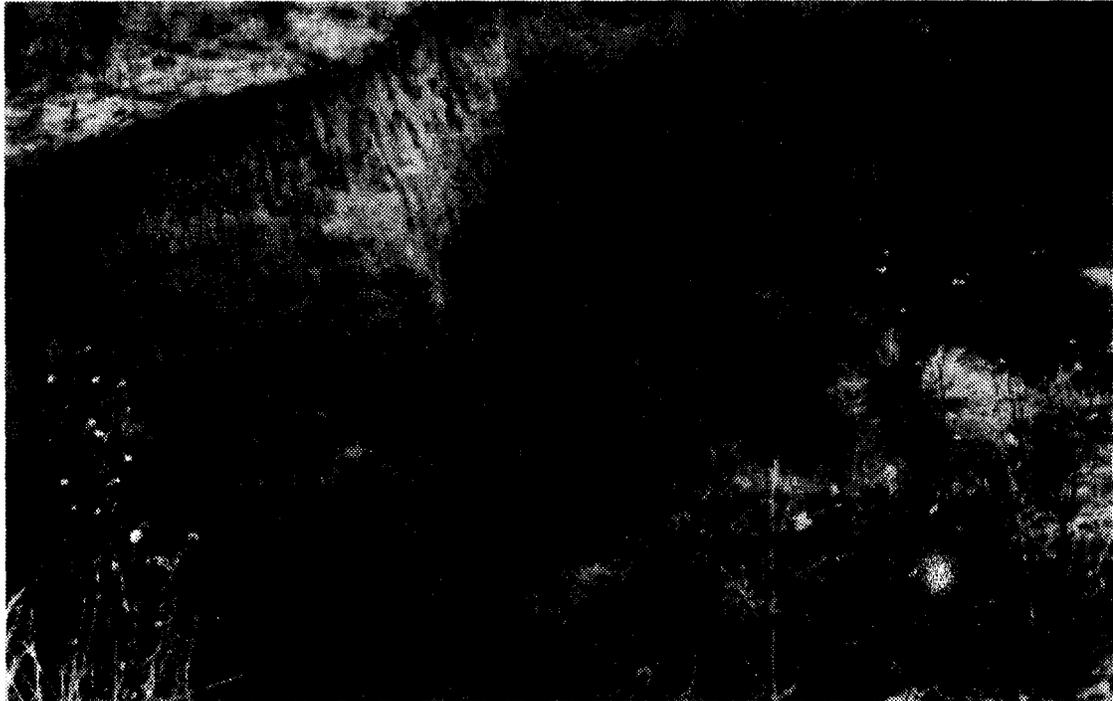


## Planting Trees And Shrubs



### What is planting trees and shrubs for erosion control?

Planting trees and shrubs is an effective, cost-efficient method of controlling gully erosion. Additional benefits include improving wildlife habitat and beautifying an eroded area.

### How it helps the land

Trees and shrubs have extensive root systems that bind the soil together and provide an erosion resistant cover to protect the soil from water erosion. When appropriate tree species are selected, they can also provide a food source to attract wildlife.

### Where the practice applies

Planting trees and shrubs for erosion control, beautification and wildlife can be used on gullied

areas to make them productive, hide an unsightly area, and stabilize gully erosion.

### Where to get help

For assistance in planning your tree planting project and selecting adapted plant species of trees and shrubs, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office and Conservation District.

### Requirements for planting trees and shrubs for erosion control

#### *Plant adapted species*

Due to the soil binding properties of the root system and fast growth, black locust is the most desirable species outside the shortleaf pine native range.

Due to the fast growth and heavy needle litter blanketing the soil under the stand, loblolly pine is the most desirable species within the shortleaf pine native range.

A mix of other adapted species may be used to add species diversity. The other species should be planted on the least erosive area of the gully.

#### *Spacing*

Plant trees and shrubs on six foot by six foot spacing on the floor and walls of the gully.

A minimum of three rows should be planted around the rim of the gully with the first row no closer than five feet from the edge.

### **Care of planting stock**

- Inspect seedlings immediately upon receipt. If packing medium has started to dry, apply enough water to moisten the medium, then punch holes in bottom of package to permit excess water to drain from the package.
- Packaged seedlings can be stored for one week in a cool, damp location. **DO NOT** store packages where they will freeze or where the temperature will exceed 70° F.
- Heel in seedlings if it will be necessary to store longer than one week. Place trees in a trench so that roots and one to two inches of root collar are below ground line. Pack soil firmly around the roots to eliminate air pockets. Moisten soil if not sufficiently moist to pack well.

### **Applying the practice**

#### **Planting**

- Plant seedlings after December 1 and prior to budbreak of native tree and shrub vegetation, usually from around March 15 to April 1.
- Plant only high quality dormant stock.
- Machine or hand planting with spade, tree planting bar, or post hole digger is acceptable. Planting should be done under optimum moisture conditions, when soil is neither too dry or too wet. Do not plant during freezing weather or in frozen ground.
- Root exposure--Keep roots moist at all times and do not allow them to become dry. Carry trees in a mud or polyacrylamide slurry. Withdraw only one seedling at a time when hand planting.

- Plant seedlings at the same depth or slightly deeper than they grew in the nursery.
- Roots should be planted straight down, not twisted, balled, or "U" shaped.
- Pack soil firmly around the planted seedlings with no air pockets left in machine furrows or tool holes. Seedlings should be tight enough to resist withdrawal.

#### **Maintaining the practice**

Exclude livestock by permanent fencing until trees are 10 feet tall.

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