



SOMERSET - UNION SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Somerset County 4-H Center
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BASIN COMPACTION NOTES

1. Immediately prior to seeding, the surface should be scarified 6" to 12" inches where there has been soil compaction. This practice is permissible only where there is no danger to underground utilities (cables, irrigation systems, etc.).
2. Inspect site just before seeding. If traffic has left the soil compacted, the area must be retiled and firmed in accordance with above.
3. Immediately prior to topsoiling, the surface should be scarified 6" to 12" inches where there has been soil compaction. This will help insure a good bond between the topsoil and subsoil. This practice is permissible only where there is no danger to underground utilities (cables, irrigation systems, etc.).
4. Soil compaction resulting from land grading activities can impact the infiltration rate of the soil. Restoration of compacted soils through deep tillage (6" to 12") and the addition of organic matter may be required in planned pervious areas to enhance the infiltration rate of the disturbed soil. This practice is permissible only where there is no danger to underground utilities (cable, irrigation systems, etc.).
5. To prevent compaction of the subsoil which will reduce its infiltration capacity, basins should be excavated with light earth moving equipment, preferably with tracks or over-sized tires rather than the normal rubber tires,. Once the final construction phase is reached, the floor of the basin shall be deeply tilled with a rotary tiller or disc harrow and smoothed over with a leveling drag or equivalent grading equipment.
6. For basins, annual tilling operations maintain infiltration capacity. These tilled areas should be re-vegetated immediately to prevent erosion. Deep tilling can be used to breakup clogged surface layers followed by regarding and leveling. Sand or organic matter can be tilled into the basin floor to promote a restored infiltration capacity. Sediment removal procedures should not be undertaken until the basin is thoroughly dry. The top layer should be removed by light equipment to prevent compaction. The remaining soil can be retiled and disturbed vegetation replanted.