

**MULCHING****DEFINITION AND PURPOSE:**

A layer of organic material designed to protect exposed soil or freshly seeded areas from erosion by eliminating direct impact of precipitation and slowing overland flows. Mulch materials may include, but are not limited to, such things as grass, hay, straw, wood chips, wood fibers, and shredded bark.

**APPROPRIATE APPLICATIONS:**

Typically used for soil stabilization as a temporary surface cover on disturbed areas until soils can be prepared for revegetation and permanent vegetation is established. Installed in landscape areas for permanent use.

**CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE USE:**

Type of Flow: Sheet flow only

The use of appropriate mulch will help ensure the vegetation is established under normal conditions and is essential to seeding success under harsh site conditions. General mulch recommendations to protect disturbed soils from raindrop splash and sheet flow include: straw applied at 2-2.5 tons/acre, wood fiber or wood cellulose applied at 0.5-1 ton/acre, wood chips applied at 5-6 tons/acre, and bark applied at 35 yd<sup>3</sup>/acre. Where slopes are 33 percent (3:1) or greater grade, hydraulic mulch-bonded fiber matrix (EC-4), erosion control blankets (EC-10), or turf reinforcement mats (EC-11) are required.

**WHEN BMP IS TO BE INSTALLED:**

Immediately after grading landscaped areas or seeding other areas.

**STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS:**

Install upstream BMPs to protect area to be mulched. Rough grade area and remove all debris larger than 1 inch if area is to be vegetated and mowed in the future, larger than 2 inches if area is to be permanently mulched. If area is to be seeded, follow requirements of Seeding (EC-7). Spread mulch evenly and anchor by punching it into the ground, using netting, or tacking with liquid binder.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES:**

Inspect every week and after every ½" storm event until adequate vegetation is established; annually for permanent mulch. Protect from vehicular and foot traffic. Repair damaged, degraded or eroded areas-reseed as needed and replace mulch.

**SITE CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL:**

Temporary mulch should be removed when adequate vegetation is established.

**TYPICAL DETAILS:**

Not Applicable