

FAQS – Pennington Straw Wattle

1. Q: What is the Pennington Straw Wattle and what is it used for?

A: The Pennington Straw Wattle is a rolled straw erosion control product designed to slow water runoff, reduce soil erosion, and retain sediment on sloped or disturbed land. It is commonly used on construction sites, hillsides, and areas undergoing revegetation where temporary erosion protection is needed. The wattle works by increasing water infiltration and adding surface roughness to slow the movement of runoff across the soil.

2. Q: Are straw wattles effective at controlling erosion?

A: Yes, straw wattles are an effective short-term erosion control solution. According to erosion control research, straw wattles increase infiltration, add surface roughness, reduce erosion, and help retain eroded soil on slopes. They are designed to provide protection for one to two years, making them ideal for slopes where permanent vegetation is being established for long-term erosion control.

3. Q: How long does the Pennington Straw Wattle last in the field?

A: The Pennington Straw Wattle is designed to provide effective erosion protection for approximately one to two years. This duration makes it well-suited as a short-term solution while permanent vegetation becomes established on a slope or disturbed area. Once vegetation is rooted and mature enough to control erosion naturally, the wattle has typically served its protective purpose.

4. Q: Is the Pennington Straw Wattle biodegradable?

A: Yes, straw wattles like the Pennington Straw Wattle are biodegradable, as they are made from natural straw material. This means they will break down over time without leaving behind synthetic materials in the soil or landscape. Their biodegradable nature makes them an environmentally friendly choice for temporary erosion control on slopes and disturbed ground.

5. Q: What type of straw is used in Pennington Straw Wattles?

A: Straw wattles, including those in the Pennington line, are commonly manufactured using rice straw or similar natural straw materials tightly bound within a mesh netting. The straw filling provides the bulk and absorbency needed to slow water flow and trap sediment. The specific straw composition may vary by product, so checking the product label or packaging for material details is recommended.

6. Q: Where should straw wattles be installed for best erosion control results?

A: Straw wattles should be installed on slopes and hillsides where water runoff and soil erosion are a concern, particularly on disturbed or newly seeded land. They are most effective when placed along the contour of a slope, perpendicular to the direction of water flow, to slow runoff and capture sediment. Common installation sites include construction sites, roadsides, garden slopes, and any area where permanent ground cover has not yet been established.

7. Q: How do straw wattles help retain soil on slopes?

A: Straw wattles act as physical barriers that intercept flowing water, forcing it to slow down

and drop the sediment it is carrying before continuing downslope. By adding roughness to the soil surface and increasing water infiltration, they reduce the velocity and erosive power of runoff. This combination of sediment retention and reduced water energy helps protect topsoil and supports the establishment of new vegetation.

8. Q: Can the Pennington Straw Wattle be used in a vegetable garden?

A: Straw-based products from Pennington, like their seeding straw, are generally considered safe for use in vegetable gardens, though you should verify the specific product label for any treatment disclosures. Natural straw wattles are biodegradable and do not introduce synthetic chemicals into the soil as they decompose. Always review the product packaging to confirm suitability for edible garden applications before use.

9. Q: What is the difference between a straw wattle and a straw blanket?

A: A straw wattle is a cylindrical, tube-shaped roll of compressed straw used to intercept runoff and trap sediment on slopes, while a straw blanket is a flat mat of straw laid directly over the soil surface to protect it from rain impact and wind erosion. Wattles work as barriers placed across the slope, whereas blankets provide uniform surface coverage. Both products serve erosion control purposes but are suited to different site conditions and installation methods.

10. Q: What are good alternatives to straw wattles for erosion control?

A: Common alternatives to straw wattles include silt fences, compost sock filters, erosion control blankets, and hydraulic mulch applications. Each alternative has its own advantages depending on slope steepness, project duration, and site access. Straw wattles are often preferred for their biodegradability and ease of installation, but the best choice depends on site-specific erosion control requirements.

11. Q: How are straw wattles installed on a slope?

A: Straw wattles are typically installed by trenching a shallow channel across the slope contour, placing the wattle into the trench, and securing it with stakes driven through the wattle at regular intervals. The trench helps anchor the wattle and prevents water from flowing underneath it. Proper installation perpendicular to the flow of water is critical to maximize sediment capture and erosion control effectiveness.

12. Q: How does the Pennington Straw Wattle support grass seed germination?

A: The Pennington Straw Wattle helps support grass seed germination by reducing soil erosion and retaining moisture on slopes where new seed has been applied. By slowing runoff, the wattle prevents seeds and topsoil from washing away before the grass has a chance to establish. This creates a more stable, moisture-retentive environment that improves the conditions needed for successful germination and early grass growth.

13. Q: What slope conditions are straw wattles best suited for?

A: Straw wattles are best suited for moderate to steep slopes where water runoff and sediment movement are active concerns, particularly on slopes that have been graded, disturbed, or newly seeded. They are effective on slopes where permanent vegetation is in the process of being established and short-term mechanical protection is needed in the

interim. For very steep or high-velocity flow conditions, additional erosion control measures may be needed alongside the wattles.
