

## APPENDIX VIII

Excerpts from reply made October 28, 1943, to a Radio commentator in answer to criticisms made relative to Seeding and Mulching programs.

I was very much interested in your broadcast of Thursday, October 14th as heard over Station W.H.K.C., Columbus, Ohio, and especially interested in that part of your talk which dealt with the matter of the use of hay along roadsides for the mulching of newly seeded areas.

First, of all, no project is being developed in Ohio at this time which can in any sense be called a landscape or "beautification" project excepting as a restoration of nature's green vegetation ground cover would justify such a term. Our prime and only consideration is that of controlling erosion.

Only such projects are being carried on as have been approved as essential (i.e., war transportation and war plant access highways) by the War Department.

In regards to the material used for mulching the newly seeded areas on highway projects, straw is most generally used. This may be wheat or oat straw and is of a grade and quality not ordinarily suitable for paper or paper box manufacture. We are cooperating with the manufacturers of paper and paper boxes in this matter and we are working with them in State-wide publicity to get the farmers to salvage more straw following their harvesting seasons.

In Ohio we use a considerable quantity of the stems of clovers, alfalfa, timothy and soy beans for mulching. These stems are refuse from seed harvesting and are unsuitable for any other purpose. The farmer formerly burned them.

We do use some hay for mulching, but when we do, the hay is selected because it is moldy, has stood in stacks until it has weathered and darkened or otherwise become unfit for stock feeding. The project which you probably saw near Cincinnati had been mulched with a combination of chaffy straw, weathered timothy hay and clover stems. This project is located on U. S. Route No. 50 near Elizabethtown, west of Cincinnati.

A word concerning the quantity of mulching material may be of interest to you. Our specifications call for two inches, loose measurement, of straw, hay, etc. After a good heavy rain, this mats down to about one inch. You can see that a bale of straw, fluffed out, will cover a considerable area -- actually one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five square yards. No other material has ever proven so cheap or so effective.

The results obtained from our seeding and mulching program are many fold.

First of all, we immediately and quickly stop erosion. The mulch itself accomplishes this.

The mulch protects the seed, assists in germination and promotes a quick stand of vegetation. Seeding without mulching has proven not more than fifteen per cent efficient, by comparison.



There is a tremendous saving in man power with our seeding and mulching program. We do not require the fine finishing or "sandpapering" of the roadsides under this program, as compared with former practices.

By the use of a mulch, we eliminate extensive soil preparations. Topsoiling, deep cultivation and other expensive procedures are eliminated entirely.

The use of a mulch allows us to seed at any time of the year. The covering prevents erosion and protects the seed until the ground is warm enough to germinate it. This permits us to release a contractor and his organization from a given project immediately upon completion of his seeding and mulching operations.

The use of mulching and seeding on the roadsides and the resultant vegetative growth has eliminated to practically zero the maintenance required on those roadsides. You can realize the saving in man power that this gives to us.

When we control erosion we keep the pavement open, we keep the planned drainage system open and in operation, we protect the pavement at its critical points, and we keep traffic moving. It permits us to open up newly constructed highways to traffic earlier and without interruptions, once opened.

As stated at the beginning of this letter, I give you these facts in a friendly spirit, and to explain to you in detail how we are operating in Ohio. Certain other States have adopted our methods, as being so practical and economical and so result producing.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Dallas D. Dupre, Jr.,  
Landscape Architect

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