



Individual Sewage Disposal Systems Vegetation Over The Absorption System

Importance of Proper Vegetation

Proper vegetation over the absorption area is critical to the long term function of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS). Proper vegetation will reduce the amount of runoff from rain and snowmelt that infiltrates into the absorption area. Excessive infiltration of rain and snowmelt may overload or "flood" the absorption area, contributing to early failure. Proper vegetation also may prevent erosion damage. For engineered systems, which rely on evapotranspiration (ET), proper vegetation will increase the ET of effluent.

Vegetation Prohibitions

1. Trees, shrubs, bluegrass "turf" and other landscaping requiring irrigation are prohibited on or near the absorption area. Tree roots may damage the system and excessive irrigation may "flood" the absorption area.
2. No automatic sprinkler system shall be installed over the absorption area.

Planting Instructions

1. Native vegetation is the recommended cover for absorption areas to prevent erosion. To establish this proper vegetation, it may be necessary to "seed" the absorption area with a seed mix such as a "Foothills, Pasture, or Prairie" seed mix available at seed stores. These mixes do not require irrigation.

You may also contact the following agencies for assistance:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
National Resources Conservation Service
(303) 659-0525. ext. 3
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>
 - Colorado State University
Adams County Extension Service
(303) 637-8100
<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/Adams/>
2. Supply lines, distribution manifolds and laterals for engineered drip irrigation systems are typically installed 12" to 30" deep. Care shall be taken when seeding over these areas to avoid damaging the pipes.