

Blending Mesh Elements Using a Netavator

Having imported and spread a suitable sand:soil rootzone to the required thickness, or having determined that the existing site soil is suitable for incorporation of mesh elements the following outline procedure should be followed.

- Accurately determine the number of Kilograms (& 20kg Bales) of mesh elements required for the area using the following calculation.
- Multiply the Area (m²) by the depth of mesh incorporation required.

i.e.

(Multiply Area by 0.10 for 100mm depth) i.e. 4" depth

(Multiply Area by 0.15 for 150mm depth) i.e. 6" depth

(Multiply Area by 0.20 for 200mm depth) i.e. 8" depth

This gives the Cubic metres (m³) of soil

Multiply this figure (m³) by 5.45 (the No. Kg mesh per m³ rootzone/soil), to give the number of kilograms of mesh required, then;

Divide this figure by 20 to provide the number of 20kg Bales of mesh elements required for the area at the given depth.

Example (mesh incorporation to 150mm or 6" depth):

1200m² x 0.15 = 180 m³ soil/rootzone

180 x 5.45 = 981 kg mesh

98.1 / 20 = 49.05 (50 Bales)

METHOD

- The site should be cleared of all debris and all erroneous material that may hinder mesh incorporation.
 - The imported sand;soil rootzone should be spread evenly across the area to the required thickness.
- or**
- If a specified sand:soil rootzone is not being imported, then remove the grass surface/thatch layer and all surface vegetation using an excavator or turf (sod) cutter. In some cases where there is minimal grass coverage at the surface, it may not be necessary to remove this vegetation layer and it can merely be cut down closely to the surface and removed with a grass cutter. The remaining plant material is then blended into the rootzone with the mesh. Rotovate the existing soil to a depth of 200mm (8") prior to commencing mesh incorporation.

Then,

- Do not attempt to blend in mesh when the ground is saturated or during rain fall
- Do not attempt to carry out the mesh incorporation in strong winds. Where winds are persistent some form of windbreak may be required.
- A small quantity of mesh elements will inevitably remain on the surface and be liable to blow onto adjacent areas. A litter fence may be installed to collect this material for disposal.

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Blending Mesh Elements Using a Netavator (continued)

- Do not attempt to blend all mesh bales in one pass. The Netavator will take several passes to achieve full incorporation; therefore the total number of mesh bales should be divided into a minimum of 3 batches. Each batch will be spread over the full area and incorporated separately.
- Remove the plastic protective outer wrapping of the bale. The mesh elements are wrapped around a central core and are sandwiched within a continuous clear film wrap.
- Place a wooden or metal bar through the central core of the bale to act as an axle. Then, whilst one person holds onto the end of the clear film wrap, allow two persons to carry the bale between them whilst walking across the area and unrolling the mesh evenly onto the surface. Carry out this operation over the entire area, until the first batch of mesh is uniformly distributed. Wind in the film wrap and dispose of it in a suitable manner.
- Carry out a trial pass with the Netavator adjusting the blade penetration depth to match the required mesh incorporation depth.
- Using the Netavator at a steady forward pace, make a single pass over the area and if necessary a return pass over the same track to ensure the mesh is fully incorporated. Minimum 2 passes are normally required for each batch, particularly in the later stages of incorporation due to the volume of mesh present in the ground. Do not allow the mesh to 'ball-up' in bundles in front of or under the machine, stop and disperse this material. Do not attempt to blend in another batch of mesh until the previous batch is fully blended to an acceptable depth/uniformity.
- Subsequent passes should be made with the Netavator for each batch of mesh elements until all mesh for the area is fully blended in to the appropriate depth. Occasional checking of the depth and rate of incorporation should be carried out and the machine depth and forward speed settings adjusted according to requirements. The mesh must be uniformly blended throughout the full profile of the rootzone layer to achieve its full structural performance.
- The final pass with the Netavator will normally leave the surface with a thin layer of finely tilled rootzone into which the seed/turf and fertiliser can eventually be sown.
- Consolidation of the surface using several passes of a suitable vibratory roller can be carried out as normal for an ATS surface, prior to carrying out the seeding/turfing operation. Examples of typical vibratory rollers sizes and the number of passes required for a given rootzone thickness as used for conventional ATS rootzones can be found in the standard 'Netlon ATS installation guidance' literature.
- **Health and Safety Note.**
The wearing of suitable eye protection and gloves is recommended when carrying out mesh element distribution and blending procedures.

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