

July 15, 1997

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IL-105

Purpose. To remove reed canarygrass from seeding mixtures in several Field Office Technical Guide standards.

Background. Some questions have come up regarding when reed canarygrass should be used for filter strips, and in other CRP practices. Reed canarygrass can be very aggressive. It is one of two plants known to be able to out compete cattails (Phragmites is the other). Once established, it will crowd out a diverse stand of wetland plants resulting in a monoculture of reed canarygrass which is extremely difficult to eradicate. Of even more concern, is its ability to spread down watershed systems from places where it becomes established in the headwaters. Therefore, its use in filterstrips is of great concern. Because of its dense growth habit, use by wildlife is limited in mature stands. With the increased emphasis on wildlife benefits in the CRP program, reed canarygrass should not be recommended for CRP program lands. More information on the effects of reed canarygrass is attached. Switchgrass, or a cool season mixture with redtop are good alternatives to using reed canarygrass.

In addition, please make the following changes removing reed canarygrass from selected standards. If there is a special situation where a planner feels that reed canarygrass is required, contact your Zone Agronomist for possible alternatives. If no alternatives exist, please submit a request for a variance from the standard to the Asst. State Conservationist for Resource Assessment and Technology.

Pen and Ink Changes. Make the following pen and ink changes to the appropriate standards in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

CRITICAL AREA PLANTING IL-342-6 Table 1.

Delete mixture #4 Reed canarygrass, smooth bromegrass, tall fescue, ladino.

FILTER STRIP IL 393-5 "Vegetative Specifications" paragraph "G".

First sentence shall read - **For filter strips for erosion and sediment control select seeding mixture from Tables 1 & 2 of CONSERVATION COVER IL - 327-7.** Delete - "or field border planting specification." Also delete all of the second sentence - "If trees or shrubs ... of the filter strip." Note: if trees or shrubs are desired use the Riparian Forest Buffer - 391 standard.

GRASSED WATERWAY OR OUTLET IL-412-8 Seeding Mixture and Site Suitability Chart.

Delete mixtures #3, #4, & #5 Reed canarygrass, timothy or redtop; reed canarygrass, smooth bromegrass; and reed canarygrass, tall fescue and redtop.

WILDLIFE UPLAND HABITAT MANAGEMENT IL-645-11 Table 3. Seeding mixtures for wildlife habitat development.

Delete mixture #5 Reed canarygrass, timothy, alsike clover, ladino clover.



WILLIAM G. KOBYLSKI
Asst. State Conservationist for
Resource Assessment and Technology

DIST:
Field Offices
Zone Specialists
Field Office Technical Guide Holders

Enclosure