



On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Vegetation Over The Soil Treatment Area

Importance of Proper Vegetation

Proper vegetation over the soil treatment area (STA) is critical to the long term function of On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS). Proper vegetation will reduce the amount of runoff from rain and snowmelt that infiltrates into the STA. Excessive infiltration of rain and snowmelt may overload or "flood" the STA, contributing to early failure. Proper vegetation also may prevent erosion damage. For engineered systems, which rely on evapotranspiration (ET), proper vegetation will increase the ET of effluent.

Vegetation Prohibitions

1. Trees, shrubs, bluegrass "turf" and other landscaping requiring irrigation are prohibited on or near the STA. Tree roots may damage the system and excessive irrigation may "flood" the absorption area.
2. No automatic sprinkler system shall be installed over the STA.

Planting Instructions

1. Native vegetation is the recommended cover for STA to prevent erosion. To establish this proper vegetation, it may be necessary to "seed" the STA with a seed mix such as a "Foothills, Pasture, or Prairie" seed mix available at seed stores. These mixes do not require irrigation.

You may also contact the following agencies for assistance:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
National Resources Conservation Service
(303) 659-0525. ext. 3
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>
 - Colorado State University
Adams County Extension Service
(303) 637-8100
<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/Adams/>
2. Supply lines, distribution manifolds and laterals for non-pressurized drip dispersal systems (NDDS) are typically installed 12" to 30" deep. Care shall be taken when seeding over these areas to avoid damaging the pipes.