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II - VEGETATIVE GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This subsection contains tables of Soil Interpretations for Vegetative Soil Groups for each soil survey area and guides for conservation planting recommendations for each of the Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) that occur in the Field Office service area. These recommended alternative plantings include the most recent information. Woody plant recommendations include many of the best plants commonly available. Additional plants are added as they prove to be equal or superior. Local additions can be made following NRCS procedures.

Native plants have been footnoted. Certain plants have also been footnoted to indicate their potential problem in particular locations. The County Agricultural Commissioner should be consulted for the latest restrictions of plant materials.

Pre-1999 Vegetative Guides use standard planting rates in pounds per acre based on the assumption that each seed bag or seed lot contains at least 80 % pure live seed (PLS). PLS can be determined by the formula: % PLS = % germination x % purity. When the tag on the seed bag or seed lot reveals less than 80% PLS, then seeding rates need to be increased accordingly.

Vegetative Guides issued in 1999 or later use planting rates based on actual pounds of PLS per acre which is the common method used in most other states. This means that planting rates on-site will be higher because they will be based on the % germination and % purity data on the seed tags for each bag of seed and seed lot, and almost always have less than 100% PLS.

Non-irrigated planting recommendations are listed according to 4Eta Zones within the MLRA. Refer to California Technical Note - Plant Materials - 30 for an explanation of 4ETa zones.

Use the Following Steps to Find Suitable Planting Recommendations:

1. Determine which practice will be applied based on the client's conservation plan.
2. Identify the soils in the treatment area from the Soils Map in the client's conservation plan.
3. Determine the Vegetative Soil Group of each soil from the table of Soil Interpretations for Vegetative Soil Groups for that soil survey filed in this subsection. The Vegetative Soil Group is determined by using the descriptive key in the Vegetative Guide with the soil survey report, or from one of the tables that may have been published in the soil survey report.
4. Identify the MLRA and 4 ETa Zone for the treatment area from the MLRA Map in Section I.
5. Go to the Index of Practices page in that MLRA Vegetative Guide and find the practice.
6. Turn to the appropriate page and select from the list of alternative planting mixtures for the appropriate 4Eta Zone and for irrigated or non-irrigated conditions.

Grouping Soils for Vegetative Purposes - California

Veg. Group Symbol	Major Soil Limitation	Effective Depth (in.)	Surface Texture	Subsoil Permeability 1/	Drainage Class 2/	Salinity & Alkalinity 3/	Reaction 4/	Erosion	AWC (in.) 5/
A	None	36 or more	sl through sicl	Moderately rapid through slow	Moderately well through well	None through slight	Medium acid through mod. Alkaline (pH 5.6-8.4)	Slight through moderate	5 or more
B	Drouthiness	36 or more	s, ls, gls, vg. k	Very rapid through very slow	Excessively through moderately well	None through slight	Strongly acid through mod. Alkaline (pH 5.6-8.4)	Slight through moderate	5 or less
C	Fine textures	20 or more	c, sic, gc	Moderate through slow	Moderately well through well	None through slight	Medium acid through mod. Alkaline (pH 5.6-8.4)	Slight through moderate	5 or more
D	Clay Pan 6/	10 through 36	sl through sicl	Slow or very slow	Well through somewhat poorly	None through slight	Medium acid through mod. Alkaline (pH 5.6-8.4)	Slight through moderate	3 or more
E	Wetness	20 or more	s through c	Rapid through slow	Somewhat poorly through very poorly	None through slight	Medium acid through mod. Alkaline (pH 5.6-8.4)	Slight through moderate	3 or more
F	Salinity or alkalinity	20 or more	s through c	Rapid through slow	Moderately well through poorly	Moderate through strong	Neutral through very strongly alkaline (pH 6.6-9.0+)	Slight through moderate	3 or more
G	Shallow depth 7/	10 through 36 10 through 20	s, ls, gsl vg, k sl, thr sicl, c, gc	Moderately rapid through very slow	Moderately well through somewhat excessively	None through slight	Medium acid through mod. Alkaline (pH 5.6-8.4)	Slight through moderate	3 or more
H	Low pH	20 or more	sl through silc	Moderately rapid through mod. Slow	Somewhat poorly through somewhat excessively	None	Strongly acid through extremely acid (pH less than 5.6)	Slight through moderate	3 or more
I	Toxicity (serpentine soils)	10 or more	1 through c	Moderately rapid through mod. Slow	Somewhat poorly through somewhat excessively	None through slight	Medium acid through mod. Alkaline (pH 5.6-8.4)	Slight through moderate	3 or more
J	Severe 8/	any	any	Very rapid through very slow	Excessively through very poor	None through slight	any	Slight through severe	any

TABLE: Grouping Soils for Vegetative Purposes - California

FOOTNOTES:

All terms are standard. For definitions see NRCS TN-Soils-9 (rev.), March 1967, or Agr. Handbook No. 18, USDA-NRCS. Criteria underlined are main soil feature determining vegetative group.

1/ Subsoil permeability refers to permeability of the B horizon(s) or the 10- to 40-inch control section in soils without B horizons.

2/ Drainage class refers to drainage of soils that do not have altered drainage. If the soils have been drained, use class that most nearly reflects growing conditions following drainage improvement.

3/ Use current levels of salinity and alkalinity that are present in the field. Levels may be higher or lower than indicated on maps. Capability unit designations may be based on general assumptions that do not uniformly reflect current, short-term growing conditions on each parcel of land.

4/ Generally applies to the soil to a depth of 20 inches.

5/ Limits are for total available water-holding capacity for that part of the soil profile generally available to roots or to a depth of 60 inches if no severe intervening restrictions of soil or water are present. Refer to California Soil Handbook, Chapter 3, section 3.423.

6/ Soils in this group must have a clay increase of at least 15 percent, absolute, within 1 inch, or an abrupt or very abrupt AB boundary.

7/ Depth to unfractured rock or hardpan. If a claypan over 6 inches thick is present over rock or hardpan, place in Group D. See note 6 for other claypan criteria.

8/ Includes all soils not suitable for routine cultivation, seeding, and planting. Includes all class VII and VIII land, very cobbly soils, soils in class 3, 4, and 5 rockiness, class 2, 3, 4, and 5 stoniness. These soils require on-site recommendations