agency has been obtained in writing for a specific area.

v. Application:
   a. Apply product to geotechnically stable slopes that have been designed and constructed to divert runoff away from the face of the slope.
   b. Do not apply to saturated soils, or if precipitation is anticipated within 24-48 hours.
   c. During the spring (March 1 to May 31) and fall (September 1 to November 30) seasons, hydraulic mulches may be applied in a one-step process where all components are mixed together in single-tank loads. It is recommended that the product be applied from opposing directions to achieve optimum soil coverage.
   d. During the summer (June 1 to August 31) and winter (December 1 to February 28) seasons, the following two-step process is required:
      Step One– Mix and apply seed and soil amendments with a small amount of mulch for visual metering.
      Step Two – Mix and apply mulch at manufacturers recommended rates over freshly seeded surfaces. Apply from opposing directions to achieve optimum soil coverage.
   e. Minimum curing temperature is 40^0 F (4^0 C). The best results and more rapid curing are achieved at temperatures exceeding 60^0F (15^0C). Curing times may be accelerated in high temperature, low humidity conditions on dry soils.

vi. Recommended application rates are for informational purposes only. Conformance with this standard and specification shall be performance-based and requires **100% soil coverage**. Any areas with bare soil showing shall be top dressed until full coverage is achieved.

d. *Compost blanket (CB)* - Loosely applied with a pneumatic blower so that a 1" compost blanket uniformly covers the **soil with 100% coverage**. This application can be used with seed to promote germination by applying the approved seed mix directly into the loosely blown compost. The compost blanket performs best on slopes less than 2:1 and requires no mulch anchoring.

2. Anchoring mulch - Mulch must be anchored immediately to minimize loss by wind or water. This may be done by one of the following methods, depending upon size of area, erosion hazard, and cost.

a. *Crimping* - A crimper is a tractor drawn implement designed to punch and anchor mulch into the top two (2) inches of soil. This practice affords maximum erosion control but is limited to flatter slopes where equipment can operate safely. On sloping land, crimping should be done on the contour whenever possible.

b. *Tracking* - Tracking is the process of cutting mulch (usually straw) into the soil using a bulldozer or other equipment that runs on cleated tracks. Tracking is used primarily on slopes 3:1 or steeper and should be done up and down the slope with cleat marks running across the slope.

c. *Liquid mulch binders* - Applications of liquid mulch binders should be heavier at edges, in valleys, and at crests of banks and other areas where the mulch will be moved by wind or water. All other areas should have a uniform application of binder. The use of synthetic binders is the preferred method of mulch binding and should be applied at the rates recommended by the manufacturer.

d. *Paper fiber* - The fiber binder shall be applied at a net dry weight of 750 lbs/ac. The wood cellulose fiber shall be mixed with water, and the mixture shall contain a maximum of 50 lbs. of wood cellulose fiber per 100 gallons.

e. *Nettings* - Biodegradable nettings may be used to secure straw mulch. Install and secure according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Photodegradable or synthetic nettings are not acceptable.

Standard Detail & Specifications

Mulching

MULCHING MATERIAL SELECTION GUIDE					
Percent Slope	**Type of Mulch / App. Rate***	**Dec. 1 to Feb. 28(29)**	**March 1 to May 31**	**June 1 to Aug. 31**	**Sept. 1 to Nov. 30**
Less than 2%	Blended Fiber @ 2000 lbs/ac. minimum	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK (≤ 1 ac.)	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK (≤ 1 ac.)
	Wood Fiber @ 2000 lbs/ac. min.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK
	BFM @ 3000 lbs/ac. min.	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Straw @ 2 Tons/ac. Min.	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Stabilization Matting**	OK	OK	OK	OK
	1" Compost Blanket (CB)	OK	OK	OK	OK
2% to 5.9%	Wood Fiber @ 2000 lbs/ac. min.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK
	BFM @ 3000-3500 lbs/ac. min	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Straw @ 2 Tons/ac. min.	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Stabilization Matting**	OK	OK	OK	OK
	1" Compost Blanket (CB)	OK	OK	OK	OK
6% to 10.9%	Wood Fiber @ 2000-2500 lbs/ac.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK
	min. BFM @ 3500-4000 lbs/ac. min.	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Straw @ 2 Tons/ac. min. Stabilization	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Matting**	OK	OK	OK	OK
	1" Compost Blanket (CB)	OK	OK	OK	OK
11% to 24.9%	Wood Fiber @ 2500-3000 lbs/ac.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK
	min. BFM @ 3500-4000 lbs/ac. min.	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Straw @ 2 Tons/ac. min. Stabilization	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Matting**	OK	OK	OK	OK
	1" Compost Blanket (CB)	OK	OK	OK	OK
25% to 33%	Wood Fiber @ 2500-3000 lbs/ac.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK
	min. BFM @ 4000 lbs/ac. min.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK
	Straw @ 2 Tons/ac. min. Stabilization	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Matting**	OK	OK	OK	OK
	1" Compost Blanket (CB)	OK	OK	OK	OK
33% and up	BFM @ 4000-4500 lbs/ac. min.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	OK
	Straw @ 2 Tons/ac. min.***	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Stabilization Matting**	OK	OK	OK	OK
	1" Compost Blanket (CB)	2:1 Max.	2:1 Max.	2:1 Max.	2:1 Max.

* Note: Manufacturers Recommended Rates for informational purposes only. Performance standard requires 100% soil coverage. ** Note: Stabilization Matting must be applied in accordance with Section 3.4.6 of the Delaware ESC Handbook.
***Note: Straw applied on slopes greater than 33% must be netted (this does not apply to topsoil stockpiles).
OK = Acceptable to use during this time period.
xxx = Not acceptable to use during this time period.
All application rates are minimums

Source:	Symbol:	Detail No.
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