**City of Berea, Kentucky**
**Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)**
**Erosion Prevention Practices (EPPs)**

**EPP 4.2.9**

## Activity: Top Soiling (TS)

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:**

Design Life: Permanent

Acreage Needed: Varies

Estimated Unit Cost: Medium

Monthly Maintenance: 10% of Capital Cost

TS

**Target Pollutants**

| Significant ♦ | Partial ◊ | Low or Unknown ◊ |
|---|---|---|

Sediment ♦ Heavy Metals ♦ Nutrients ♦ Oxygen Demanding Substances ♦ Toxic Materials◊
Oil& Grease ♦ Bacteria & Viruses ◊ Floatable Materials ◊ Construction Waste ◊

**Description**

Topsoil is used to enhance the final product of a construction site area. This act is done to support temporary and permanent seeding, as well as aiding in erosion control methods. By implementing this BMP, a reduction in construction waste and some reduction in sediment will occur.

**Suitable Applications**

- Where construction activities expose subsoil layers that may not be able to support vegetative growth.
- Areas where reusing and preserving topsoil increases the success rate of new vegetation.

**Approach**

- Compost used on site as a recycled aspect of construction clearing.
- Verify proper placement of down slope sediment control practices prior to removing topsoil. Strip topsoil only from those areas that will be disturbed by excavation, filling, road building, or compaction by equipment. Normally, 4 to 6 inches are stripped for topsoil use.
- Position topsoil stockpiles where they will not erode, block drainage, or interfere with site work.
- Before topsoil is applied to the site, disk the subsoil to insure topsoil bonding. Apply a minimum of 4 inches of topsoil evenly.
- If site is excavated down to rock, such as sandstone or shale, 8 to 12 inches of topsoil is recommended for good plant growth.

| Activity: Top Soiling | EPP 4.2.9 |
|---|---|

**Installation Procedures**

- Strip topsoil 4 to 6 in. from areas to be disturbed by excavation, filling, road building or compaction by equipment and preserve for later use.
- Disk the subsoil to insure topsoil bonding before applying to site. Applying a minimum of 4 in. of topsoil evenly.
- Apply seeding & mulch or sod after final grading.

**Maintenance**

- Maintain areas where vegetation has been re-established to remedy erosion and damage or vegetation failure by frequently checking the newly applied topsoil.

**Inspection Checklist**

- ☐ Effective management practices such as netting, temporary seeding, mulch and other traditional methods are used to ensure correct storage of the soil. If these practices are not available, other equivalent practices are to be enforced.
- ☐ Appropriate layer of topsoil has been established.
- ☐ Storage piles do not interfere with site drainage.