



Modified from: CASQA Stormwater Best Management Practices - Construction

Sodding is a permanent erosion control practice in which a continuous cover of sod is laid across exposed surface soils. The primary purpose of sodding is to establish vegetative cover for immediate soil stabilization and erosion protection. Sodding may also be utilized to stabilize drainage ways where concentrated stormwater flows are expected. Sodding increases the infiltration capacity of an area and dissipates the energy of rainfall.

## Usage

Sodding is an appropriate method of erosion control for the following:

- areas of surface disturbance that require immediate and/or permanent vegetative cover
- areas where establishing an aesthetically pleasing erosion control mechanism is desirable, such as residential developments
- steeply sloped areas where seeding and mulching would be highly inefficient and difficult to establish
- channels and waterways that are subject to intermittent stormwater flows and require vegetative cover

## Benefits

- provides immediate stormwater mitigation upon installation
- very effective at preventing surface erosion and fairly effective at trapping loose sediment; sediment trapping efficiency may be significantly impacted by steep terrain topography, high stormwater flow rates, and turf health and height
- more reliable at establishing cover than seeding and mulching, and requires less maintenance

## Estimated Cost

\$4.18/sq yd average (includes cost of materials, labor, & equipment)

Maintenance costs are estimated at 5% of installation costs

## Alternatives

- Hydroseeding (p. 2-8)
- Mulching (p. 2-10)
- Seeding (p. 2-14)

## Notes:



Courtesy City of Calgary, 2003.

## Vendors

See Appendix pages F17-F18

## Limitations

- influenced by seasonal effects and is not an appropriate strategy for controlling stormwater during the winter months
- requires adherence to a strict maintenance regime, especially during periods of dry weather; alternatively, extended rainy periods may cause the sod to become saturated and die, requiring replacement

## Installation Tips

- slope and grade area to be sodded according to site plans; drainage areas such as swales should be graded 4-6 in below final grade to allow for sod installation
- incorporate soil amendments such as fertilizer, compost, and/or lime into the soil prior to sodding
- begin sodding at the lowest area to be sodded; sod should be laid perpendicular to the direction of expected water flows and should follow contour lines
- fit sod strips tightly together; ends of sod rolls should be squared off to ensure a tight fit and joints should be staggered at least 12 in apart
- secure sod in place with stakes, wire, or netting; slopes steeper than 3 ft horizontal to 1 ft vertical should be secured with stakes
- lay sod no later than 36 h after harvesting
- avoid laying sod in areas with gravel or non-soil surfaces, frozen soils, or during periods of unusually hot or wet weather
- roll and irrigate sod once laid
- detailed installation tips can be found in the ODNR Rainwater and Land Development manual

## Maintenance

- avoid mowing for at least 3 weeks following installation
- maintain turf height to between 2-3 in
- do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass shoot when mowing
- water the sod frequently and in a uniform manner, especially during the first few weeks following installation

## References

- Begin, Lisa. Stormwater Authority, LLC. 2005. Best Management Practices for Stormwater Control.
- City of Calgary. 2003. Infrastructure Canada Alberta Project: Temple Dry Pond.
- USEPA. 1999. Stormwater Technology Fact Sheet: Vegetative Covers. EPA Publication 832-F-99-027. Washington, D.C.
- Washington State Department of Ecology. 2001. Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.