

**7.30 MULCH**

All permanent seeding with prepared seedbeds are required to be mulched. The mulch shall be "blown" and "tucked in" as soon after seeding as possible. Machine printed weight tickets are required for all mulch used. The inspector should receive the weight ticket and obtain a count of the bales at the time the material is delivered to the job site. The average bale weight can then be calculated.

Following the last rolling with the cultipacker, mulch should be applied to the specified areas at the required rate. A straw mulching machine capable of spreading mulch uniformly is used for applying mulch. Areas inaccessible to a straw mulching machine should be mulched by hand.

Immediately after mulch material has been applied, it should be anchored with a mulch stabilizer operated on the contour.

Mulch shall be Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Mulch as certified by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) or an adjacent state's Crop Improvement Associations. Bales may have a white certification label or will be bound with purple and yellow twine. A transit certificate is also available from the ICIA.

**7.31 EXAMPLE CALCULATION (English Units only)**

Example of area to be mulched at the rate of 1 1/2 tons/acre:

Measured area is 2.6 acres, the average weight per bale is 48 pounds. Compute as follows: 1 1/2 tons/acre X 2.6 acres = 7,800 lbs. of mulch required for the area.

Number of bales required:  $\frac{7,800 \text{ lbs.}}{48 \text{ lbs./bale}} = 162 \text{ bales}$

