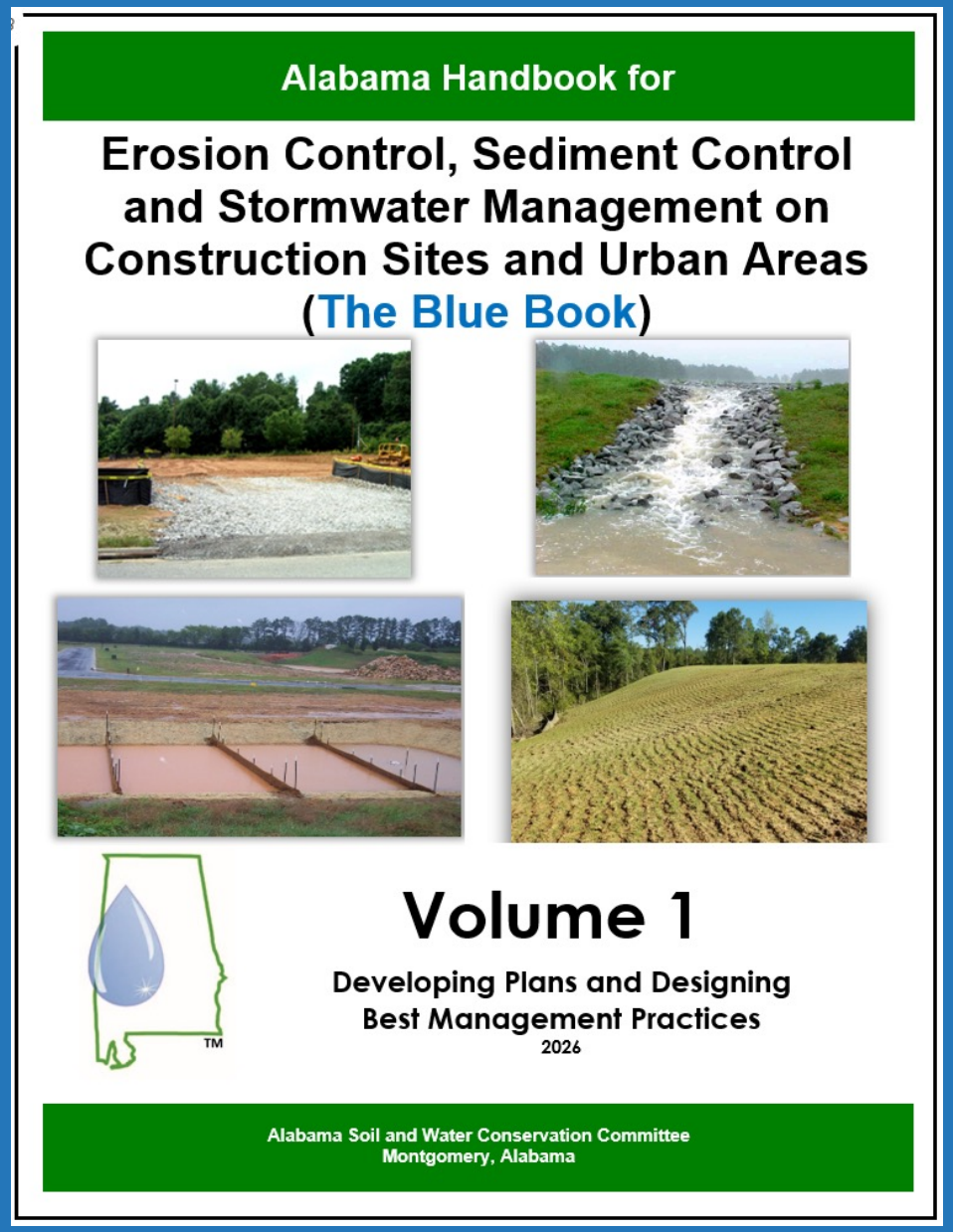


BLUE BOOK CHANGES FOR 2026

(for presentation at CWA 2026)

Perry Oakes
E&SC Program Coordinator

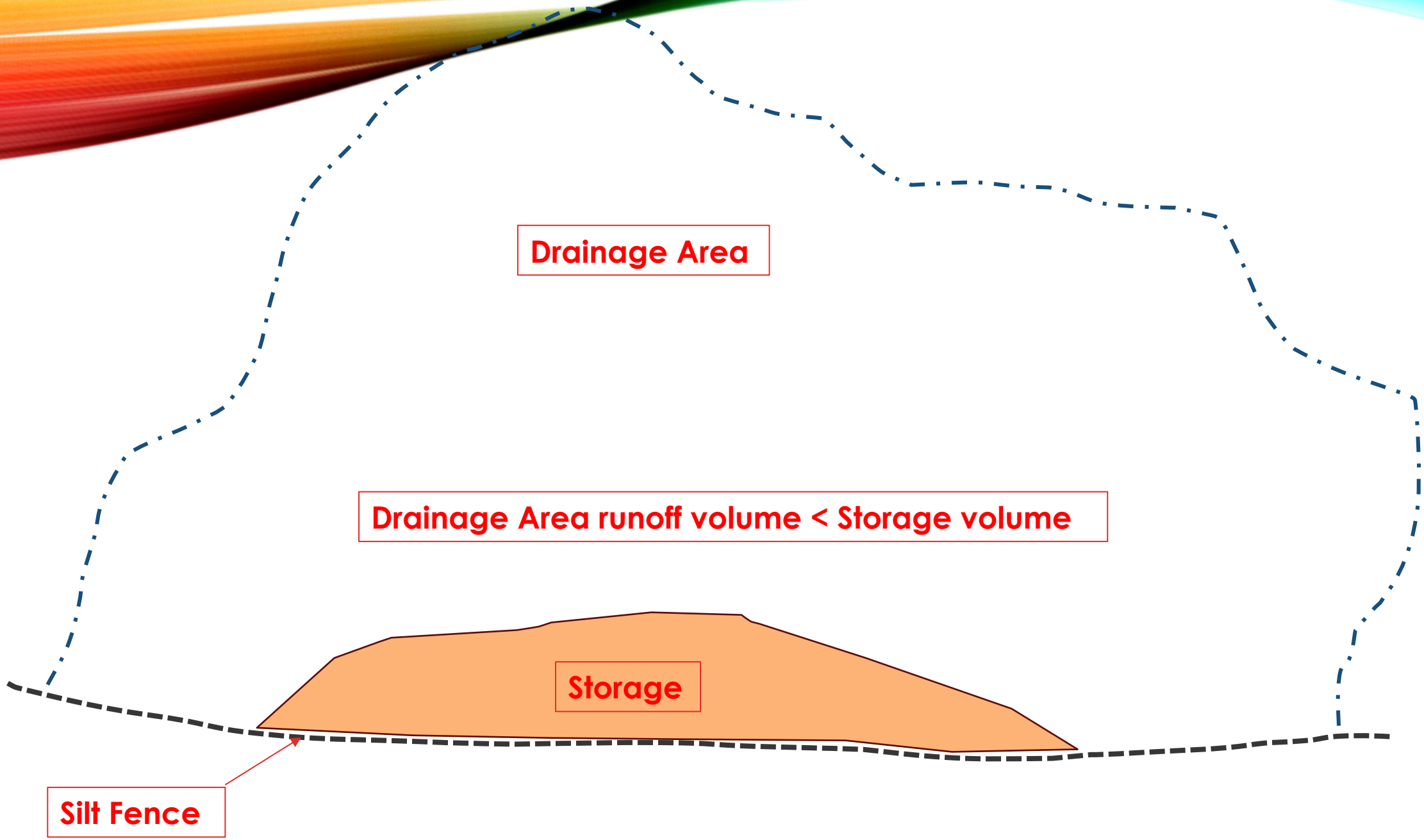
BUT FIRST

- Let's look at some things that changed in 2022 that everyone seems to be ignoring.



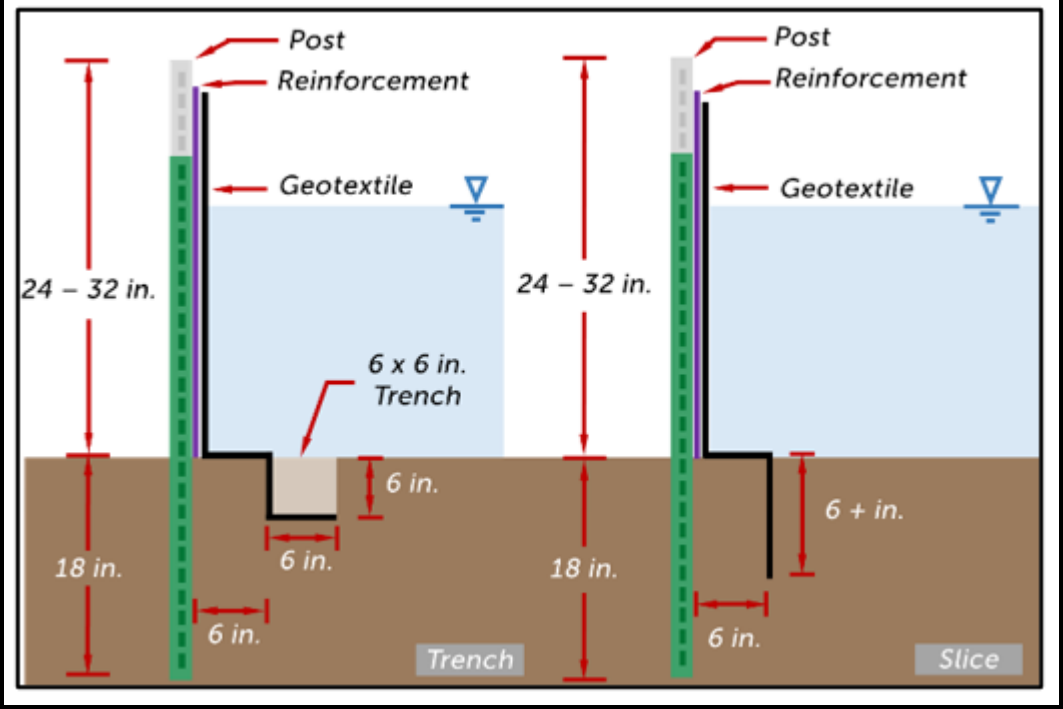


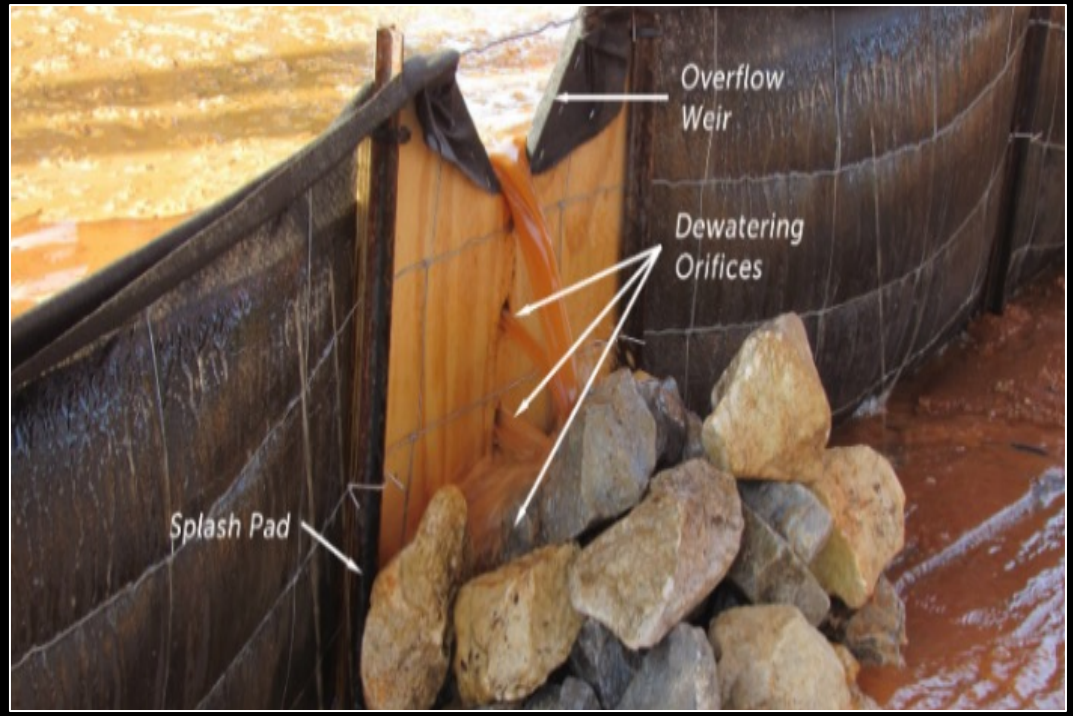



Drainage Area
Drainage Area runoff volume < Storage volume
Storage
Silt Fence

SEDIMENT BARRIER (SILT FENCE)

½ POST SPACING WHEN STORING RUNOFF
OFF-SET INSTALLATION
OVERTOPPING AND DEWATERING





THE **BIGGEST** 2026 CHANGE OF ALL

- The Blue Book is electronic.
- Only a few copies will be printed.
- You can still download a pdf.

DELETED SEDIMENT TRAP



In 2026, removed all reference to this.

In Land Grading:



The final trip over slopes should be tracked up-and-down the slope to create horizontal grooves in the soil surface. Tracking is best accomplished with a dozer with newer (not worn out) tracks. Tracking a slope is especially useful where the slope will be hydroseeded (Figure LG-1).

Table PS-1 Commonly Used Plants for Permanent Cover with Seeding Rates and Dates[1]

Species	Seeding Rates/Ac PLS[2]	North	Central	South
		Seeding Dates		
Bahiagrass, Pensacola	40 lbs	--	Mar 1-July 1	Feb 15-Aug 1
Bermudagrass, Common	10 lbs	Apr 1-July 1	Mar 1-July 15	Feb 15-July 15
Bahiagrass, Pensacola Bermudagrass, Common	30 lbs 5 lbs	--	Mar 1-July 15	Feb 15-July 15
Bermudagrass, Hybrid (Lawn Types)	Solid Sod	Anytime	Anytime	Anytime
Bermudagrass, Hybrid (Lawn Types)	Sprigs 1/sq ft	Mar 1-Aug 1	Mar 1-Aug 1	Feb 15-Sep 1
Fescue, Tall	40-50 lbs	Sep 1-Nov 1	Sep 1-Nov 1	--
Sericea[3] & Common Bermudagrass	40lbs 10 lbs	Mar 15-July 15	Mar 1-July 15	Feb 15-Aug 1
Switchgrass, Alamo	4 lbs	Apr 1-Jun 15	Mar 15-Jun 15	Mar 15-Jun15

1 DO NOT USE Seeding Rates as part of a mixture unless shown as a mixture in this table.
2 PLS means Pure Live Seed and is used to adjust seeding rates. For example, to plant 10 lbs PLS of a species with germination of 80% and purity of 90%, PLS= 0.8 X 0.9 = 72%. 10lbs PLS = 10/0.72 = 13.9 lbs of the species to be planted.
3 Sericea is not suited on sandy soil and will not tolerate close mowing, especially during summer months.

In Permanent Seeding:

- Removed Sericea as a stand-alone seeding.
- Changed some of the recommended seeding dates.

Table SOD-1 Grasses Adapted for Sodding in Alabama

Warm Season Grasses		
Species	**Variety** [1]	**Area Adapted**
Bermudagrass	Celebration, NorthBridge, TifTuf, Tifway, and Common	North, Central, South
Bahiagrass	Pensacola	Central, South
Centipede	Common, TifBlair	Central, South
St. Augustine	Common, and a few commercial varieties	Central, South
Zoysia	Any selection available in Alabama	North, Central, South
Cool Season Grasses		
Tall Fescue	Kentucky 31, Rebel (turf type)	North

1 Listing of a variety is not an endorsement of a Company product. New and better varieties may become available over time.

Table SOD-2 Adaptation and Maintenance of Grasses Used for Sodding

Species	**Tolerance Ratings**					**Maintenance**	
	Shade	Heat	Cold	Drought	Wear	Mowing Height	Tolerance to Mowing Frequency
Bermudagrass	No	Good	Fair	Excel.	Excel.	1.5-2"	High
Bahiagrass	Fair	Good	Fair	Excel.	Good	2-3"	High
Centipede	Fair	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	1 ½"	Low
Tall Fescue	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Good	3"	Low[1/]
St. Augustine	Good	Good	Poor	Fair	Poor	2-3"	High
Zoysia	Fair	Good	Good	Excel.	Excel.	2"	High

1 Tall Fescue is not tolerant to close mowing during the spring and summer.

- In Sodding:
  - Updated Table SOD-1
  - Added Table SOD-2

Table TS-1 Commonly Used Plants for Temporary Cover[1]

Species	Seeding Rate/AC PLS[2]	North	Central	South
		Seeding Dates		
Millet, Browntop or German	40 lbs	Apr 15-Aug 1	Apr 1- Aug 15	Apr 1-Aug 15
Rye	3 bu	Sep 1-Nov 15	Sep 15-Nov 15	Sep 15-Nov 15
Ryegrass	30 lbs	Aug 15-Oct 1	Sep 1-Oct 15	Sep 1-Oct 15
Sorghum-Sudan Hybrids	40 lbs	May 1-Aug 1	Apr 15-Aug 1	Apr 1-Aug 15
Sudangrass	40 lbs	May 1-Aug 1	Apr 15-Aug 15	Apr 1-Aug 15
Wheat	3 bu	Sep 1-Nov 1	Sep 15-Nov 15	Sep 15-Nov 15
Common Bermudagrass	10 lbs	Apr 1-July 1	Mar 15-July 15	Mar 1-July 15
Crimson Clover	10 lbs	Sept 1-Nov 1	Sept 1-Nov 1	Sept 1-Nov 1

1 DO NOT USE Seeding Rates as part of a mixture.
2 PLS means Pure Live Seed and is used to adjust seeding rates. For example, to plant 10 lbs PLS of a species with germination of 80% and purity of 90%, PLS= 0.8 X 0.9 = 72%. 10lbs PLS = 10/0.72 = 13.9 lbs of the species to be planted.

- In Temporary Seeding:
- Revised some of the recommended seeding dates.



- In <u>Sediment Barrier</u>:
  - Added Slash Mulch Berm (SMB) as a Sediment Barrier method.
  - Added Planning Considerations and Design Criteria for a SMB.
  - All was based on APCO demonstration and financing for AUSRF research.



SLASH MULCH BERM

Planning Considerations

- Placed on the contour to "pond" runoff.
- Doesn't pond water as high as a silt fence.
- Don't use in locations where it could flood (float).
- Can be left in place after construction in some cases.
- If removed, use permanent vegetation practice to establish to grass.



SLASH MULCH BERM

Design Criteria

- Should maintain the runoff from the design storm event.
- On the Contour with each end turned up
- It is not a berm, diversion, or water bar!!!!!!
- Need good slash/soil contact
- Keyway when specified.
- 6 -12-inch lifts with each compacted with heavy equipment.
- Finished height about 2 foot. Width about 6 foot or more.



- In Check Dam:
  - Where vegetation is needed up and downstream of a wattle check dam, consider the use of a rolled erosion control blanket like excelsior in lieu of a geotextile underlayment.



- In <u>Temporary Stream Diversion</u>:
- When pumping, careful consideration should be given to the pump discharge to ensure it does not cause erosion.

Summary of Changes

Purpose: To outline significant changes since the 2022 Volume 1 Blue Book was published. (Minor edits and formatting changes are not listed).

Major Changes:

1. Removed remnants of the term "Sediment Trap" from the document.
2. Chapter 4, Construction Exit Pad, Planning Consideration, Page 65: Clarifies how to address runoff from a CEP.
3. Chapter 4, Construction Exit Pad, Pad Width, Page 67: Extra width or radius may be needed to accommodate vehicle turns.
4. Chapter 4, Land Grading, Grading, Page 71: Described the use of "Tracking" on a slope, and added Figure LG-1.
5. Chapter 4, Dust Control, Spray-on Adhesives, Page 99: Updated Table DC-1.
6. Chapter 4, Mulching, Planning Considerations, Page 117: Updated Table MU-1.
7. Chapter 4, Permanent Seeding, Plant Selection, Page 124: Table PS-1, removed Sericea as a stand-alone seeding, and revised some of the seeding dates.
8. Chapter 4, Sodding, Sod Selection, Page 154: Updated Table SOD-1, and added Table SOD-2.
9. Chapter 4, Temporary Seeding, Design Criteria, Page 162, Revised some seeding dates in Table TS-1.
10. Chapter 4, Filter Strip, Planting: Table FS-1, Page 238: Removed Sericea as a stand-alone seeding, and revised some of the seeding dates.
11. Chapter 4, Sediment Barrier: Added the use of a Slash Mulch Berm as another Sediment Barrier material.

New Content:

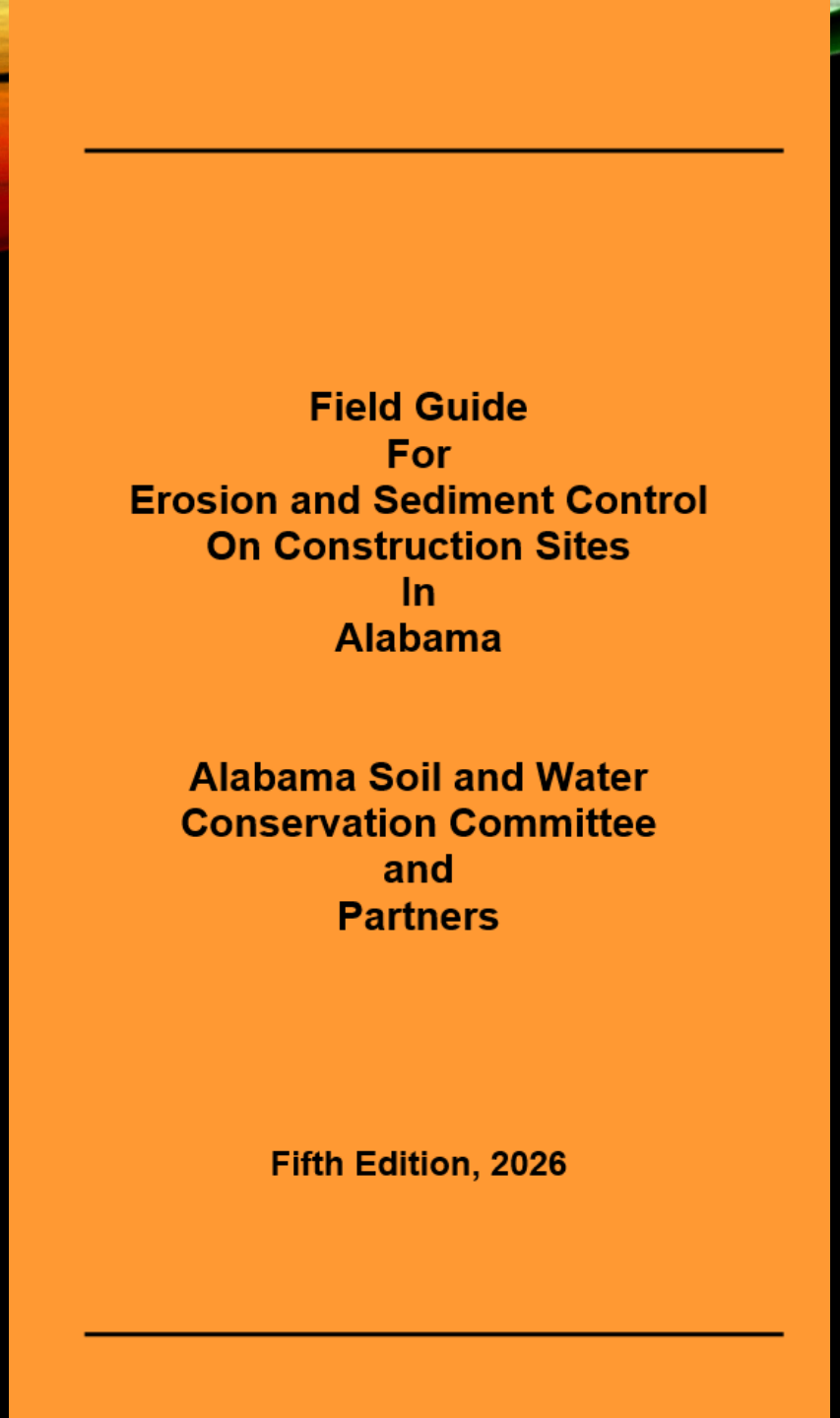
1. Introduction, Sediment and Turbidity, Page 2: Further described the effects of sediment and turbidity.
2. Chapter 3, Soils, Page 51: Describes that soil surveys are based on the upper 5 feet of soil profiles, and a geologist may be necessary.
3. Chapter 4, Permanent Seeding, Seedbed Requirements, Page 124: Added that a porosity of 30-50% is recommended for root penetration.
4. Chapter 4, Preservation of Vegetation, Raising the Grade, Page 133: Added root tolerance for fill.
5. Chapter 4, Temporary Seeding, Site Preparation and Application of Soil Amendments, Page 162: Added when to apply and incorporate lime and fertilizer.
6. Chapter 4, Check Dam, Wattle Check Dam, Page 174: Added the use of a rolled erosion control blanket like excelsior in lieu of a geotextile underlayment when vegetation establishment is needed.
7. Chapter 4, Filter Strip, Design Criteria, Page 236: The section Installation (planting) was changed to Installation (site and seedbed preparation).

Major Clarifications:

1. Chapter 2, Soil Amendments, Page 35: Describes a soil sample to be taken from a 6 " profile.
2. Chapter 3, Plan Preparation, Page 45: Clarifies when a practice design is prepared related to the plan for the site.
3. Chapter 4, Permanent Seeding, Seedbed Preparation, page 126-127: Clarified this section.
4. Chapter 4, Shrub, Vine and Groundcover Planting, Design Criteria, Page 145: Updated Figure SVG-1.
5. Chapter 4, Temporary Seeding, Seedbed Preparation, Page 163: Fully described seedbed preparation.
6. Chapter 4, Tree Planting on Disturbed Areas, Depth of Planting, Page 166: Described seeding planting depths.
7. Chapter 4, Check Dam, Planning Considerations, Page 171: It was clarified that hay bales are NOT recommended as a Check Dam.

OTHER CHANGES

- Check out the Introduction that contains the Summary of Changes.



The Fifth Edition of the
Field Guide will be Orange.

Only a few printed.

Can be viewed and downloaded online.

The Field Guide Apps will be revised too.

QUESTIONS

