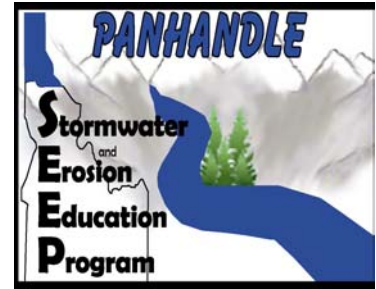


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Submitted by Kate Wilson of the SEEP Committee



BMP of the Month (AUGUST): Dust control

With the hot sun finally shining its rays on us here in the Panhandle, the SEEP committee would like to share some tips for preventing potential dust dilemmas at your construction and/or development sites.

Controlling dust on a site reduces and/or prevents wind erosion by protecting the surface of the soil, roughening the surface, or reducing the surface wind velocity. Dust control measures should be taken when open dry areas of soil are probable (especially during the next couple of months).

The best method for controlling dust is to **prevent dust production!** By limiting the amount of bare soil exposed at one time, and leaving existing vegetation alone (whenever possible) will most effectively keep the soil in place.

Control measures for dust include:

- Vegetative cover-For disturbed areas not subject to traffic; provides the most practical method of dust control.
- Mulch (including gravel)-When properly applied, offers a fast and effective means of controlling dust.
- Spray-on adhesive-Resin in water or an asphalt or latex emulsion can be sprayed onto mineral soil to keep it from blowing away.
- Sprinkling-Wetting the soil can be effective on haul roads or other traffic routes.
- Stone/gravel-Can be used to stabilize construction roads and disturbed soils.
- Surface roughening-By tilling or discing disturbed soils, a rough/ridged surface that are perpendicular to prevailing winds will help with dust control.
- Barriers-A board fence, wind fence, sediment fence or similar barrier can control air currents and blowing soil; most are constructed of wood. Perennial grasses and stands of existing trees may also serve as wind barriers.

In project design, identify all areas where ground disturbance will not be allowed. Design and locate haul roads, detours, and staging areas to avoid unnecessary exposure of bare ground and avoid using areas that are most susceptible to wind erosion. Make sure that haul trucks are covered with a tarp and drive no faster than 15 miles per hour when leaving or entering a construction site.

Manufactured soil stabilizing products are also available for dust control—these are chemical or organic compounds sprayed on loose soil to hold it in place. Examples of these compounds include: polyvinyl acrylic polymers (PVAs), chloride salts, resins, foams, bonded fiber matrices, and tackifiers derived from soybeans or lignin.

For more information on SEEP, please see: <http://www.plrcd.org/SEEP>.