

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

SPOIL SPREADING

(Ac.)
Code 572



DEFINITION

Disposal of surplus excavated materials.

PURPOSE

To dispose of excess soil from construction activities in an environmentally sound manner that minimizes soil erosion, protects water quality and fits with the land use and landscape.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from the excavation of open channels, ponds or other construction sites.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to all Purposes.

Plan and design spoil spreading to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Impact to cultural resources, wetlands and Federal and state protected species shall be evaluated and avoided or minimized to the extent practicable during planning, design and implementation of this conservation practice in accordance with established National and Florida policy, General Manual (GM) Title 420-

Part 401; Title 450-Part 401, Title 190 Parts 410.22 and 410.26, National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Florida Supplements to Parts 6001 and 600.6, National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH), national Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM), and the National Environmental compliance Handbook (NECH).

Spoil shall be spread over a designated area according to an approved plan or as modified by a technician at the site.

Locate spoil spreading areas as close as practical to the excavation area to minimize haul distance. Spread spoil in relatively uniform layers, maintaining positive drainage away from the spoil. Do not spread spoil when the ground or spoil is frozen or excessively wet unless site specific design considerations indicate frozen or wet conditions will not have adverse effects.

Design spoil areas to blend with the landscape and planned land use. Use slopes that are stable and fit the land use. For areas that will be cropped or mowed use slopes of 4 horizontal to 1 (4:1) vertical or flatter.

Establish vegetation on spoil areas immediately after spreading unless the area will be cropped within 30 days. Use plant species appropriate to the soil, climate conditions and land use. Refer to Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting, Code 342 for criteria on vegetative establishment.

If spoil spreading is completed at a time of year that is not conducive to the establishment of the desired plant species, utilize temporary erosion control measures such as NRCS Florida conservation practice standards Mulching, Code 484 immediately and maintain the measures until the site can be successfully vegetated.

Before placing spoil material that has physical or chemical characteristics that prevent the establishment of adequate vegetation, strip

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

topsoil from the spoil area. Use the topsoil or other suitable soil material to cover the spoil with a minimum of 6 inches of soil prior to seeding.

Spoils that are known or suspected to be contaminated with toxic substances must be tested to determine the nature and toxicity of the contamination. This is particularly true of waterborne sediments that drain from industrial or urban areas. Based upon the evaluation develop a plan to remove and dispose of the spoil in an environmentally sound manner.

Additional Criteria for Spoil Spreading Along Channels, Canals and Streambanks.

Choose the location and placement of spoil to avoid the destruction of vegetation in Riparian Zones 1 and 2 as defined in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 and Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Code 390.

Design the placement of spoil so that it does not endanger the stability of the channel. Place the spoil so that it will not slide or likely erode back into the channel.

If the spoil is placed along a channel, design slopes on the channel side not steeper than 3 horizontal to 1 vertical (3:1). On the land side, design slopes not steeper than 4 horizontal to 1 vertical (4:1). Height of spoil placement along the channel shall not exceed 3 feet above the original ground.

Check the channel capacity with the spoil in place to ensure that channel capacity will not adversely affect upstream drainage.

Design the placement of spoil so that it does not impede the flow of surface water into the channel and ensure that the runoff into the channel does not create an erosion problem or stability issue. Where necessary, use pipes, channels or structures to convey runoff into the channel. Refer to Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Grade Stabilization Structure, Code 410 for criteria for structure design.

Where a travel way is needed to facilitate maintenance along the bank of a channel, place and shape the spoil to provide access for maintenance or other activities. Refer to Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Access Road, Code 560 for criteria for the construction of a travel way along the spoil.

Spoil spreading for other construction sites shall be in accordance with the standard and specification of the applicable conservation practices. Spoil shall be spread to a designed form that blends visually with the landscape.

CONSIDERATIONS

Spoil areas need not be waste areas. Spoil areas should blend with the landscape and the land use. Plan the location, slopes and vegetation to benefit the planned land use.

Landscape quality can be improved by the creative placement of spoil material. Spoil material can be used to block undesirable views, deflect or redirect agricultural runoff, wind or snow, or block noise.

Spoil areas with permanent vegetation can provide excellent wildlife habitat. When choosing vegetation for these areas select native species that will provide food and cover for wildlife.

The placement of spoil along one or both sides of a channel can affect channel capacity, and out of bank flow. When planning the location of spoil areas consider how the spoil placement will affect the flow regime of the channel.

Place spoil as far as possible from the edge of the channel to minimize damage to riparian zone 3 as defined in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Filter Strip, Code 393.

Consider how the spoil placement will alter historic drainage patterns, impact floodplains or areas that historically provided storage during storm events.

When placing spoil adjacent to wetlands, consider providing a setback to help prevent unintended wetland impacts.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for spoil spreading shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for properly applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. As a minimum, the plans shall include:

- A plan view showing the location of the spoil area.
- Typical cross section of spoil placement including side slopes, height of spoil, distances from channels, streams, etc.

- Lift thickness for spoil placement.
- Vegetative requirements.
- Location of utilities and notification requirements.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance (O&M) plan shall be provided to and reviewed with the landowner.

The (O&M) plan shall include the following items and others as appropriate:

- Inspection of the spoil areas within six months after spreading and periodically thereafter.
- Fill or repair any excessive rills or gullies in the spoil.
- Reestablish vegetation as necessary on the repaired areas.
- Mow the vegetation as necessary to maintain a dense, vigorous stand.
- Control undesirable species and/or noxious weeds as necessary.

REFERENCES

Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards:
Critical Area Planting, Code 342
Filter Strip, Code 393
Mulching, Code 484
Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391
Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Code 390
General Manual
Title 420-Part 401
Title 450-Part 401
Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26
National Cultural Resources Handbook
National Environmental Compliance Handbook
National Food Security Act Manual
National Planning Procedures Handbook
Florida Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6