

# Erosion Control and Plastic Mesh Netting

## Plastic mesh netting used in erosion control can cause problems. Big problems.

Various types of animals, particularly snakes, can become entangled in it resulting in death. Turtles, frogs, and ducklings have also been documented entangled in the netting.

## It's tough. It lasts.

Plastic mesh netting is incorporated into some types of erosion control blankets used to stabilize and revegetate steep slopes. Plastic netting resists degradation and persists long after organic ingredients of the blankets decompose.

## But there are alternatives.

Here are some examples and resources:

**Jute or fabric** are biodegradable materials that degrade at the same time. <http://www.rolanka.com/index.asp?pg=biodocf30>

**North American Green biodegradable blanket** (e.g., SC-150BN)

**Futerra** is a very light-weight fabric without netting, good in some instances but doesn't always last through one season: [http://www.profileproducts.com/turf\\_establish/category/item/60](http://www.profileproducts.com/turf_establish/category/item/60)

**Coir fiber matting** is recommended North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program.



*Plains Gartersnake entangled in plastic netting*



*Plastic mesh netting is incorporated into some types of erosion control blankets such as the one shown above.*





*Three Eastern Gartersnakes entangled in plastic netting*

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