CRIMPED (POKED) STRAW

SDDOT Specification: 732 Mulching

SDDOT Standard Plate:

Description: Poked or crimped straw consists of a layer of straw or hay spread or blown over the seeded and fertilized soil surface. The straw is then mechanically anchored to the soil surface. The action of rolling an implement over the surface of the straw creates rows of straw that stand up. The remainder of the straw protects the soil’s surface. This reduces the velocity of the runoff, promotes infiltration and vegetation establishment and reduces erosion.

Applications:
Poked straw is used for erosion control and vegetation establishment on:

- Cut or fill slopes, topsoil stockpiles

Considerations:
- Place mulch within 48 hours of seeding.
- Do not apply during high wind conditions.
- Apply mulch in uniform cover leaving no visible bare places.
- Prohibit foot, equipment and vehicle traffic after application.
- Equipment may include hydroseed application equipment, mulch tiller or disc, and straw blowing equipment (either square bales or round bales can be blown with equipment).
**Inspection and Maintenance**

- Inspect slopes for rill formation. If necessary, reseed and reapply straw as necessary.

**Common Problems:**

- Dry, hardened soil may prevent proper anchoring of the straw. The soil surface may need to have water applied prior to straw application to ensure that straw is crimped and not merely cut into smaller pieces by the crimping equipment.
- Crimping equipment that is too sharp may cut the straw rather than anchor it to the soil.
- Straw application not heavy enough to cover