BMP 6

Proper Planting of Tree Seedlings by Machine

Purpose
Degradation of water quality from the movement of soil from the erosion of planting slits produced by mechanical tree planters during the planting of tree planting stock should be minimized.

Definition
Mechanical tree planters, or tree setters, have a chisel plow and/or coulter-type disk and create a planting slit. Generally they are most suitable for use on relatively even or gently rolling topography where slopes do not exceed 20 percent. Regardless, the planting slit is a continuous linear strip of furrowed disturbed ground that has the potential to erode.

Specifications
Mechanical tree planters should be operated along the contour to the maximum extent possible to prevent erosion and soil movement originating from the continuous planting slit.

Regulatory Requirements for BMP No. 6

(See Appendix A for explanations)

- All silvicultural operations: (410 KAR 5:026, 5:029, 5:030, and 5:031)
- Activities near high-quality waters and outstanding national resources waters: (401 KAR 5:029, 5:030, and 5:031)
- Activities near wild rivers: (KRS 146.200 et seq. and 401 KAR 4:100-140)

Summary: AWQA Minimum Requirements for BMP No. 6

The producer should:
- operate mechanical tree planters only on the contour during tree planting operations