

DEQ Guidance on Vegetative Cover Plans

Regulatory Reference: OAC 252:515-19-54

Applicability. All commercial landfills exceeding 50 feet above natural surface contours and accepting more than 200 tons per day of waste.

Purpose. To provide guidance for development of vegetative cover plans to ensure vegetation is established and maintained for the purposes of erosion and dust control, and aesthetic enhancement.

Technical Discussion. This rule requires vegetation to be established on disposal areas that will remain undisturbed for more than 90 days. To meet the intent of this rule, the following minimum requirements should be included in a vegetative cover plan:

- Identification of the method(s) to be used to establish vegetation (seed¹, sod, sprig, etc.), and the estimated timeframe within which vegetation will be established;
- Identification of the type of interim vegetation to be used.² Interim vegetation should be quick-germinating, fast-growing, and capable of providing erosion and dust control;
- Identification of the type of permanent vegetation to be used.² Permanent vegetation should be effective, long-lasting, and capable of self-regeneration;
- A map identifying those areas that will remain undisturbed for more than 90 days and a description of activities to be conducted to prepare those areas for successful vegetation;
- A description of activities that will be conducted on areas that will not remain undisturbed for more than 90 days;
- A plan for watering and fertilizing while vegetation is being established to ensure a good stand of vegetation, including identification of the source of water and type of fertilizer to be applied, and the frequency at which it will be applied;³
- A plan for watering and fertilizing after vegetation is established to ensure vegetation is maintained;
- A plan for reestablishing vegetation as needed;
- A description of erosion controls to be implemented until vegetation is firmly established to prevent seed, sprigs, and/or sod from washing away;
- A description of dust control measures to be implemented to minimize the amount of dust blowing from the landfill until vegetation is firmly established; and
- Verification that any final slopes to be vegetated meet the final cover requirements of OAC 252:515-19-53.

We recommend owner/operators contact the local conservation district or county extension agent to assist with development of the plan.

¹ Seed used to establish vegetation must meet the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Limitations on Noxious Weed Seeds found at OAC 35:30-25-4. Appendix 1 is a copy of that regulation.

² Plant species must be of equal or superior utility to native plants during each growing season of the year. Deep-rooted plants, trees, or other similar vegetation is prohibited.

³ Special provisions should be identified for establishing and maintaining vegetation during the summer months. To ensure water is available during summer months, owner/operators may consider building stormwater retention systems to catch stormwater running off the facility. Water collected in these systems during rainy periods can be used for irrigation during the dry months.

Appendix 1
OAC 35:30-25-4. Limitations on Noxious Weed Seeds

It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or expose for sale any agricultural or vegetable seed in Oklahoma if the noxious weed seed per pound is in excess of the following limitations:

- (1) Bindweed, Field (*Convolvulus arvensis*) - Prohibited
- (2) Yerba De Tajo (*Eclipta alba*) - Prohibited
- (3) Red Horned Poppy (*Claucium corniculatum*) - Prohibited
- (4) Knapweed, Russian (*Centaurea picris*) - Prohibited
- (5) Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.) - Prohibited
- (6) Nutgrass (*Cyperus rotundus*) - Prohibited
- (7) Scotch Thistle (*Onoprodum acanthium*) - Prohibited
- (8) Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) - Prohibited
- (9) Sicklepod (*cassia obtusifolia*) - Prohibited
- (10) Thistle, Canada (*Cirsium arvense*) - Prohibited
- (11) Whitetop or Hoary Cress (*Cardaria draba*) - Prohibited
- (12) Wild Oat (*Avena fatus*, *Avena sterilis*, and other wild noncultivated *Avena* spp., (In Wheat Only) - Prohibited
- (13) Cocklebur (*Xanthium* spp.) - 3 per lb.
- (14) Jointed Goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*) - 5 per lb.
- (15) Moonflower or Giant Morningglory (*Calonyction muricatum*) - 5 per lb.
- (16) Balloonvine (*Cardiospermum halicacbum*) - 9 per lb.
- (17) Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza Cuneata*) - 9 per lb.
- (18) Wild Oat (*Avena fatua*, *Avena sterilis*, and other wild noncultivated *Avena* spp., Except in Wheat) - 9 per lb.
- (19) Wild Buckwheat (*Polygonum convolvulus*) - 18 per lb.
- (20) Onion, Wild or Garlic (*Allium* spp.) - 18 per lb.
- (21) Wild Morningglory (*Ipomoea* spp.) - 27 per lb.
- (22) Bindweed, Hedge (*Convolvulus sepium*) - 27 per lb.
- (23) Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) - 45 per lb.
(Except: Johnsongrass will be permitted in Yellow bluestem, Caucasian bluestem, and chaffy grasses not to exceed 300 per lb.)
- (24) Quackgrass (*Agrophyron repens*) - 45 per lb.
- (25) Blueweed, Texas (*Helianthus ciliaris*) - 45 per lb.
- (26) Wild Mustard (*Brassica* spp.) - 45 per lb.
- (27) Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*) - 45 per lb.
- (28) Plantain, Bracted (*Plantago aristata*) - 45 per lb.
- (29) Giant Foxtail (*Setaria faberi*) - 54 per lb.
- (30) Dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.) - 90 per lb.
- (31) Darnel (*Lolium temulentum*) - 90 per lb.
- (32) Dock (*Rumex* spp.) - 90 per lb.
- (33) Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*) - 90 per lb.
- (34) Nightshade, Purple (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) - 90 per lb.
- (35) Plantain, Buckhorn (*Plantago lanceolata*) - 90 per lb.
- (36) Sorrel, Sheep or Red (*Rumex acetosella*) -90 per lb.
- (37) Cheat or Chess (*Bromus secalinus*) - 200 per lb.
- (38) Sum total noxious weeds (Subject to above limitations) - 200 per lb. (Except in Yellow bluestem, Caucasian bluestem, and chaffy grasses, the sum total noxious weeds shall not exceed 500 per lb.)