Tech Note
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Curlex® Blankets

Excelsior Erosion Control Blankets

ALL EXCELSIOR EROSION BLANKETS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

We take it for granted today that all biodegradable erosion control blankets are the same, and statements like "if they are made from excelsior wood fiber, they must be equals". Taking into consideration the time, expertise, quality manufacturing standards, and ASTM performance standards that should define all biodegradable erosion blankets today, the "are equal" clause should be straightforward - but it's not! If your design is going to be held liable for compliance of erosion and sediment runoff under NPDES permits, make sure you are specifying the best performing, highest quality blankets for your job by brand name. In the end, it is not the price of the product that dictates job success, it is the savings of getting the product on time and off loaded quickly, it is in receiving the quality you expected, it is in the labor saved by easy installation, it is in the best grass stand, it is in compliance with your NPDES permit.

ENGEREERED FIBERS FOR EROSION CONTROL

The Curlex® Difference

A variety of materials are used today to produce an erosion control blanket. Nettings, stitching, and fibers are all part of the manufacturing process. Of these, the fiber is the most important component that determines performance. All fibers used today with the exception of Curlex fibers are primarily straight either due to the material itself or poor quality control. Straight fibers do not have the ability to cling to one another naturally. Stitching a netting and the fibers together in the manufacturing process allows the fibers to be formed into a mat (blanket). If the fibers are straight and cannot naturally cling to one another, a 2 x 2 inch stitch must be used in the manufacturing process to maintain product integrity and to keep the fibers from coming apart in the field. Curlex curled barbed fibers (see photo 1) naturally cling to one another, so a 4 x 4 inch stitch can be used to create a mat without affecting performance levels in the field. Therefore, stitching patterns, as part of the manufacturing process, are a result of the type of fiber used and not a result of a need for higher field performance. Photo 2 shows the result of poor quality control using a fiber other than Curlex. Note the large inconsistent straight fibers and voids as illustrated in photo 2. Photo 3 shows the result of the "repeatable quality" of Curlex fiber manufacturing.

DEMAND "REPEATABLE QUALITY" FROM THE MANUFACTURER YOU SPECIFY