

**Indiana FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE**

**Section III - Resource Management Systems and Quality Criteria**

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**Quality Criteria**

**Resource: Plants**

**Consideration: Suitability**

<b>Plant adaptability to site</b>	<b>Plant(s) are adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of the area. When established plants are not well adapted and a client does not choose to change the plant(s), land use, or modify the site, then other resources must not be adversely affected.</b>
<b>Plant suitability for intended use</b>	<b>Plant(s) selected or being managed are suitable for the intended use and unsuitable plants are managed so that excessive competition does not exist.</b>

**Consideration: Condition**

<b>Productivity</b>	<b>Cropland - Crop yield is 75 percent or more of the high management yield potential for the soil map unit based on the FOTG, Section II, or if less, meets the producer's needs.</b> <b>Hayland / Pastures - Production equals or exceeds 75 percent of the yield potential for the soil map unit based on FOTG, Section II, or if less, meets the objectives of the land user and protects the resource base.</b> <b>Forest Land - Stand is at least 75 percent of the appropriate standard stocking guide recommended for the forest type and/or woodland suitability group based</b>
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	<p>on the FOTG, Section II.</p> <p>Wildlife land, recreation land, and other land - Adapted or native plants are in sufficient quantity and quality to improve or protect the defined resource.</p>
Health and vigor	Plants do not show evidence of stress due to lack of management, and growth is not impaired due to weeds, diseases, or insects.
Plant damage by wind erosion	Plant damage by wind erosion does not result in significant yield or stand reductions. Crop tolerance to soil blowing as listed in FOTG, Section II, will be used where available.

**Consideration: Management**

Establishment, growth, and harvest	<p>Establishment - Seeding dates, seedbed preparation for selected species, planting, fertility, and weed control are based on the FOTG.</p> <p>Growth and Harvest - Plants manufacture sufficient plant food to complete their growth cycle, including natural regeneration where applicable and are harvested in a timely manner to sustain productivity.</p>
Nutrient Management	Nutrients are available to meet the needs of plants without having adverse effects on other resources.
Pests	<p>Pests are managed based on threshold levels where available to achieve the desired production without having adverse effects on other resources.</p> <p>Federal, state, and local pest laws or regulations are followed.</p>
Threatened and Endangered Plant Species	When threatened and endangered species are identified per Section I, FOTG, actions and procedures conform with laws and established policy.