



Curlex® II

Highway Right-Of-Way Application

QuickGRASS® Case Study

When traveling the Illinois Tollway around the Chicago area, you are sure to notice the 75,000 acres of right-of-way covered with grass, trees, flowers and shrubs. This landscaping not only provides pleasing scenery for the tollway traveler, but also serves to prevent erosion along the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's 274-mile stretch of roadways.

For the Tollway Authority's widening project, the Authority specified American Excelsior's Curlex® II Double-Sided Erosion Control Blanket. This product satisfied the need for a sturdy ground cover, which would protect the soil and germinating seeds on the Authority's landscape program on this project.

Once construction was completed on a tollway span, phase one of the landscaping began. The slope was established, prepared and seeded and the Curlex blankets were installed. Wherever possible, the Authority tried to reduce cuts and very steep grades for better erosion control and safer maintenance procedures.

"The Curlex blanket does very well for the Tollway Authority in that it not only provides a nice environment for the seeds to grow by keeping moisture within the soil, but it also helps in weed control and prevents any excessive soil and seed loss through wind and water erosion," says Mr. Bob Klatt, Landscaping Coordinator for the Tollway Authority. "It also allows the seeds to establish and germinate. Once that is done, the blanket biodegrades and goes back into the environment and the seed has a head start."



The blankets combine a mat of curled and seasoned Great Lakes Aspen wood excelsior with a tough, photodegradable plastic mesh, which remains in place even on rough terrain. Curlex fibers expand when they become wet. As moisture is released, the fibers contract. This natural motion creates a digging effect that results in superior soil adhesion.

The Illinois Tollway Authority has installed roughly three million square feet of the blankets on the project at a cost of less than four percent of the total landscape and restoration budget which, according to Mr. Klatt, "is very economical for complete erosion control."



Although the Illinois Tollway Authority has a longstanding relationship with American Excelsior, they have used other erosion control blankets in the past. "We have used another

Manufacturer's straw blanket and found it to be okay. However, we had problems with them curling, and since they were lighter than the Curlex blanket, we found that they tended to blow and rip from the wind caused by passing trucks along the roadway," says Mr. Klatt. "Although we want our highways to look nice and pretty, the green grass, landscaping, and beauty of some of our tollways is only a side benefit. Our primary concern is that our landscaping is functional, that our trees screen roadway noise and pollution, and that our grassed areas deter erosion," he adds.

BENEFITS OF CURLEX II QUICKGRASS

- Top and bottom of blanket covered with photodegradable, extruded plastic mesh
- Protection for slopes 1.5H:1V
- Expedites germination by capturing and releasing moisture
- Helps control soil surface temperature fluctuations
- Protects against high winds and sun burnout
- Breaks the impact force of rain drops to reduce erosion
- Curlex's barbed fibers inter-lock to the soil for sure adhesion
- Fibers are biodegradable and add nutrients to the soil



If you would like to receive more information or consult with one of our Customer Care Center Specialists, please call us toll free at (888-352-9582). PDF download specifications available in the Technical Support Library at www.curlex.com.