

Garfield County Revegetation Guidelines
from the
Garfield County Noxious Weed Management Plan

Revegetation and Rehabilitation:

A crucial part of any weed management plan is the reintroduction of site appropriate vegetation.

Establishing a desirable plant community after noxious weeds have been removed from a highly infested area requires timely cultivation and reseeding. Since the seeds from noxious weeds may lay dormant for many years, removing all visible signs of the noxious weeds does not ensure against their return. Revegetation can help prevent the germination of weed seeds. It is important to inspect the land regularly to identify and treat small, new infestations. For proper reclamation, managed irrigation of dry areas, fertilization, and reseeding are essential to establish desirable plant communities.

Native plants are most appropriate when the goal is restoration (trying to restore native habitat). Weed-free seeds of native Colorado grasses, wildflowers or plant species appropriate to the site may be purchased, but the best source for seeds is from native species that grow in the immediate vicinity of the infestation. They will be best adapted to local conditions and will help maintain local integrity and genetic viability. Using native plants or seeds to reclaim disturbed land reduces degradation of native ecosystems, reduces the need for herbicides and conserves water resources. Native plants will provide a broad biological diversity and help keep Colorado looking like Colorado with a unique regional landscape that sets us apart from other areas of the country.

When the goal is reclamation (reseeding for quick ground cover establishment or erosion control), it may be appropriate to use introduced, non-aggressive grasses and forbs.

Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or Colorado State University Cooperative Extension for seeding recommendations. The *Native Plant Revegetation Guide for Colorado*, published by the Colorado State Parks Natural Areas Program, is an excellent guide for native plant reseeding. Contact the Garfield County Vegetation Management office for further information on this material.

STRATEGIES:

- Study all vegetation in the area and surrounding areas.
- Preserve plant species native to Colorado.
- Test the soil for pH balance. Try to retain and utilize as much on-site topsoil as possible.
- Select a predominant species that is appropriate to the site. Then choose a few complimentary species to provide a balanced plant community.
- Choose plants that are healthy, vigorous and pest free.
- Use weed-free seeds. Use non-hybrid seeds. Avoid commercial seed packets containing exotic plant species.
- Choose plants that are horticulturally appropriate, i.e. plant species that are adaptable to climate, soil and topographical conditions of the designated area.
- Consider the use of water, its availability and the vegetative requirements.
- To landscape for wildlife, choose native plants that provide cover, forage, browse, seeds for birds and rodents, and shade.
- Be site-specific; revegetation strategies may vary for small lots, farms, ranches or construction sites.

- Establish a vegetative cover that is diverse, effective and long lasting, capable of self-regeneration.
- Stabilize the surface.

Garfield County Requirements (Adopted May 7, 2001)

At the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners, as part of the Planning and Zoning approval process, for land disturbances outside the building envelope, the County may require, at preliminary plan and prior to Final Plat, the following items:

A Soil Plan to include:

- Provisions for salvaging on-site topsoil.
- A timetable for eliminating topsoil and/or aggregate piles.
- A plan that provides for soil cover if any disturbances or stockpiles will sit exposed for a period of 90 days or more.

A Revegetation Plan to include:

- Plant material list (be specific, scientific and common names required)
- Planting schedule (to include timing, methods, and provisions for watering, if applicable)
- A map of the area impacted at preliminary plan (where the soil will be disturbed)
- A revegetation bond. (Agricultural practices are exempt from revegetation requirements unless they are in association with a subdivision or land use proposal.)

A revegetation security may be required if, in the determination of the Board of County Commissioners, the proposed project has:

- A potential to facilitate the spread of noxious weeds.
- A potential to impact watershed areas.
- A potential for visual impacts from public viewing corridors
- Steep slopes (15% or greater) or unstable areas.
- Disturbs large areas (Half an acre or greater)

The revegetation security will be in an amount to be determined by the Board of County Commissioners that will be site-specific and based on the amount of disturbance. The security shall be held by Garfield County until vegetation has been successfully reestablished according to the following Reclamation Standards. The Board of County Commissioners will designate a member of their staff to evaluate the reclamation prior to the release of the security.