



Pacific Coast Seed Inc.
Hydrostraw™ Alternatives to 3 Step Blown Straw

Over the last 10 years, Cal-Trans style blown and tacked straw has become a standard treatment for erosion control in Northern California and other areas of the Western United States. While this treatment has been effective for seeding hillsides and controlling erosion, detractors have criticized it for dust production and resulting air quality problems. Other shortcomings have included clean-up of off target application, weed seed introduced from the straw, ungainly crew size and other issues related to clean-up, re-grading and re-compaction of building pads after the rainy season. Erosion control contractors are now facing the possibility of fines in those areas enforcing strict air quality regulations. With the increased emphasis on air quality and the ever-present threat of civil action, many public and private landowners are restricted or in some cases prohibited from blowing straw. In order to overcome the limitations of blown straw, Pacific Coast Seed, Inc. is now offering Hydrostraw™ Mulch as an hydraulic, dust-free 2 -step treatment.

In the traditional 3 step process, 4,000 lbs of straw per acre is recognized as the effective erosion control rate. We likewise suggest that you apply a minimum of 4,000 lbs per acre of Hydrostraw™. When seeding, apply 2000 lbs Hydrostraw™, seed and fertilizer in the first application and then apply a second treatment of Hydrostraw™ only. For flat pads, mulching rates in the range of 2,500 to 3,000 lbs per acre provide good coverage with a single pass.

The most successful Hydrostraw™ application method has been to throttle back the machine and apply the material with a fan nozzle in a sweeping motion. Other methods that softly “lay-in” the product have also been favored. Since mulch-to-water ratios for Hydrostraw™ can be up to 75 lbs per 100 gallons of water or more, larger applicators can easily load and apply 40 bails per tank load. Using HydroStraw™ in a 3,000 gal machine, up to 4,500 lbs can be applied in only two loads per acre.

HydroStraw™ comes packaged in 50 lb bales with a pre-blended binder. The material handles easily and may be dry loaded in most situations.

Consider using a HydroStraw™ application on your jobs when:

- Dust is an issue (such as next to roads or houses)
- The job size does not justify an entire straw crew
- Terrain is too dangerous for straw blowing equipment
- Access is an issue

These and other challenges may be met by HydroStraw™ treatment. Contact Pacific Coast Seed today for pricing and more information or visit www.hydrostraw.com.

