



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
4310 Lexington Road
P. O. Box 8024
Athens, Georgia 30603

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Media Contact: Michael Wald
Tel. (706) 552-4489
Email: mwald@gaswcc.org

Georgia issues revised Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control *Manual sets new rules for approval of erosion control products*

ATHENS, Ga. – The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission has released a revised *Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia*.

The manual provides a technical guide in formulating plans for land-disturbing activities. Georgia's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act requires counties and municipalities to have erosion and sediment control ordinances or be covered under state regulations for urban land-disturbing activities. The criteria, standards, and specifications contained in Chapter 6 of the manual must be incorporated into all local erosion and sediment control programs.

Revisions to the *Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia, Sixth Edition*, include the addition of new Best Management Practices (BMPs), as well as benchmark standards for most new and existing BMPs. The benchmarks are a result of data collected from standardized testing procedures which were approved by the GSWCC and completed on randomly selected products and practices.

While the changes to the manual are effective Jan. 1, 2014, GSWCC recognizes the need for a transition period to allow individuals time to understand and begin implementing the new requirements. This will also allow manufacturers time to have their products tested, a procedure that is now required for erosion control products to be considered for inclusion in the manual.

The preparation of the manual was financed in part through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources under Provisions of Section 319(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) supports locally-led soil and water conservation districts through education, technical, financial and planning assistance and through program oversight.

For more information and to obtain an online copy of the new manual, go to <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/manual-erosion-and-sediment-control-georgia>. More information on protecting, conserving and improving Georgia's soil and water resources is available on the GSWCC website at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov> or by calling (706) 552-4470.

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