

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**HERBACEOUS WIND BARRIERS**

(Ft.)

**CODE 603**

The following seeding recommendations are estimates and have not been field tested. Field office staff are strongly encouraged to work with technical specialists when designing and installing this practice. Innovation is encouraged and your feedback is essential to adapt this practice for local conditions.

**Table 1**

Some of the species listed below are not viable crop species for Alaska. However, they may put on adequate growth in one season to act as a wind barrier in the fall, winter, or the following summer.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Row Spacing</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Planting Rates Drilled</b>	<b>Number of Rows</b>	
<b>ANNUALS:</b>	<b>(inches)</b>	<b>Seed as shallow as possible but into moist soil</b>	<b>(lb./ac. Common)</b>	<b>Porosity 40-50% 60-75%</b>	
Sorghum	36	½ - 1.5"	30	2	1
Oats	7	½ - 1.5"	100	3	5
Rye	7	½ - 1.5"	80	3	5
Barley	7	½ - 1.5"	70	3	5
Sunflower	36	½ - 1.5"	4	4	6
Wheat	7	½ - 1.5"	80	3	5
Annual Ryegrass	6	¼"	10	2	3
<b>PERENNIALS:</b>			<b>(lb./ac. PLS)</b>		
Timothy	6	¼ - ½ "	5	2	3
Tufted Hairgrass	6	¼ - ½ "	16	2	3
Smooth Brome	6	¼ - ½ "	18	2	3
Creeping foxtail	6	¼ - ½ "	8	2	3

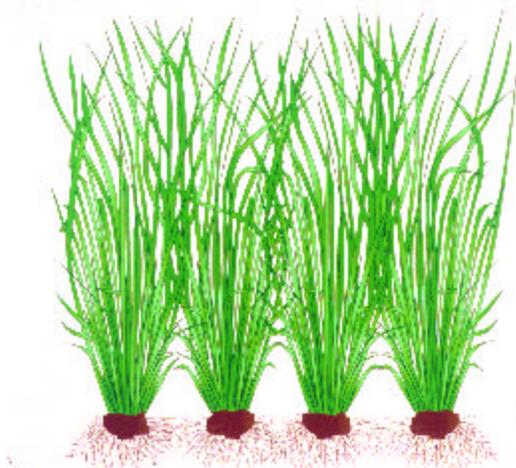
Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**NRCS, ALASKA  
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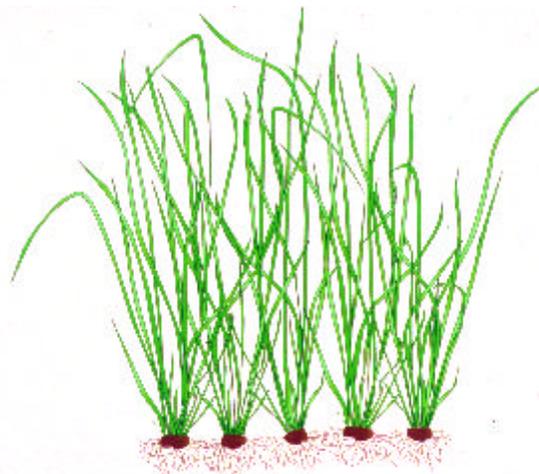
**TABLE 2**  
**Tolerance of crops to physical and mechanical damage from wind and wind blown soil**

<b>Tolerant crops (2.5 – 6.0 tons per acre per years)</b>	
Barley	Hordeum vulgare L.
Buckwheat	Fagopyrum sp.
Flax	Linum usitatissimum L.
Millet	Panicum miliaceum L.
Oats	Avena sativa L.
Rye	Secal cereal L.
Wheat	Triticum aestivum L.
<b>Moderate tolerance crops (1.0 – 2.5 tons per acre per year)</b>	
Corn	Zea mays L.
Grain sorghum	Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench
Sunflower	Helianthus annuus L.
Sweet corn	Zea Mays L.
<b>Very low tolerance crops (less than 1.0 tons per acre per year)</b>	
Alfalfa (new seeding)	Medicago sativa L.
Asparagus	Asparagus officinalis L.
Beans	Phaseolus spp.
Cane berries	Rubus spp.
Green beans	Phaseolus spp.
Lima beans	Phaseolus spp.
Snap beans	Phaseolus spp.
Table beets	Beta vulgaris L.
Sugar beets	Beta vulgaris L.
Broccoli	Brasica oleracea L. var. botrytris
Cabbage	Brasica oleracea L. var. capitata
Carrots	Daucus carota L.
Celery	Apium graveolens L. var. duke
Cucumbers	Cucumis sativus L.
Flowers	All species, seed production and cut flowers
Garlic	Allium sativum L.
Green peas	Pisum sativum L.
Lettuce	Lactuca sativa L.
Onions	Allium sativum L.
Peppers	Capsicum annum L.
Potatoes	Solanum tuberosum L.
Spinach	Spinacia oleracea L.
Strawberries	Fragaria Xananassa

Systems should be designed to prevent soil loss from exceeding crop tolerance during the periods of the year when the crop is being grown.

**RELATIVE STAND DENSITY**

Barrier porosity of 40 to 50 percent



Barrier porosity of 60 to 75 percent

Refer to standards for establishing permanent or annual vegetation in the Field Office Technical Guide. (512 Pasture and Hay Planting, 327 Conservation Cover, 340 Cover Crop)

Locally accepted University and Extension agronomy guides, or other accepted technical references may also be used to develop specifications to establish and or maintain annual and permanent herbaceous vegetation.

Refer to Nutrient Management (590) standard or Pest Management (595) standard in the Field Office Technical Guide for guidance in developing nutrient and pest management plans.