



**Before El Niño, be prudent and examine your erosion control strategy**

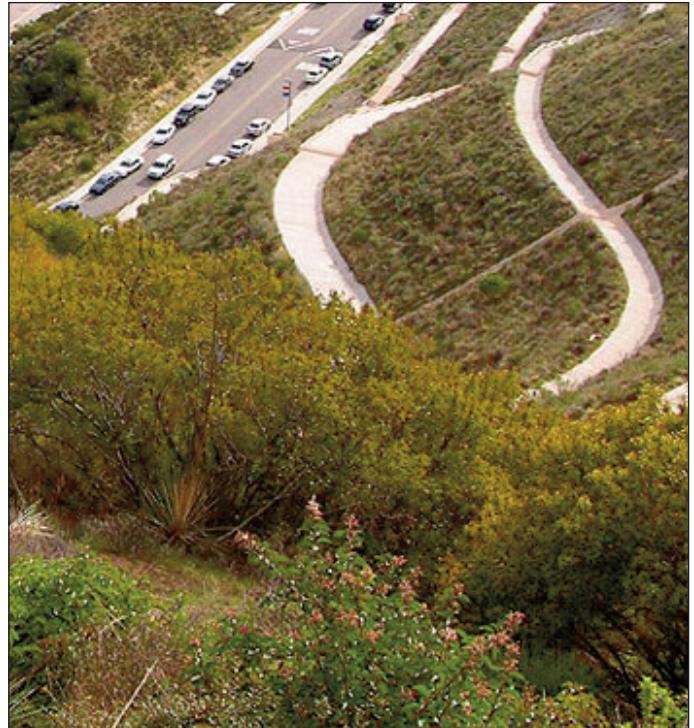
With California’s serious drought and the expectation of a powerful El Niño (a complex climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean) this winter, now is a prudent time to look at the most effective products for Erosion Control, especially those that require little or no irrigation.

For this article, Stephen Knutson of Stover Seed, suggests an examination of Pacific Meadow Mix, Wildfire Seed Mix #1 and Wildfire Seed Mix #2 because of these two factors, i.e. the current drought and the potential heavy rains of El Niño.

The drought has battered native chaparral, making slopes bare and dry. With approaching El Nino weather patterns, we could get a lot of water over a short period of time, which in turn can cause serious soil erosion on hillsides and any exposed slopes. The slopes need grasses with fibrous root systems that will slow down the water, hold the soil in place, and require little or no irrigation.

In California, the late Oct/Nov Fall season is the perfect time to plant these erosion control blends. By Dec-Jan, the cooler temperatures and less daylight mean the seeds grow more slowly and take longer to establish.

**Wildfire Seed Mix #1** provides excellent erosion control for nearly any location including roadsides and slopes recently devastated by fire, in areas under



4,000 feet in elevation. This mixture of fast establishing, reseeding annual legumes, grasses and wildflowers insures excellent drought tolerance and soil stabilization and requires no irrigation. The recommended seeding rate is 35 pounds per acre or 13 ounces per 1,000 square feet.

**Wildfire Seed Mix #2** is another excellent erosion control mixture for construction sites, roadsides, and forests recently devastated by fire where native perennial grasses are preferred. Its fast establishing, perennial grasses and wildflowers are native to California and well suited for areas up to 8,000 feet in elevation. No irrigation is required, and the grass can stay green through summer if occasionally irrigated. For natural areas without irrigation, seed during the fall and winter in advance of rains; it can

be established anytime of the year with irrigation. The recommended seeding rate is 43 pounds per acre or 1 pound per 1,000 square feet.

Finally, **Pacific Meadow Mix** offers excellent erosion control as an unmowed grass for ground cover or slopes. Its fine textured



grasses provide the best combination of durability and appearance. This luxurious grass exhibits long, slender leaf blades and a very fine, wavy texture and grows to 15 inches high, thus creating a ‘meadow’

effect. Suitable for sun or shade, It germinates quickly and is designed to be irrigated. It can also be mixed with wildflowers.

In the industry, Stover Seed is credited for its exceptional custom seed mixes.

For more information on products that help prevent erosion control and sedimentation, visit:

[www.stoverseed.com/products\\_erosion.html](http://www.stoverseed.com/products_erosion.html)

[www.stoverseed.com/waterwise.html](http://www.stoverseed.com/waterwise.html)

Also, feel free to give us a call **213-626-9668**.



STOVER SEED®

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