



CONTRACTOR CONNECTIONS

City of Cedar Falls
220 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

August 2020

“0-14 DAY RULE” SOIL STABILIZATION

Your General Permit #2 says the following:

Stabilization of disturbed areas must, at minimum, be initiated immediately whenever any clearing, grading, excavating or other earth disturbing activities have permanently ceased on any portion of the site or temporarily ceased on any portion of the site and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days.

This means when you will not perform any substantial work on a portion of the site for 14 days (inactive work areas)—including stockpiles—you need to stabilize the area immediately. Stabilizing areas reduces erosion and is the best way to control soil loss.



Active Work Area (does not require stabilization)

FINAL STABILIZATION

Before you obtain occupancy or send a Notice of Discontinuation to the Iowa DNR, your site needs to pass a Final SWPPP inspection. In this inspection we will confirm your site is stabilized with a minimum of 70% density of established vegetation, and the vegetation is sufficient to preclude erosion.

Final Stabilization Requirements

Any development plans submitted to the City shall comply with Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) for Final Stabilization (Chapter 7 Section 7E-24 & Section 7E-25).



Inactive Work Area (for 14 days)
(requires immediate stabilization)



Decompacting topsoil

STEP 1: Decompact Soil

Decompact subsurface soils before adding topsoil or compost. A soil ripper (used in agricultural fields), soil spader, or tilling equipment can be used to decompact soils. Then respread topsoil. Care should be taken when respreading topsoil to provide a good bed that is decompact as well—final finishing equipment could be used. A soil penetrometer can monitor soil compaction; readings less than 200 psi in the top 8” are recommended to ensure grasses and plants will thrive.

STEP 2: Add Topsoil or Compost

Where sufficient topsoil is not available, composted material may be incorporated at the rate of 1” of compost for every 3” of deficient topsoil. This increases the organic matter content of the soil, and provides an adequate growing medium for vegetation. Even if you have enough topsoil, it’s recommended to add compost!



Spreading compost



STEP 3: Add Seed or Sod

Seeding: In order to provide an adequate growing medium, a minimum of 8" of topsoil should be placed over the disturbed area prior to seeding. If there is a slope in the site, add an erosion control blanket; if it's in an area where there is concentrated water flow at times the blanket should be wood fiber, not straw. Avoid plastic or synthetic netting, use natural fibers if possible.

Reminder: The short seeding window is approaching. Please make sure to stabilize any inactive areas of your site for good growth and sediment control during the winter. This is a busy season for landscapers, so plan ahead!



Hydroseeding



Erosion control blankets

Table 7E-24.01: SUDAS Seeding Mixtures

Description	Typical Uses	Allowable Seeding Dates
Type 1 - Permanent Lawn Mixture	Used for residential and commercial turf sites. Fertilized; typically mowed.	March 1 - May 31 August 10 - September 30
Type 2 - Permanent Cool - Season Mixture for Slopes and Ditches	Not typically mowed. Reaches maximum heights of 2 to 3 feet; low fertility requirements; grows in spring and fall; can go dormant in summer.	March 1 - May 31 August 10 - September 30
Type 3 - Permanent Warm-Season Slope and Ditch Mixture	Not typically mowed. Reaches heights of 5 to 6 feet; stays green throughout summer; responds well to being burned in spring; do not apply fertilizer.	March 1 - June 30
Type 4 - Temporary Erosion Control Mixture	Short-lived (6 to 8 months) mix for erosion control.	March 1 - September 30 (seeding dates vary by seasonal mix)
Wetland Seeding	Used in areas designated for wetland grass seeding.	April 1 - June 30 August 1 - August 31
Native Grass and Wildflower Seeding	Used in areas designated for native grass and wildflower seeding.	April 1 - June 30

Sodbeds: In areas where topsoil has been stripped, a sodbed should be constructed by spreading a minimum of 6" inches of topsoil prior to sodding.

Deeper topsoil depths (8-12" or more) are desirable because they increase the organic matter available for use by plants, allow for deeper root penetration, and increase the moisture holding ability of the soil. These benefits will increase the drought tolerance and long-term health of the vegetation.



Laying sodbeds

NEW SWPPP APPLICATION

A few changes have been made to the SWPPP application and city website. The main changes are in the [SWPPP Checklist information on page 8](#) and include the following questions:

- Who is doing SWPPP inspections?
- What are their qualifications?
- What has been budgeted for inspections and maintenance of SWPPP controls?

These questions are important; you are required to have someone qualified doing 7-day and after rain inspections. You are also required to budget for maintenance and removal of SWPPP controls.

Since you must demonstrate you are qualified to do SWPPP inspections, installation, and maintenance, consider doing one of the two ISWEP online training classes. These classes are affordable, convenient, and put your name in a state database which serves as evidence of your qualifications. Visit the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership (ISWEP) website to get started at www.iowastormwater.org/training/etraining

The Iowa Certified Home Builder SWPPP Supervisor (HBSS-01) is for people who only build less than a couple homes a year.



The Iowa Certified Construction Site Pollution Prevention Inspectors and Installers training (ICCSPI-01) is for people who build regularly, and may do large SWPPP installations for subdivisions or commercial buildings.

