

COMPOST BLANKET

(sf)
CODE 804



(Source: Dave Gravel)

DEFINITION

A temporary or permanent erosion control practice, consisting of a variable thickness of compost, minimum 2 inches, with or without short term single rolled erosion control product netting, applied on sloping ground.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to absorb runoff, stabilize erodible soils and aid topsoil structure creation.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Compost Blanket is used on surface roughened, finished slopes (3H:1V maximum) to protect placed seed and help establish the proper conditions for vegetation establishment.

Cover the Compost Blanket with a short term single rolled erosion control product netting in areas of high wind or within 20 feet of high speed traffic.

CRITERIA

Use in finished slope areas, where construction traffic will be minimal. The soil substrate shall be surface roughened prior to application of the Compost Blanket.

Use alone or cover with short term single rolled erosion control product netting.

Compost Blanket shall not be used in concentrated flow areas.

CONSIDERATIONS

Compost Blanket should be used a part of a treatment train approach to erosion and sediment control and stormwater pollution prevention; never as a stand alone practice.

Compost Blanket may be used:

1. As an erosion control practice;
2. As mulch to improve topsoil structure and cohesion;
3. To improve infiltration capacity;
4. To reduce invasive plant establishment; and

5. To bind pollutants such as hydrocarbon and heavy metals in the runoff.

The heat generated in the composting process kills weed seeds and other undesirables in the feedstock stream (source materials used for composting), yielding clean organic soil amendment. Restrict application of fertilizers when the Compost Blanket is applied.

Reference Material Specification 806 Compost, Reference Material Specification 803 Straw Blankets for material composition and installation of Short Term Rolled Erosion Control Product Netting.

Compost Blanket is a viable option for winter shutdown of sites because it does not require trenching in frozen ground.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for installing Compost Blanket shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. At a minimum include the following items:

1. Locations of Compost Blanket application;
2. Other erosion control, sediment control, or permanent stormwater pollution prevention measures used as part of the treatment train;
3. Fine Compost specifications;
4. Short Term Rolled Erosion Control Product Netting specifications; and
5. Surface Roughening specifications.

All plans shall include the installation, inspection, and maintenance schedules with the responsible party identified.

The Compost Blanket practice shall be constructed in a manner meeting the requirements of this practice standard.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

1. The Compost Blanket shall be inspected every seven calendar days and within 24 hours of the end of a storm that is 0.5 inches or greater or equivalent snowfall.
2. The Contractor will functionally maintain the Compost Blanket, immediately repair damage and add supplemental practices as needed.
3. Rills, gullies and other damage shall be immediately repaired and/or supplemented by other practice standards that address the cause of the damage.
4. Supplemental irrigation may be required in drought conditions

REFERENCES

The Sustainable Site by Faucette, et al, 2011. Forester Press

Compost Blanket Fact Sheet, USEPA Stormwater Menu of BMPs, <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=118&minmeasure=4>

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