



County of San Diego
Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE: PLANTING FOR EROSION CONTROL IN BURNED AREAS ADJACENT TO HOMES

To reduce some of the erosion that may occur following a wildfire, you may take these steps in burned areas around the home. This reseeding information is intended for areas that were landscaped, planted, tilled, or otherwise altered.

Areas of undisturbed native vegetation prior to the fire (areas that had been left in a “natural” state) will have plenty of native seeds present that will be activated. Whenever possible, it is best to allow these native landscapes to re-grow on their own from seeds and surviving roots. Provide erosion control on burned areas of native vegetation by spreading straw over the area or following other methods advised by the County Department of Public Works.

Key Steps

1. Plan your operation to begin before the fall rains, usually in late October into November.
2. Obtain the supplies of seed, fertilizers and straw as soon as you decide to carry out this operation.
3. Use the recommended seed list at the end of this fact sheet.
4. Spread your seed at the rate of 10 pounds of seed per acre. This is about 1/4 pound (or 4 ounces) of seed per 1000 square feet.
5. Use a fertilizer to improve the growth of the seed mixture. Use a 16-20-0 fertilizer which can be obtained from commercial farm and landscape suppliers in San Diego County. We recommend a rate of 200-300 pounds of fertilizer per acre, or about 5 to 8 pounds of fertilizer per 1000 square