

Extreme situations may call for hydroseeding measures and specification flexibility

By Tom Wedegaertner

Today's contractors are challenged to establish permanent grass in extreme circumstances with vanilla specifications," noted Skip Ragsdale, president of Sunshine Supplies, Inc., the oldest and largest distributor of erosion control products in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle.

"We're building on land that our forefathers never would have touched," he said. Steep and difficult-to-access areas are prime candidates for hydraulically applied erosion control blankets, Ragsdale explained.

On an Alabama DOT (ALDOT) test site featuring 2:1 roadside slopes with a 144-foot slope face, State-wide Grassing, Inc., trialed a new straw/cotton byproduct hydromulch, HydraCX2, alongside several other BMPs. HydraCX2 is the first product in a new line of natural-fiber hydraulic erosion control products distributed by North American Green. It offers some of the key attributes associated with a straw/cotton byproduct that includes absorbency, porosity, and biodegradability. The test site comprised an 80-vertical-foot-high fill slope on a 2.5-mile section along the future I-22.

Six months after application, a 3.2-inch rain event washed out a berm at the top of the slope. Well-established vegetation was washed off the entire site — except for the portion where the HydraCX2 had been applied. The flow created sheer stresses that removed surface vegetation in the



The ALDOT test site, which featured steep 2:1 roadside slopes with a 144-foot slope face, tested HydraCX2 (left) alongside several other erosion control products, including blown straw and a single-net straw erosion control blanket.

HydraCX2-treated area but left the roots intact. The HydraCX2 aided in quick establishment and nourishment of the vegetation, resulting in taller grass with deeper roots that helped hold the vegetation during the event.

Learn more online. Go to www.cenews.com and view the full version of this article. ■



Tom Wedegaertner is director of agricultural research at Cotton Incorporated. He can be reached at twedegaertner@cottoninc.com.

What could YOU do with some EXTRA GREEN?

Get more green with North American Green HydraMatriCx™ Series high-performance hydraulic mulches, made with a blend of straw and reclaimed cotton plant material.

Low water requirement • One-step application • 100% natural

Put more money in your pocket and green on the ground.

HYDRAMATRICX™ Series

HYDRACX²

Extreme Slope Matrix™
for Steep to Severe Slopes

HYDRACM

Steep Slope Matrix™
for Moderate to Steep Slopes



**\$80 HydraCX²™
"Green Back" Pallet Rebate**

Exclusively for HydraCX²™

Right now, for every pallet of HydraCX²™ Extreme Slope Matrix™ you purchase, get an \$80 VISA® gift card. Details from your distributor, www.nagreen.com/rebate, or 1-800-448-2040.

Contact a North American Green Erosion Solutions Specialist today at 1-800-772-2040 or www.nagreen.com for a product demonstration.

Get your extra green.



NORTH AMERICAN GREEN®

EROSION CONTROL Products
Guaranteed SOLUTIONS

A **tensar** Company



Developed in cooperation with Cotton Incorporated and the USDA.