SURFACE ROUGHENING

The purposes of surface roughening are to aid in establishment of vegetative cover with seed, to reduce runoff velocity and increase infiltration, and to reduce erosion and provide for sediment trapping. All slopes steeper than 3:1 require surface roughening, either stair-step grading, grooving, furrowing, or tracking if they are to be stabilized with vegetation. However, if the slope is to be stabilized with erosion control blankets or soil reinforcement matting, the soil surface should not be roughened. Areas with grades less steep than 3:1 should have the soil surface lightly roughened and loosened to a depth of 2 to 4 inches prior to seeding. Areas which have been graded and will not be stabilized immediately may be rougthened to reduce runoff velocity until seeding takes place. Slopes with a stable rock face do not require roughening or stabilization.

Grooving

Grooving consists of using machinery to create a series of ridges and depressions which run perpendicular to the slope (on the contour). Grooves may be made with any appropriate implement which can be safely operated on the slope and which will not cause undue compaction. Suggested implements include discs, tillers, spring harrows, and the teeth on a frontend loader bucket. Such grooves shall not be less than 3 inches deep nor further than 15 inches apart.

Roughening with tracked machinery

Roughening with tracked machinery on clay soils is not recommended unless no alternatives are available. Undue compaction of surface soil results from this practice. Sandy soils do not compact severely and may be tracked. In no case is tracking as effective as the other roughening methods described. Tracking shall be done by operating tracked machinery up and down the slope to leave horizontal depressions in the soil. As few passes of the machinery as possible should be made to minimize compaction.

Seeding

Roughened areas shall be seeded and mulched as soon as possible to obtain optimum seed germination and seeding growth. Refer to specifications DS1, DS2, DS3, and DS4 – Disturbed Area Stabilization (with mulching only, temporary seeding, permanent vegetation, and sodding), respectively.

This detail was taken from the City of Atlanta's website. It may have been modified and should be reviewed thoroughly.