

2.9 COMPOST BLANKETS



Figure 2.23. Blown compost blanket (Source: Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service 2004)

Overview

Description: A one- to four-inch surface application of compost or mulch or a blend of both to protect areas with erosive potential.

Problem identification: Areas disturbed during times when vegetation has difficulty establishing itself need to be protected from erosion and sediment loss.

Design purpose: Reduction in the erosion of flat to moderate slopes and in the loss of sediment prior to vegetation establishment.

Installation: The materials can be placed at any time during the year. The thickness should be between two to four in., in accordance with the slope and Table 2.4. Generally, the steeper the slope, the thicker the blanket, and coarser compost should be placed on steeper slopes. Place the blanket on the disturbed surface, but do not till into the surface. It is suggested that compost socks be placed at the top of the slope to reduce the velocity of water over the crest of the slope onto the compost blanket. On long slopes or severe slopes (2:1 or greater), slope protection consisting of silt fences or compost filter tubes should be added at spacings not exceeding 25 ft.

Table 2.4. Compost blanket thickness on slopes

| Slope | Compost thickness |
|-------|-------------------|
| 2:1 | 4" |
| 3:1 | 3" |
| 4:1 | 2" |

Maintenance/inspection: Blanket areas should be inspected immediately after rainfall, and areas damaged by splash, sheet, or rill erosion should be repaired prior to additional rainfall.

Design life: One year.

Estimated cost: Cost varies with the availability of the product.