



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
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Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jim Gray
SECRETARY

DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 3-23; CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM 01-23

TO: Chief District Engineers
KYTC Central Office Directors
Project Development Branch Managers
TEBMs for Project Delivery and Preservation
Section Engineers
Active Consultants

FROM: Tim Layson, P.E., Director *WTL*
Division of Highway Design

Matt Simpson, P.E., Director *MPS*
Division of Construction

DATE: June 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Use of Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRM)

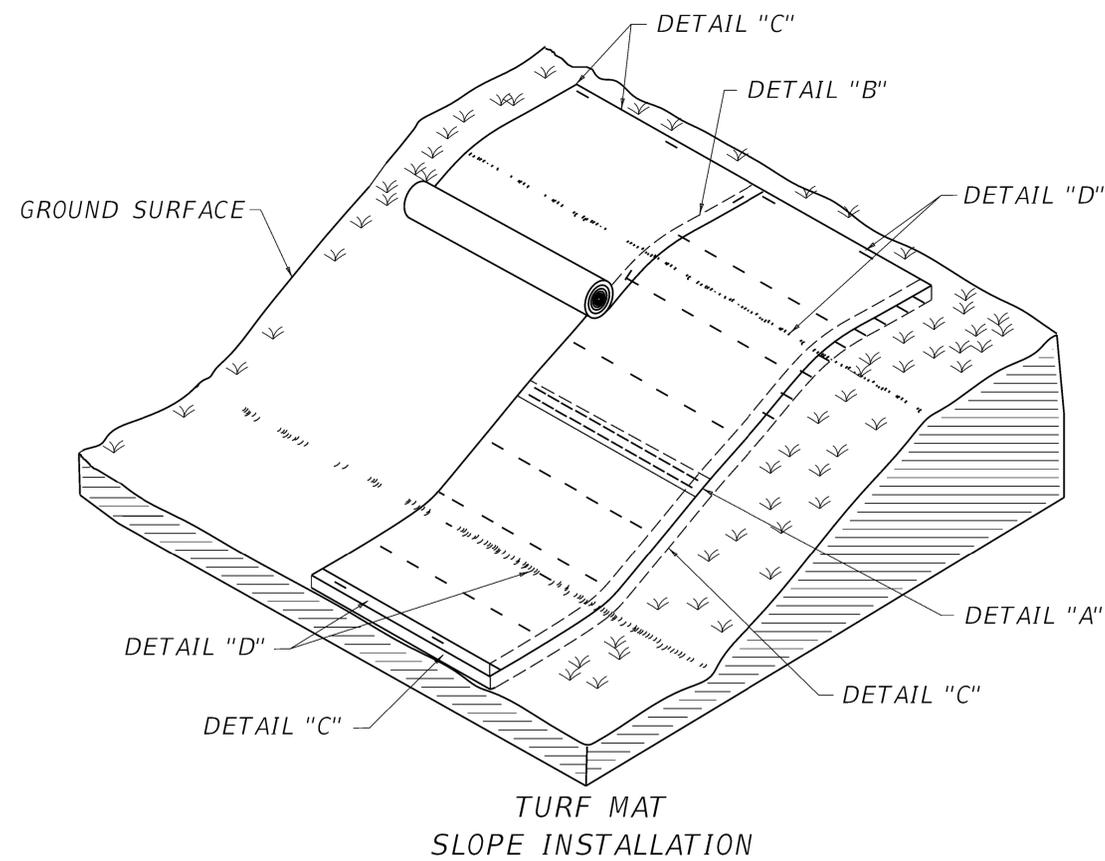
Turf reinforcement mats (TRM) are permanent rolled erosion control products (RECP) that are designed to enhance vegetation establishment and provide long-term erosion protection by permanently reinforcing vegetation during and after maturation. TRMs typically are used in permanent applications where erosive forces may exceed the limits of natural, unreinforced vegetation, such as high flow ditches and channels, steep slopes, stream banks, and shorelines.

TRM's are an excellent alternative to rip rap and channel lining, especially in urban and suburban areas, where grass lined channels may be preferred over rock lining. They also provide environmental benefits when compared to riprap and channel lining by providing a vegetative filter for flowing water.

KYTC has used TRM's since the early 2000's. However, installation issues have hindered their performance in the field, which has led to the avoidance of their use in many areas. To encourage the use of more TRM's, KYTC would like to clarify the installation process and update the TRM guidance to match currently accepted standards. Attached to this memo is a revised copy of Special Note 11F, which has been updated to reflect the construction and material requirements endorsed by the Erosion Control Technology Council (ECTC) and clarifies the importance of covering TRM's with a minimum depth of topsoil.

Two new sepia drawings (Sepia 022 "Turf Mat Slope Installation" and Sepia 023 "Turf Mat Channel Installation") have also been developed to supplement Special Note 11F.

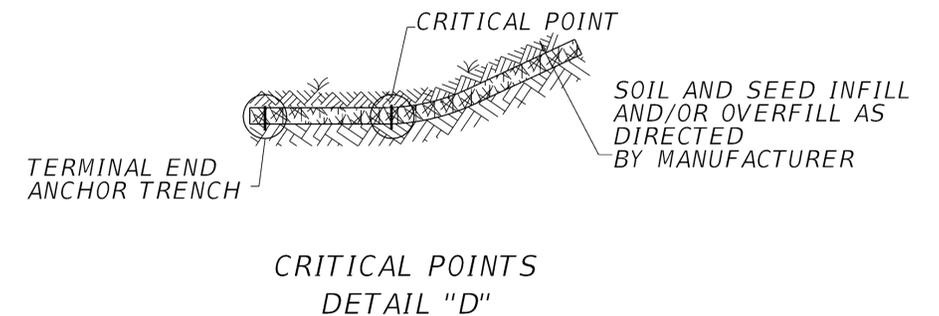
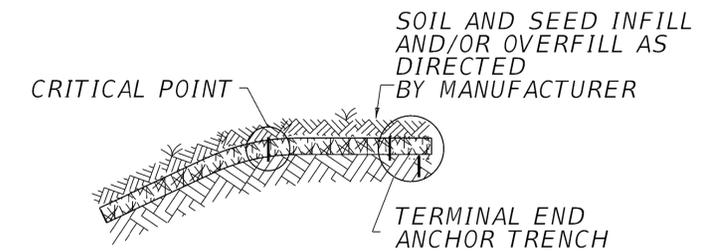
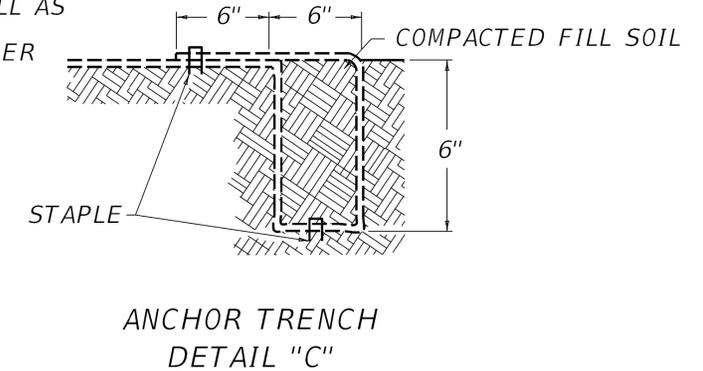
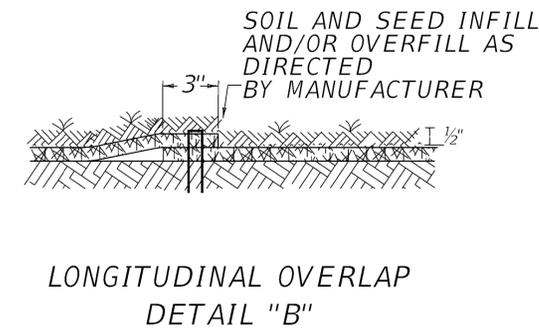
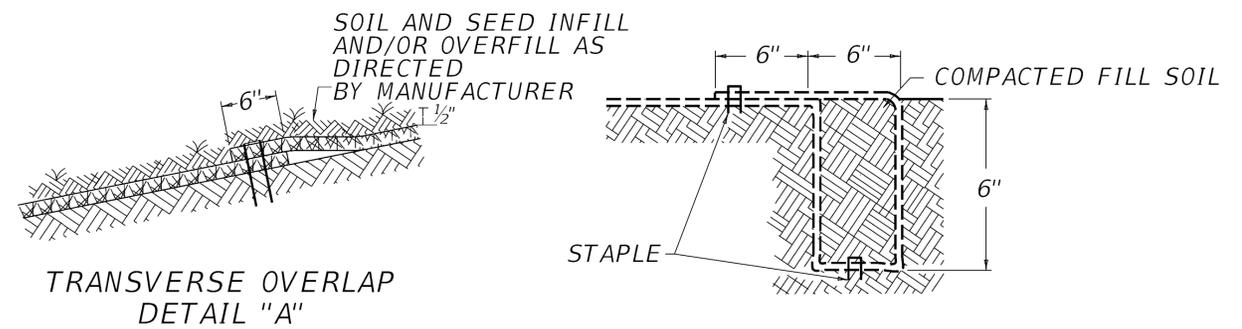
If you have any questions about this policy, contact the Drainage Branch, in the Division of Highway Design, at 502-564-3280 or the Division of Construction at 502-564-4780.



TURF MAT
SLOPE INSTALLATION

~ NOTES ~

1. CONSTRUCT A 6" X 6" ANCHOR TRENCH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SLOPE. LINE THE ANCHOR TRENCH WITH TURF REINFORCING MAT LEAVING 12" EXTENDING PAST THE ANCHOR TRENCH. FASTEN THE MAT MATERIAL INTO THE ANCHOR TRENCH ON 12" CENTERS. BACKFILL THE TRENCH WITH TOPSOIL AND COMPACT. COVER THE AREA WITH THE REMAINING 12" OF THE MAT'S TERMINAL END LEAVING 6" TO OVERLAP THE TURF REINFORCING MAT. SECURE THE 6" OVERLAP WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS.
2. UNROLL THE MAT DOWN THE SLOPE AND PLACE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SOIL SURFACE. INSURE THAT THE SOIL SURFACE IS GRADED SMOOTHLY AND DOES NOT CONTAIN IRREGULARITIES.
3. SECURELY FASTEN THE MAT TO THE SOIL BY INSTALLING STAPLES AT A MINIMUM RATE OF 1.5 PER SQ. YD. ANCHORS SHALL BE SELECTED SO THAT THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT GROUND PENETRATION TO RESIST PULLOUT. INCREASE ANCHORING FREQUENCY FOR SITE CONDITIONS (LOOSE, SANDY, OR WET SOILS) AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER AND MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
4. OVERLAP EDGES OF MATS ACCORDING TO THE LONGITUDINAL AND TRANSVERSE OVERLAP DETAILS. STAPLE LONGITUDINAL OVERLAPS WITH 2 ROWS OF STAPLES STAGGERED AT 4". STAPLE TRANSVERSE OVERLAPS WITH 1 ROW OF STAPLES SPACED AT 12".
5. CONSTRUCT A 6" X 12" ANCHOR TRENCH AT THE TOE OF THE SLOPE FOLLOWING SIMILAR PROCEDURE DENOTED FOR THE TOP OF THE SLOPE ANCHOR TRENCH.
6. ENSURE THAT THE MAT IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SOIL SURFACE WITH NO PROJECTIONS OR PROTRUSIONS.
7. INFILL AND OVERFILL THE MAT WITH A MINIMUM OF 1/2" TOPSOIL. APPLY SEEDING AND PROTECTION AS DIRECTED BY THE MANUFACTURER. USE SEED MIX TYPE 1 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 212.03.03. TOPSOIL IS THE SOIL PROFILE DEFINED TECHNICALLY AS "A" HORIZON BY THE SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. USE LOOSE, FRIABLE TOPSOIL THAT IS FREE OF STONES 1" OR GREATER IN OVERALL DIMENSIONS, ADMIXTURE OF SUBSOIL, REFUSE, STUMPS, ROOTS, BRUSH, WEEDS AND OTHER MATERIALS THAT PREVENT THE FORMATION OF A SUITABLE SEED BED. DO NOT USE TOPSOIL FROM SITES HAVING JOHNSON GRASS, CANADA THISTLE, QUACK GRASS, NODDING THISTLE OR EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF WEEDS OR THEIR RHIZOMES.



SUBMITTED *W. J. Layman* 01-24-2023
DIVISION DIRECTOR DATE



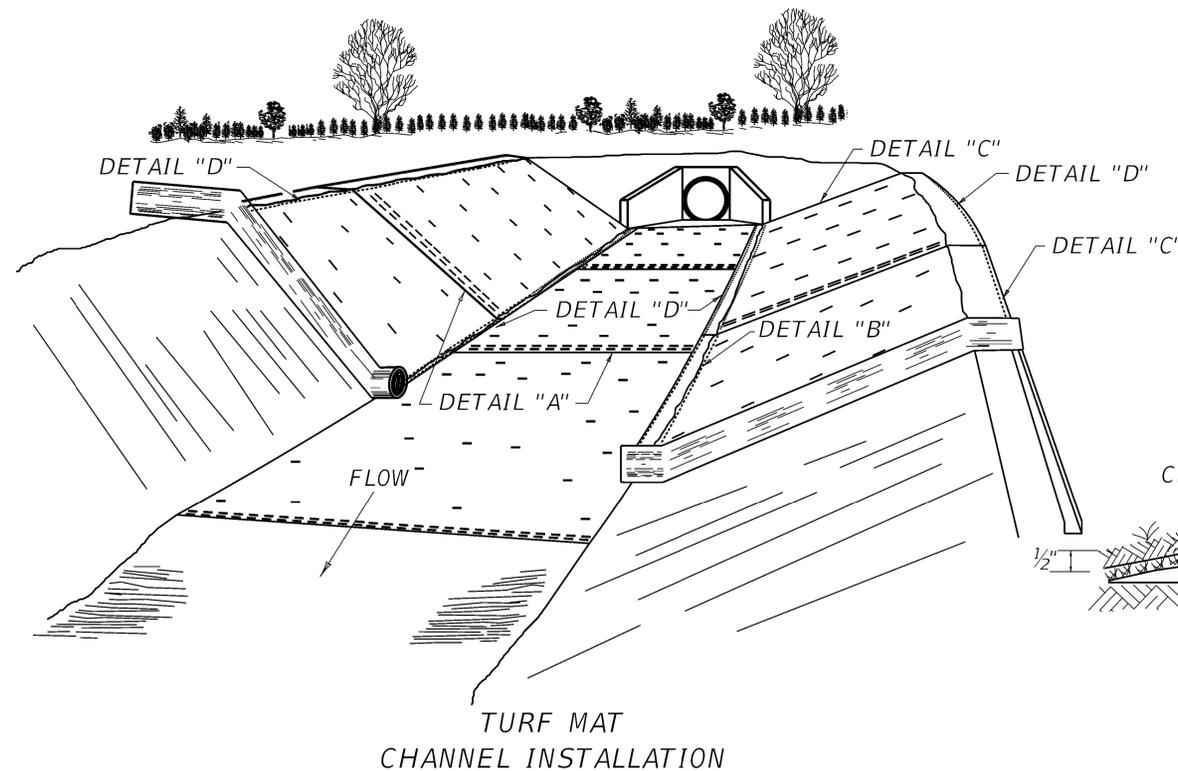
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS



DRAWING TITLE: SEPIA 22 - TURF MAT SLOPE INSTALLATION

ITEM NO. COUNTY OF

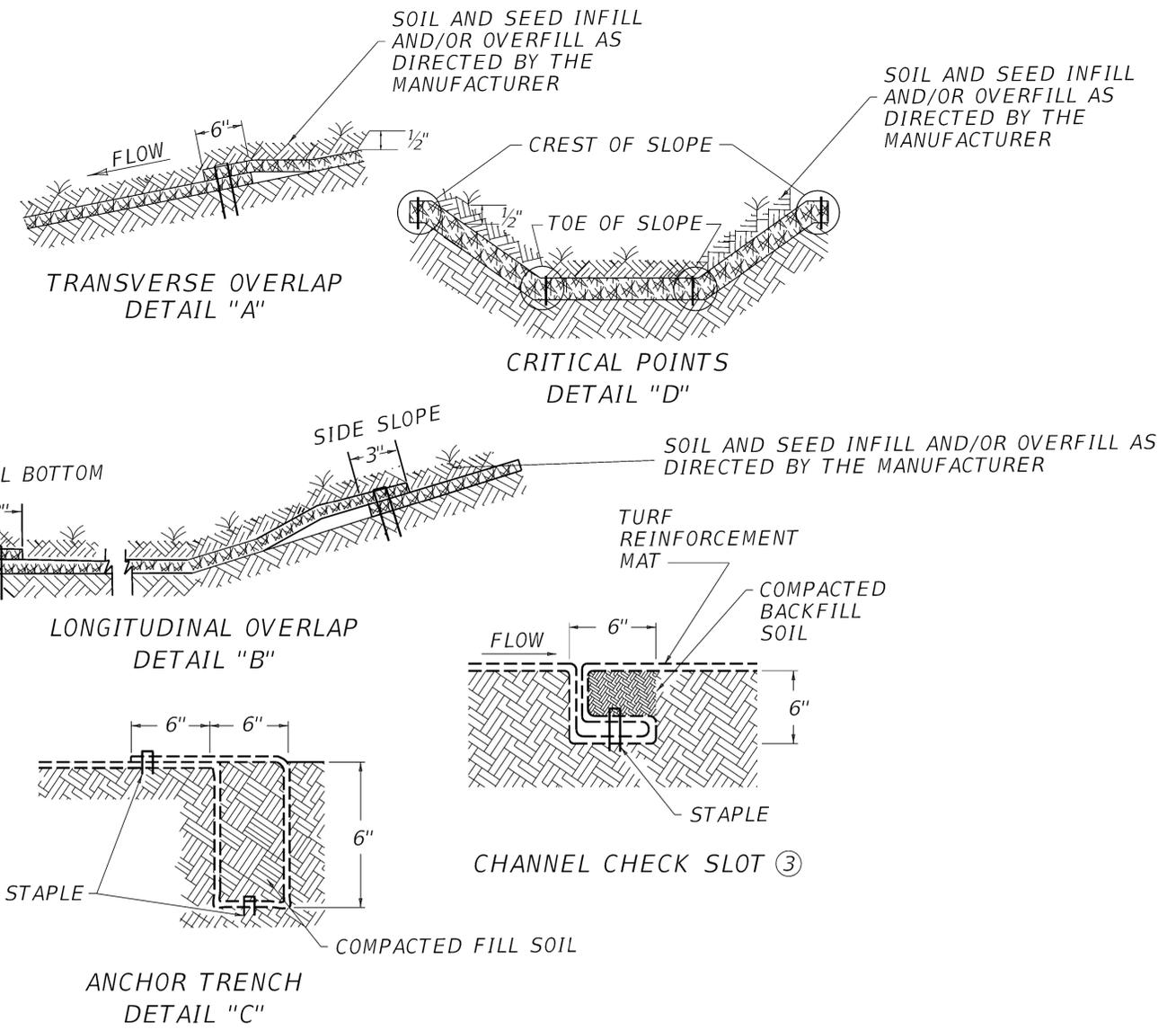
SHEET NO.



TURF MAT CHANNEL INSTALLATION

~ NOTES ~

1. CONSTRUCT A 6" X 6" ANCHOR TRENCH AT THE UPSTREAM END OF THE CHANNEL. LINE THE ANCHOR TRENCH WITH TURF REINFORCIG MAT LEAVING 12" EXTENDING PAST THE ANCHOR TRENCH. FASTEN THE MAT MATERIAL INTO THE ANCHOR TRENCH ON 12" CENTERS BACKFILL THE TRENCH WITH TOPSOIL AND COMPACT. COVER THE AREA WITH THE REMAINING 12" OF THE MAT'S TERMINAL END LEAVING 6" TO OVERLAP THE TURF REINFORCING MAT. SECURE THE 6" OVERLAP WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS.
2. UNROLL THE MAT PARALLEL TO THE PRIMARY DIRECTION OF WATER FLOW AND PLACE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SOIL SURFACE. INSURE THAT THE SOIL SURFACE GRADED SMOOTHLY AND DOES NOT CONTAIN IRREGULARITIES.
- ③ EXCAVATE 6" X 6" CHECK SLOTS EVERY 25' ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE CHANNEL. LINE THE SIDE AND BOTTOM OF THE SLOT WITH THE MAT AND THEN PULL BACK OVER. FASTEN WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS. FILL THE CHECK SLOT WITH TOPSOIL, COMPACT, AND CONTINUE UNROLLING MAT DOWN THE CHANNEL.
4. CONTINUE UNROLLING THE MAT DOWNSTREAM OVER THE COMPACTED SLOT TO THE NEXT CHECK SLOT OR TERMINAL ANCHOR TRENCH. IF MORE THAN ONE SECTION OF MAT, AS SHOWN IN THE TRANSVERSE OVERLAP DETAIL, IS USED OVERLAP UPSTREAM MATS OVER TOP OF THE DOWNSTREAM MAT 6" AND SECURE. IF MATS ARE PLACED PARALLEL TO EACH OTHER ALONG THE CHANNEL, PLACE CHANNEL SECTIONS FIRST, THEN OVERLAP SIDE SLOPE SECTIONS 3" OVER THE CHANNEL SECTIONS AS SHOWN IN THE LONGITUDINAL OVERLAP DETAIL, AND SECURE WITH STAPLES ON 12" CENTERS. PROCEED UP THE SIDE SLOPES IN THE SAME MANNER UNTIL THE TOP OF CHANNEL IS REACHED.
5. SECURE MATS WHILE UNROLLING ON SIDESLOPES AND CHANNEL BOTTOMS WITH STAPLES AT A FREQUENCY THE TABLE INDICATES. USE STAPLES HAVING SUFFICIENT GROUND PENETRATION TO RESIST PULLOUT. INCREASE ANCHORING FREQUENCY AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER AND MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
6. INFILL AND OVERFILL THE MAT WITH A MINIMUM OF 1/2" TOPSOIL. APPLY SEEDING AND PROTECTION AS DIRECTED BY THE MANUFACTURER. USE SEED MIX TYPE 1 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 212.03.03. TOPSOIL IS THE SOIL PROFILE DEFINED TECHNICALLY AS "A" HORIZON BY THE SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. USE LOOSE, FRIABLE TOPSOIL THAT IS FREE OF STONES 1" OR GREATER IN OVERALL DIMENSIONS, ADMIXTURE OF SUBSOIL, REFUSE, STUMPS, ROOTS, BRUSH, WEEDS AND OTHER MATERIALS THAT PREVENT THE FORMATION OF A SUITABLE SEED BED. DO NOT USE TOPSOIL FROM SITES HAVING JOHNSON GRASS, CANADA THISTLE, QUACK GRASS, NODDING THISTLE OR EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF WEEDS OR THEIR RHIZOMES.



SLOPE GRADE	ANCHORING FREQUENCY
UP TO 2H:1V	1.5 ANCHORS/SQYD
2H:1V TO 1H:1V	2.0 ANCHORS/SQYD
STEEPER THAN 1H:1V AND CHANNEL BOTTOMS	3.0 ANCHORS/SQYD

SUBMITTED W. J. Soyson 01-24-2023
DIVISION DIRECTOR DATE