

## Flexible Growth Media/Matrix

### Plan Symbol



### Description

A Flexible Growth Matrix (FGM) combines both chemical and mechanical bonding techniques to lock the matrix in place. FGM is composed of crimped, manmade fibers, organic fibers, and performance-enhancing additives that form a lofty, interlocking matrix. FGM has air spaces and water-absorbing cavities that improve seed germination, reduce the impact of raindrop energy, and minimize soil loss. Water insoluble tackifiers and flocculants chemically bond the matrix to the soil surface.

### When and Where to Use It

FGM is applicable for the following situations:

- As a Type A Temporary Erosion Control Blanket
- Slopes up to 2H:1V
- As an infill for TRMs on slopes greater than 2H:1V
- Environmentally sensitive areas not compatible for netting
- When the required longevity of soil protection is up to 1 year
- When the site requires immediate erosion protection and there is a risk of impending weather
- When fast vegetation establishment is required
- When a high factor of design safety is required.

FGM is **not** applicable as a channel liner or for areas receiving concentrated flow. Applicable FGM may be selected from the SCDOT approved products list.

### Installation

All FGM components are pre-packaged by the Manufacturer to assure material performance. Under no circumstances is field mixing of materials, additives or components accepted. Examine substrates and conditions where materials will be applied. Apply FGM to geotechnically stable slopes that have been designed and constructed to divert runoff away from the face of the slope. Do not proceed with installation until satisfactory conditions are established.

Install FGM with a contractor who is certified and trained by the Manufacturer in the proper procedures for mixing and applying the FGM. Strictly comply with the Manufacturer's mixing recommendations and installation instructions. Use approved hydraulic seeding/mulching machines with fan-type nozzle (50-degree tip) for FGM applications. Apply FGM from opposing directions to the soil surface in successive layers, reducing the "shadow effect" to achieve maximum coverage of all exposed soil. FGM does not require a cure time and is effective immediately such that FGM may be applied immediately before, during or after a rainfall event. Install FGM materials according to the Manufacturer's application rates.

### Inspection and Maintenance

- Check areas protected by FGM for dislocation or failure every 7 calendar days and within 24-hours after each storm that produces ½-inch or more of rain.
- Reapply FGM to disturbed areas that require continued erosion control.

- Maintain equipment to provide uniform application rates. Rinse all mixing and application equipment thoroughly with water to avoid formation of residues and discharge rinse water appropriately.
- Degradation of FGM is expected to occur as a result of mechanical degradation, chemical and biological hydrolysis, sunlight, salt and temperature. Reapply FGM in accordance with the Manufacturer’s instructions. Reapplication is not required unless FGM treated soils are disturbed or turbidity or water quality shows the need for an additional application.



FGM Application



FGM

**Preventive Measures and Troubleshooting Guide**

Field Condition	Common Solutions
Slope areas have eroded due to concentrated flows.	<p>Make sure the upper end of the slope has a berm constructed to eliminate concentrated flows from flowing down the slope.</p> <p>Slope length may be too long and concentrated flows are occurring. Use sediment tubes or other practices to provide slope breaks.</p> <p>Re-apply FGM to the eroded areas once the concentration problem has been resolved.</p>
Rain event is impending.	<p>FGM does not require a cure time and is effective immediately such that FGM may be applied immediately before, during or after a rainfall event.</p>
FGM has degraded.	<p>FGM has a longevity of soil protection up to 1 year. In some instances degradation of FGM occurs as a result of mechanical degradation, chemical and biological hydrolysis, sunlight, salt and temperature.</p> <p>Reapply FGM in accordance with the Manufacturer’s instructions. Reapplication is not required unless FGM treated soils are disturbed or turbidity or water quality shows the need for an additional application.</p>