



## **BROCHURE # 57**

# **SOIL MANAGEMENT PLANS**

### **What is a Soil Management Plan And When is it Required?**

Native and undisturbed soil and vegetation provide important stormwater management functions including infiltration and removal of sediment and pollutants. These functions are largely lost when development strips away native soil and vegetation and replaces it with minimal soil and sod. A soil management plan provides guidance to help restore soil conditions where Pollution Generating Pervious Surfaces (PGPS) are located.

A soil management plans is required for the following:

- All major developments\* that create Pollution Generating Pervious Surfaces
- Minor developments\* that have land disturbing activity of 7,000 square feet or greater.

\*See the handout “Stormwater and Residential Construction” for more information on minor and major developments.

### **What is a Pollution Generating Pervious Surface?**

A pollution generating pervious surface (PGPS) means any pervious surface subject to the use of pesticides and fertilizers or loss of soil. Typical residential PGPS include lawns and landscaped areas.



### **I need to Amend my Soils. Now What?**

If you need to amend your soils, there are four methods to achieve compliance:

1. Leave undisturbed vegetation and soil alone. Protect it from compaction by fencing and keeping materials storage and equipment off these areas during construction.
2. Amend the existing site topsoil or subsoil either at default “pre-approved” rates, or at custom calculated rates to meet the soil quality guidelines based on specifiers’ tests of the soil and amendment. The default pre-approved rates are:
  - In planting beds, place 3 inches of compost and till in to an 8 inch depth;
  - In turf areas, place 1.75 inches of compost and till in to an 8 inch depth.
3. Stockpile existing topsoil during grading, and replace it prior to planting. Stockpiled topsoil must also be amended at the default “pre-approved” rate or at a custom calculated rate.
4. Import topsoil mix of sufficient organic content and depth to meet the requirements. The default pre-approved rates for imported topsoils are:
  - For planting beds, a mix by volume of 35 percent compost with 65 percent mineral soil;
  - For turf areas, a mix by volume of 20 percent compost with 80 percent mineral soil.

More than one method may be used on different portions of the same site. Soil that already meets the depth and organic matter quality standards and is not compacted does not need to be amended.

### What Information Do I Provide to the County?

A completed Soil Management Form (Document #5401D) and a soil management site plan are required to be submitted to the County. The elements for the soil management site plan can be incorporated into the construction stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) if one is submitted. At a minimum, a soil management plan includes the following items:

- Scaled site plan on minimum 11"x 17" paper.
- Identify areas where each amendment option will be applied and clearly indicate the option used (1-4 above).
- Identify compost, topsoils and other organic materials for amendment and mulch.
- Calculate amendment, topsoil and mulch volumes. For pre-approved amendment rates, figure the

square footage of each area and complete the following calculation:

- \_\_\_\_\_ inches of compost or imported topsoil
- x 3.1 (conversion factor, inches to cubic yards)
- \_\_\_\_\_ =cu.yards per 1,000 square feet
- X\_\_\_\_\_ square feet in this area
- \_\_\_\_\_ = cubic yards of amendment

At final inspection, a field verification of your amended soil will take place. If you are intending to bring topsoil from a permitted composting facility, please have truck trip tickets on site for review.

A list of permitted composting facilities is maintained by the Washington State Department of Ecology. For an up-to-date listing of local permitted composting facilities please visit the DOE website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/organics/soil.html>

