

Solar Farm Vegetative Growth Exceeds Expectations with Boost From ProFlex™ System

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

- Standard Solar, Project Owner
- EJ Prescott, Distributor
- Bores Property Services, Contractor

CHALLENGE

- Revegetate 77 acres of a solar farm on highly visible land, surrounded by a historic area with abundant wildlife.

RESULTS

- Successful, long-lasting vegetation after the solar panel installation thanks to the winning combination of ProFlex™ System, ProGanics® DUAL™ and Vegetator®.

PRODUCTS USED

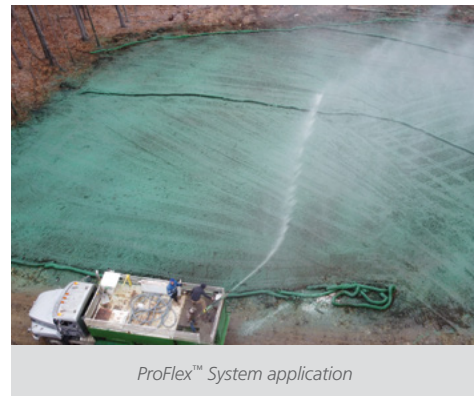
- ProGanics® DUAL™: 5,500 lb/ac (6,160 kg/ac) – 30 acres (12 hectares)
- ProFlex™ System: 3,500 lb/ac – 20 acres (8 hectares)
 - ProGanics® BSM
 - Flexterra® HP-FGM®
- Agricultural Lime
- BioPrime™: 80 lb/ac (90 kg/ha)
- JumpStart™: 2.0 gal/ac (19 L/ha)
- Vegetator® Cool Season: 100 lb/ac (112 kg/ha)

Historic Orange, Massachusetts, is known for its beautiful, natural views full of abundant wildlife. When a solar farm planned to go up in the area, neighboring communities were concerned it would take away from the picturesque town. Standard Solar, the project owner, set an agreement with the city that they would keep vegetative grass coverage on 80 percent of the 77-acre property once construction of the panels was complete. The goal was to blend the site into the rest of the landscape. With that in mind, they needed a solution that would meet this goal without fail.

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, CALL PROFILE®

After one company's initial attempts to seed the area were unsuccessful, the contractor, Bores Property Services (BPS), called in Profile® Products to help develop an effective and long-lasting solution. Profile Products took several soil tests, the results of which showed sandy soils with low organic matter across the site. Based on the results, Profile prescribed a variety of soil amendments to reintroduce organic matter and kick-start the nutrient cycle.

On the steeper slopes, BPS hydraulically applied the ProFlex™ System, a combination of ProGanics® Biotic Soil Media and Flexterra® High Performance-Flexible Growth Medium®. ProGanics provides an abundant source of organic matter and soil-building components to modify soil chemistry and initiate plant growth. Flexterra is the industry's highest performing erosion control product proven to minimize soil loss and provide superior erosion control. On the flatter areas of the site, BPS hydraulically applied ProGanics® DUAL™. DUAL combines ProGanics with an erosion control product that provides the protection of a Bonded Fiber Matrix (BFM).



ProFlex™ System application

(Photo Credit: Standard Solar, Orange, MA Project)

In addition, Profile prescribed Vegetator® Cool Season seed mix from Summit Seed. Vegetator seed mix contains seasonal annuals that germinate quickly to stabilize the site, and cool season perennials that create a permanent vegetative cover. The Cool Season mix, which could be applied at the same time as the ProGanics, was ideal for this site because it allowed the native species to root and create an ecosystem that wouldn't need continued site maintenance or fertilizations.

BEAUTIFYING THE SITE

With the entire town watching this project, Standard Solar has been able to surpass expectations. The site now blends in with the rest of the natural landscape and still provides service from the ground-mounted solar array. Standard Solar was able to easily meet their 80 percent grass coverage goal thanks to a solid plan that started from the soil up. By specifically targeting each of the problem areas of the site with either the ProFlex System or ProGanics DUAL, Standard Solar was set up for success.

"The site is picturesque," said Sandy House, business development manager for Profile Products.

"This installation has given them a long-lasting, low-maintenance solution. Solar sites hold unique challenges and are ideal candidates for Profile's hydraulically applied, environmentally friendly and high-performing products that will deliver superior results."



Results

(Photo Credit: Standard Solar, Orange, MA Project)