



# Critical Area Stabilization

*Earth Fills, Spillways, and Borrow Areas  
Conservation Practice Job Sheet 29  
Kentucky*

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) September 2002**

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_



This jobsheet applies to constructed earth fills, spillways, and borrow areas. These areas often have soil material, slope, and other conditions that are unfavorable for plant growth. If left untreated, these sites may cause severe erosion and sediment damage. In addition, the intended use of structures may be jeopardized.

### **Considerations**

Erosion control is the primary consideration for plant material selection. However, a broad choice of grass, trees, and shrubs are available and adapted for most sites. Wildlife and beautification are additional considerations that influence planning decisions on a site needing this practice.

The following decisions must be made when planning this practice:

1. Function or use of the site following establishment.
2. Species of plants to establish
3. Methods and rates of planting

4. Fertilizer, lime, and soil amendments necessary for establishment and growth of the plants.
5. Mulching requirements
6. Planting site preparation
7. Site management following establishment of the vegetation.

### **Seedbed Preparation**

1. Apply lime and fertilizer if needed.
2. Disk area to be seeded to a depth of 3-4 inches to prepare a firm seedbed for seeding or walk-in seed with dozer. On areas where rocky, shaly or clayey soil conditions will make it difficult to establish vegetation, spread topsoil to a depth of 4-6 inches prior to disking.

### **Seeding**

Distribute the seed uniformly by broadcasting, drilling, or hydroseeding. Seed may be walked-in with a dozer. The seed should be covered to a depth of 1/4 to 1/2 inches. If seed is broadcast, a cultipacker operated on the contour is a good way to press the seed into the soil and firm the seedbed.

### **Mulching**

1. Distribute the mulch uniformly.
2. Use one of these methods to hold it in place:
  - a. Use mulch netting.
  - b. Run a weighted farm disk with blades set straight over the area on the contour
  - c. Tie the mulch down with binder twine by criss-crossing the string over the area and tying to stakes driven on 6-foot centers
  - d. Treat mulch with a suitable asphalt emulsion

**Materials**

Note: The amount of materials is quoted as the total amount needed per area identified, not on a rate per acre.

Field or Structure	Size of Area (acres)	Grass or Legume		Fertilizer		Lime (tons)	Mulch (lbs.)
		Species	Lbs.	Element	Lbs.		
				N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O			
				N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O			
				N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O			
				N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O			
				N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O			
				N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O			
				N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O			

\* The applicable seeding period for this job is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: If trees and/or shrubs are to be planted on these sites, refer to tree/shrub planting job sheet for additional information.

Additional treatment:

---

**Operation and Maintenance** (Not applicable to WRP)

Maintain vegetative cover by excluding livestock, mowing and topdressing with fertilizer when and if necessary. Promptly repair any damaged area before it becomes extensive.