



Standard Practice for Construction of Live Fascines on Slopes¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the material, fabrication and installation work to construct live fascines.

1.2 The values in this standard are in SI units and are to be regarded as the standard. The inch-pound units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 This practice offers a set of instructions for performing one or more specific operations. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgement. Not all aspects of this practice may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace standard of care by which the adequacy of a given professional service must be judged, nor should this document be applied without considerations of a project's many unique aspects. The word "Standard" in the title of this document means only that the document has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.

1.4 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 *live fascine, n*—a linear bundle of live cut branches of woody plant material that propagates easily from cuttings. The bundle is anchored in a shallow trench and partially covered with soil.

2.1.2 *rolled erosion control product, n*—a material manufactured into rolls designed to reduce erosion and assist in the germination, establishment and/or anchorage of vegetation.

2.1.3 *dead stout stake, n*—a wood stake approximately .75 to 1 m (2.5 to 3 ft) in length. Construct dead stout stakes from 3.8×8.9 cm (2" $\times$ 4") dimensional lumber cut diagonally along the 8.9 cm face.

2.1.4 *live stake, n*—a woody stem or branch of vegetatively self-propagating woody plant species. Live stakes are approximately 2.5 to 4 cm (.5" to 1.5") in diameter and 60 to 75 cm

(24"–30") in length with the terminal end sharpened to a point or a steep angular cut. Use live stakes as additional anchors and propagating material on the downslope side of live fascine bundles.

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 A live fascine is comprised of live cut plant stems and branches, typically of woody plant species (e.g., willow, dogwood, poplar, etc.) that are formed into linear bundles. These bundles are installed in shallow trenches, secured in the trench with wood stakes, then backfilled with enough soil to leave a small portion on top of the branch bundle exposed. Live fascines assist to control erosion, encourage vegetative top growth establishment and rooting for shallow soil stabilization.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Live fascines are used to provide erosion and sedimentation control by increasing infiltration, slowing or redirecting runoff, and trapping seed and sediments. The method provides shallow mechanical surface slope stabilization, and provides enhanced values through vegetative growth and additional shallow soil reinforcement through the development of the roots. The ability of live fascines to function properly depends on the quality and choice of the materials used to construct the live fascine, the means and methods of fabrication and installation, and proper consideration of site characteristics and time of year. For the live fascine to function completely, it is important that the live fascine develops suitable growth.

5. Materials

5.1 *Live Woody Plant Material*—are woody stems and branch cuttings of vegetatively self-propagating woody plant species.

When constructing a live fascine, use only fresh or well-preserved viable cuttings. Do not use dead plant material in live fascines. The stems or branches should be long, straight and flexible to allow easy assembly into bundles. Typically, plants are harvested near the project site within the same climatic zone. Cut the plant material in lengths ranging from 2 to 4 m (6' to 13'). Greater lengths may be used if handling and site conditions allow. The caliper (diameter) of cuttings generally range from 1.2 to 2.5 cm (.5" to 1"). The greatest success results from cutting and installing vegetation during the dormant season.

5.2 *Brush Cutting Implements*—Cut live vegetation with

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.25 on Erosion and Sediment Control Technology.

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