

## PREVEGETATED COIR LOGS

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Prevegetated coir logs increase site stability where shoreline or hillslope erosion is a concern. They slow the flow of water, stabilize topsoil, accumulate soil and seeds and improve vegetation establishment. Coir is durable in the short run, yet biodegrades over time. Coir logs are made from an agricultural byproduct: manufactured woven ripe coconut husks that have been cured in freshwater for three to six months. Curing makes the fibers more flexible and resistant to UV degradation. The logs functionally persist for two to six years, dependent upon the type of coir product you choose.

Sound Native Plants sells prevegetated coir logs, custom grown to your specifications. Prevegetated coir logs have the benefit of introducing native emergents to your site that are already established at the time of installation. They excel at establishing vegetation on challenging sites such as gravelly shorelines. We need about one year of advance notice to coordinate prevegetated coir log orders because growing space in the nursery is limited. We only provide logs to projects installed in western Washington.

We plant the coir in early summer with emergent plugs that were seeded that spring. The vegetated coir is then kept in wet beds, under mist, allowing the plants' root systems to grow through the coir all summer. Ideal installation time is at the end of the summer, when site water levels are at the lowest. Coir logs are ideal for stabilizing the toe of a slope and are available in 12" or 24" diameters and 10' in length, and consist of packed coir fibers wrapped in woven coir netting. To view a photo, visit our website at [www.soundnativeplants.com/customgrowing.htm#coir](http://www.soundnativeplants.com/customgrowing.htm#coir).

Installation of coir logs is fairly straightforward. Grade the shoreline or stream bank if necessary. Place coir logs along the toe of the slope. Logs can be tied together to increase stability using coir or jute twine. Stabilize the logs on the water side with either wooden stakes (2"x 4") or live stakes. If live stakes are used, consider choosing a shade-tolerant emergent such as slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*). The length of the stakes is determined by how deeply the stakes can be driven into the substrate. If straight wooden stakes are used add a 3-4" nail at the top of the stake that will press down into the log once the stake is fully installed. Install stakes every 2-3', use more for sites with high flow. If the bank cannot support the log, stakes will be necessary on the upper side as well. Finally, bend the ends of the first and last log towards the shore and bury to secure.

Coir logs can be vegetated with any emergent species that we regularly propagate (see [www.soundnativeplants.com/catalogemergents.htm](http://www.soundnativeplants.com/catalogemergents.htm)). Planting density depends on the particular challenges of your project site. Typical density for a 12"x10' log is 40 individuals, but if your site has a lot of invasive species, a higher density may be recommended. For upland situations, coir products can be seeded following installation. Coir logs may be pre-grown with willows for use in engineered log jams or other bioengineered structures. Vegetating coir with species we don't regularly sell may also be arranged through a contract agreement. Please contact us to learn more about the possibilities of coir!