



BACKYARD CONSERVATION

It'll grow on you.

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Land Grading

What is Land Grading?

Land grading is a component of surface stabilization and entails reshaping the surface of the land to grades determined by engineering survey and layout. Permanent vegetation is then established to stabilize the soil. This reduces surface runoff, prevents erosion, and creates a more stable landscape.



Photo courtesy of www.bobcat.com

Do You Need To Grade Your Land?

- Need for slope stabilization
- Existing or expected erosion and/or runoff problem
- Poor drainage of surface water
- Ordinary conservation treatments are not sufficient for stabilization
- If left untreated, could cause significant off-site damage

Considerations

- Always check local ordinances—a permit may be required for land disturbance.
- Land grading is a major source of sedimentation and must be carefully planned and carried out.
 - * Sequence the construction of a project; if possible, do the work in phases to prevent opening up a large area at once.
 - * Create buffer strips of undisturbed vegetation between construction areas and bodies of water.
 - * Use erosion control measures during grading and reseed areas as soon as possible.
- There must be sufficient area for machinery to move and dirt to be piled.
- May need to remove or add soil around trees.
- Costly.
- Requires maintenance.
 - * Check graded areas after heavy rainfalls and remove sediment from diversions and repair washouts or gullies.

Benefits to Land Grading

- Reduces or prevents erosion
- Reduces surface runoff and increases infiltration
- Increases surface runoff
- Allows for simpler landscaping or construction



Photo courtesy of www.meilaser.com

For a list of excavating and land grading contractors or for more information or for guidance specific to your site, contact your local county Soil & Water Conservation District.