

Seed and Seedbed Ecology, James A. Young, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Reno, Nevada.

Most procedures for revegetation of lands disturbed by surface mining involve the planting of seeds in some form of seedbed. Seeds are essentially embryonic plants held in a state of rest or dormancy by desiccation. Growth of the embryonic plant will resume as the seeds rehydrate under suitable incubation temperatures. Seedbeds serve as 1) a matrix to supply the seeds with moisture, 2) insulation controlling diurnal temperature fluctuations, and 3) a medium for subsequent seedling growth. The inherent physiological system of the seeds interacts with stimuli received from the seedbed environment to control the quantity and periodicity of seed germination in revegetation attempts.

ADDITIONAL KEY WORDS: Germination, disturbed land seeding, seedbed construction.

