

How to Prevent

SOIL EROSION ON A SLOPE



Without proper erosion control a strong El Niño storm can wash away beneficial soil. It can wreak havoc on building foundations and destabilize structures. The sediment from runoff is a major pollutant and will disrupt the natural food chain. If the slope becomes saturated it can fail.

How to Prepare

Early planning is best. And, there are things you can do during the rainy season. Below are some options. Some will need advance planning. But, it is never too early to plan for next year.

Temporary Solutions

- **Sandbagging**
Sandbags can effectively and inexpensively control mud-flow. The materials are readily available and are easily installed. Properly placed, they will re-direct flow.
- **Plastic Sheeting**
Its effectiveness will depend on the height of your slope. Spread it across your slope and using stakes, secure it to the slope. Drive your stakes along the edge at 10 to 12 foot intervals.
- **Jute Netting**
A biodegradable material, jute can protect your soil from wind and water damage. It can be anchored over mulch or applied on its own. However, it is not appropriate in all situations.

Plan Ahead Solutions

- **Terracing**
Consists of ridges and channels constructed across the slope. Terracing stabilizes the slope by shortening the long slope into a series of shorter more level steps. A professional is best to determine the rise and run of your slope.
- **Retaining walls**
Check your building codes first. You may need a permit. A retaining wall can look beautiful and will add value to your property. It will also keep soil, rock and water in place so it cannot be washed away by rain.
- **Mulch**
For a moderate bare slope (USDA says 33% steepness) mulch can be a successful solution to control runoff. The solution for a steeper slope is more complex. You should consult with a professional about the type of mulch. Be certain that your mulch isn't flammable and cannot be washed away by rain. Mulching can be a shorter term project.
- **Plant Material**
A mix of plants is best for slope stabilization. Consider the level of your slope and its environment. Plants will need sufficient root systems to keep soil in place. Groundcover, perennials, shrubs and trees will act as a barrier for the water.
See back side for plant suggestions!

Hire A Professional

They have the knowledge to determine slope steepness and the right materials to effectively stabilize it.

There are multiple considerations - type of retaining wall materials and plant types. These decisions are best left to a company with the experience and resources.

Gardeners' Guild has 44 years of experience and a team of certified experts to help.

Call us with questions!
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Plant Material Options

The type and depth of the soil and sun exposure determines what plants will work for you. Mixing deep and some shallow rooted plants together will provide even greater soil stability.

The plants listed below are a few options to consider. Keep in mind their viability will depend on your particular micro-climate. A professional can advise you more thoroughly on the best plants for your environment.

Mulching and irrigation are critical components for your plan. The right irrigation will ensure the health of your plants.



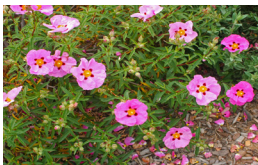
Lantana

Evergreen shrub. Grows to 2-3' tall x 6' wide. Heat and drought tolerant. Likes sun



Rosmarinus (Rosemary)

Evergreen ground cover. Grows 4-8'. Fragrant foliage popular in cooking. Drought tolerant. Likes sun



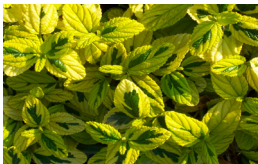
Cistus Skanbergii

Evergreen shrub. Low dense growth. Grows to 2-4' x 4-5' wide. Excellent for slope. Drought tolerant. Likes sun.



Arctostaphylos "Emerald Carpet"

Low growing, compact and dense shrub. Small white flowers then red fruit. Excellent for slope stabilization.



Ceonothus "Diamond Heights"

Beautiful spreading shrub. Pretty green leaves. Drought tolerant. Likes sun but can tolerate light shade.

Thank you to our sources for this article:

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