



SEED & SUPPLIES FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

## BIOSWALES

Bioswales are fast becoming a common feature in the man-made, sustainable landscape. While on-site water treatment can take many shapes & forms, bioswales generally share the intent of utilizing living plants to treat storm water before it is discharged into adjacent water bodies. Also, bioswales share the challenge of establishing that vegetation *prior* to the first occurrence of significant erosive overland flow.

The design and installation of direct-seeded projects will benefit from at least temporary irrigation to enhance the germination of the seeds and the grow-in of significant plant material before the wetter/colder fall & winter months. For areas that are non-irrigated, substantial non-plant erosion control treatments — including such items as TRM's — can play a critical role. Non-plant treatments should be designed to secure the site from erosion over most of the first growing season until the plants themselves can become significant contributors to the system. Spot seeding, weeding, fertilizing and other cultural activities that retard the growth of the annual weeds and benefit the target plants are highly recommended.

As you develop your seeding plans for bioswales, please consider including a natural based fertilizer such as Biosol 7-2-3™ (1000 lbs/acre) <http://www.pcseed.com/docs/BiosolMix7-2-3.pdf> and mycorrhizal inoculant AM 120™ <http://www.pcseed.com/docs/MycorrhizalInoculumAM-120.pdf> (60 lbs/acre); these ingredients supply appropriate fertilizer and promote microorganisms in order to foster effective establishment and maturation of these seed mixes.