

## IMPORTANCE OF VEGETATION

Vegetation is the most effective means of stabilizing soils and controlling erosion. It shields the soil from the impact of falling rain, reduces flow velocity, and disperses flow. Vegetation provides a rough surface that slows the runoff velocity and promotes infiltration and deposition of sediment. Plants remove water from the soil and thus increase the soil's capacity to absorb water. Plant leaves and stems protect the soil surface from the impact of raindrops, and the roots help maintain the soil structure.

Effective erosion and sedimentation control requires first that the soil surface be protected from the erosive forces of wind, rain, and runoff, and the second that eroded soil be captured on site.

Here are recommendations for Western North Carolina:

### **TEMPORARY SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **TEMPORARY SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FALL**

**Seeding Mixture:** Species: Rye (grain) Rate (lb/acre): 120

**Seeding dates:** Mountains-Aug. 15 – Dec. 15 Coastal Plain and Piedmont – Aug. 15 – Dec. 30

**Soil amendments:**

Follow soil tests or apply 2,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 1,000 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

**Mulch:**

Apply 4,000 lb/acre straw. Anchor straw by tacking with asphalt, netting, or a mulch-anchoring tool. A disk with blades set nearly straight can be used as a mulch-anchoring tool.

**Maintenance:**

Repair and refertilize damaged areas immediately. Topdress with 50 lb/acre of nitrogen in March. If it is necessary to extend temporary cover beyond June 15, overseed with 50 lb/acre Kobe (Piedmont and Coastal Plain) or Korean (Mountains) lespedeza in late February or early March.

#### **TEMPORARY SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUMMER**

**Seeding mixture:** Species: German millet Rate (lb/acre): 40

In the Piedmont and Mountains, a small-stemmed Sudangrass may be substituted at a rate of 50 lb/acre.

**Seeding dates:** Mountains – May 15 – Aug 15; Piedmont – May 1 – Aug. 15; Coastal Plain – Apr. 15 – Aug. 15

**Soil amendments:**

Follow recommendations of soil test or apply 2,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 750 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

**Mulch:**

Apply 4,000 lb/acre straw. Anchor straw by tacking with asphalt, netting, or a mulch-anchoring tool. A disk with blades set nearly straight can be used as a mulch-anchoring tool.

**Maintenance:**

Refertilize if growth is not fully adequate. Reseed, refertilize and mulch immediately following erosion or other damage.

## PERMANENT SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS

### GENTLE SLOPES, SUN OR SEMI-SHADE; HIGH-MAINTENANCE, MINIMUM-CARE LAWNS

**Seeding Mixture:** Species: Tall fescue blend (equal parts of two or preferably three turf-type tall fescues)  
Rate (lb/acre): 200- 250

**Seeding dates:**

	<b>Best</b>	<b>Possible</b>
Below 2500 ft:	Aug. 15-Sept. 1 Mar. 1 – April 1	July 25 – Sept. 15 Mar. 1 – May 10
Above 2500 ft:	July 25 – Aug. 15 Mar. 20 – Apr. 20	July 15 – Aug. 30 Mar. 5 – May 15

**Soil amendments:** Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil tests, or apply 4,000 LB/acre ground agricultural limestone and 1,200 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

**Mulch:** Apply 3,000-4,000 lb/acre grain straw or equivalent cover of another suitable mulch. Anchor mulch by tacking with asphalt, roving, or netting or by rolling and watering.

**Maintenance:** The bunch-type habit of tall fescue restricts its spread into damaged areas. Reseed bare spots in the fall. Refertilize annually in late winter and again in fall. Reseed, fertilize, and mulch damaged areas immediately.

### GENTLE SLOPES, AVERAGE SOILS; LOW MAINTENANCE

**Seeding mixture:**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Rate (lb/acre)</u>
Tall fescue	60
Kentucky bluegrass	10
Sericea lespedeza	15
Korean lespedeza	10

**Seeding notes:**

1. After Aug. 15, use unscarified sericea seed.
2. Where appearance is a consideration, omit sericea lespedeza and increase Korean lespedeza to 40 lb/acre.

**Nurse plants:** Between May 1 and Aug. 15, add 10 lb/acre German millet or 15 lb/acre Sudangrass. Prior to May 1 or after Aug. 15, add 40 lb/acre rye (grain).

**Seeding dates:**

	<b>Best</b>	<b>Possible</b>
Below 2500 ft:	Aug. 15 – Sept. 1 Mar. 1 – Apr. 1	July 25 – Sept. 15 Mar. 1 – May 10
Above 2500 ft:	July 25 – Aug. 15 Mar. 20 – Apr. 20	July 15 – Aug. 30 Mar. 5 – May 15

**Soil amendments:** Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil tests, or apply 4,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 1,000 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

**Mulch:** Apply 4,000 lb/acre grain straw. Anchor straw by tacking with asphalt, netting, or roving or by crimping with a mulch-anchoring tool. A disk with blades set nearly straight can be used as a mulch-anchoring tool.

**Maintenance:** Refertilize in the second year unless growth is fully adequate. May be mowed once or twice per year, but mowing is not necessary. Reseed, fertilize, and mulch damaged areas immediately.

**GENTLE TO STEEP SLOPES, STONY, DRY SOILS; LOW MAINTENANCE**

**Seeding Mixture:**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Rate (lb/acre)</u>
Tall fescue	40
Crown vetch	10
Korean lespedeza	10
Redtop	5

**Seeding note:** If occasional mowing is desired, substitute 20 lb/acre sericea lespedeza for crown vetch.

**Nurse plants:** Between May 1 and Aug. 15, add 10 lb/acre German millet or 15 lb/acre Sudangrass. Prior to May 1 or after Aug. 15, add 40 lb/acre rye (grain).

**Seeding dates:**

	<b>Best</b>	<b>Possible</b>
Below 2500 ft:	Aug. 15 – Sept. 1 Mar. 1 – Apr. 1	July 25 – Sept. 15 Mar. 1 – May 10
Above 2500 ft:	July 25 – Aug. 15 Mar. 20 – Apr. 20	July 15 – Aug. 30 Mar. 5 – May 15

Complete seeding earlier in fall, and start later in spring on north- and east-facing slopes.

**Soil amendments:** Follow recommendations of soil tests, or apply 4,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 1,000 lb/acre 5-10-10- fertilizer.

**Mulch:** Apply 4,000-5,000 lb/acre grain straw or equivalent cover of another suitable mulching material. Anchor mulch by tacking with asphalt, roving, or netting. Netting is the preferred anchoring method on steep slopes.

**Maintenance:** Do not mow crown vetch. Refertilize in the second year unless growth is fully adequate. Reseed, fertilize, and mulch damaged areas immediately.

**GENTLE SLOPES, FULL SUN; HIGH MAINTENANCE**

**Seeding mixture:** Species: Kentucky bluegrass (mixture of at least three improved varieties and NO companion plants) Rate (lb/acre): 75- 100

**Seeding note:** In shady locations, 40% by weight fine fescue, such as hard, red, or Chewings red fescue may be substituted.

**Seeding dates:**

	<b>Best</b>	<b>Possible</b>
Below 2500 ft:	Aug. 15 – Sept. 1 Mar. 1 – Apr. 1	July 25 – Sept. 15 Mar. 1 – May 10
Above 2500 ft:	July 25 – Aug. 15 Mar. 20 – Apr. 20	July 15 – Aug. 30 Mar. 5 – May 15

**Soil amendments:** Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil tests, or apply 4,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 1,000 lb/acre 10-10-10 fertilizer.

**Mulch:** Apply 3,000-4,000 lb/acre grain straw or equivalent cover of another suitable mulch. Anchor mulch by tacking with asphalt, roving, or netting or by rolling and watering.

**Maintenance:** Refertilize annually in late winter and again in the fall. Turf-type fertilizer is preferable, although more expensive and not essential. Reseed, fertilize, and mulch damaged areas immediately.

## STEEP SLOPES, AVERAGE SOIL LOW MAINTENANCE

### Seeding Mixture

<u>Species:</u>	<u>Rate (lb/acre)</u>
Tall fescue	100
Sericea lespedeza	20
Korean lespedeza	10
Redtop	5
Kentucky bluegrass	5

**Seeding note:** After Aug. 1, use unscarified seed for sericea lespedeza.

**Nurse plants:** Between May 1 and Aug. 15 add 10 lb/acre German millet or 15 lb/acre Sudangrass. Prior to May 1 or after Aug. 15, add 40 lb/acre rye (grain). It may be beneficial to plant the grasses in late summer and overseed the lespedezas in March.

### Seeding dates:

	<b>Best</b>	<b>Possible</b>
Below 2500 ft:	Aug 15 – Sept. 1 Mar. 1 – Apr. 1	July 25 – Sept. 15 Mar. 1 – May 10
Above 2500 ft:	July 25 – Aug. 15 Mar. 20 – April 20	July 15 – Aug. 30 Mar. 5 – May 15

Complete seeding earlier in fall, and start later in spring on north- and east-facing slopes.

**Soil amendments:** Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil tests or apply 4,000 lb/acre ground agricultural limestone and 1,000 lb/acre 5-10-10 fertilizer.

**Mulch:** Apply 4,000-5,000 lb/acre grain straw or equivalent cover of another suitable mulching material. Anchor mulch by tacking with asphalt, roving, or netting. Netting is the preferred anchoring method on steep slopes.

**Maintenance:** Mow no more than once a year. Refertilize in the second year unless growth is fully adequate. Reseed, fertilize, and mulch damaged areas immediately.