

Guidelines for seeding as required in BCTS Timber Sale Licence agreements, Road Permits, road construction contracts and other BC Timber Sales projects.

BC Timber Sales -Okanagan Columbia Business Area – July 2019

This document provides guidance for staff, Licensees and contractors on how to effectively seed areas as required in your BCTS Timber Sale Licence, Road Permit or contract and as required under the approved BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan. For specific guidance on seeding for specific sites please consult your BCTS staff representative.

WHERE TO SEED – All areas of exposed soil greater than 0.01 ha of contiguous exposed soil must be seeded. For example, 0.01 ha equates to exposed soil 10 m x 10 m. Seed only where existing vegetation has been removed and mineral soil exposed. Areas with existing vegetation or areas of unsuitable substrate such as rock should not be seeded.

WHEN TO SEED – Seed exposed soil as soon as possible after disturbance to achieve the best results in establishing/re-establishing desired vegetation. Seed the first fall or spring after the disturbance or sooner if possible. Further delay results in seedbed crusting, lowers success in establishment of seeding and allows undesirable weeds to become established. You must seed no later than one year after the completion of timber harvesting or road construction.

HOW MUCH TO SEED – Seeding rates and seed mixes are dependant upon the specific objective to be achieved. Too much, too little or the wrong kind of seed can waste time and money, may not achieve the desired objectives, or provide negative consequences to native plants or reforestation objectives. Consult your BCTS field technician for site specific advice.

Erosion control – 10 Kg/ha

For areas where erosion control is the prime objective seed at a rate of 10 kg/ha using an erosion seed mix. Highly erodible soils are characterized by steep slopes, fine textured soils, areas with moderate to high precipitation and long uniform topography. There may be high values at risk such as community watersheds, fisheries sensitive streams or riparian areas.

Landing and Road Right of Ways – 5 Kg/ha

These areas are generally not scheduled for reforestation. The primary objective is soil rehabilitation and prevention of the spread of invasive plants and other noxious weeds.

Rehabbed skid trails and other in-block disturbance – 3 Kg/ha

These areas are generally planned for reforestation and excessive seeding can impact reforestation objectives. Seeding objectives include providing forage for cattle use and cattle distribution, soil rehabilitation and the prevention of the spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds.

HOW TO SEED – A simple hand cyclone seeder is normally the best means of applying the seed.

A 50 m by 50 m landing equates to 0.25 ha. At a rate of 5 Kg/ha you should be applying approximately 1.25 Kg of seed for this size of landing.

One kilometre of cyclone seeded strip approximates 0.4 ha (average width of 4 meters). Seeding road right of way at 5 Kg/ha you should be using approximately 2 kg of seed for every 1.0 km of cyclone seeded strip. Seeding rehabbed skid trails at 3 Kg/ha you should be using 1.2 Kg of seed for every 1.0 km of cyclone seeded strip.

WHAT TO SEED – You must only use seed certified as grade Canada No 1 or Common No. 1 Forage Mixture. Do not use seed mixes that are not certified to this level. A reputable seed supplier will be able to supply certified seed and various seed mixes to meet the objectives.

Sample seed mixes

Dry IDF Mix

Species	% by weight
Perennial ryegrass	25
Crested wheatgrass	15
Orchardgrass	15
Chewings fescue	10
Hard fescue	10
Alfalfa	25

Wet IDF, MS, ESSF

Species	% by weight
Perennial ryegrass	55
Orchardgrass	30
White clover	15

Erosion

Species	% by weight
Perennial ryegrass	32
Creeping red fescue	5
Canada Blue Grass	4
Western wheatgrass	35
Timothy	4
White clover	20