

# CRITICAL AREA PLANTING



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michigan



## CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have or expect to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical, or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

## OPERATION, MANAGEMENT, AND MAINTAINENCE

Use of the area shall be managed as long as necessary to stabilize the site and achieve the intended purpose.

Do a periodic inspection and evaluation of vegetation to determine maintenance needs.

Replanting due to drought, insects, or other events which prevented adequate stand establishment should be addressed within 1-3 years of planting. Recommendations may vary from complete re-establishment to overseeing or spot planting.

Maintain all necessary fencing (see Fence Standard, 382), if applicable. Protect the area from grazing by livestock or other uses until the vegetative cover is established.

If possible, as a temporary measure on grassed waterways, divert water out of the channel by a temporary diversion above the waterway and by spoil ridges along the sides of the waterway until the seeding is established.

## Maintenance of Planting

Fertilize annually according to the soil test or use Table 5 in the MI-NRCS 342 Critical Area Planting standard. Fertilization in the fall will aid in controlling annual grasses.

Weeds should be controlled by mowing or herbicides. When spraying, use herbicides according to Michigan State University recommendations and the label. Mowing frequently during the first year, if possible, is recommended to control weeds and encourage stand density. See the MI NRCS 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management standard for O&M Maintenance Plan guidance.

Vehicular traffic must be controlled so as not to leave depressions or deposits of soil which can result in concentrations of water and formation of gullies. Overgrazing by livestock or grazing when wet should not be permitted. If washouts occur, repair by laying sod or reseeding.

Control or exclude pests that will interfere with the timely establishment of vegetation.

## **REFERENCES**

USDA-NRCS Technical Note 4b.

USDA-NRCS Plants Projects Internet Sites:  
<http://plants.usda.gov>.

Michigan State University Extension  
Bulletins E-2107 and E 1490.

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## CRITICAL AREA PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS

Location:	Section:	Date:
County	Field(s) or sites per map:	_____
Township:	Location:	Plan Writer

<b>Specifications:</b>	<b>Planting Date:</b>
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**Purpose:**  Stabilize water erosion  Stabilize wind erosion  Stabilize Dunes  Repair Barren site

<b>Seedbed preparation</b> _____ _____ _____ _____	<b>Fertilizer</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
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Site	Recommended plant species:	Recommended rates	Seeding Depth	Seeding Dates

**Planting Method:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Legume Inoculants type and amount:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mulching Needed type and amount:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Critical Area Planting Operation and Maintenance**

Periodically inspect and evaluate vegetation to determine maintenance needs.

Replanting due to drought, insects, or other events which prevented adequate stand establishment should be addressed within 1-3 years of planting. Recommendations may vary from complete re-establishment to overseeing or spot-planting.

Maintain all necessary fencing (see NRCS-MI Conservation Practice Standard Fence (382)), if applicable. Protect the area from grazing by livestock or other uses until the vegetative cover is established.

If possible, as a temporary measure on grassed waterways, divert water out of the channel by a temporary diversion above the waterway and by spoil ridges along the sides of the waterway until the seeding is established.

### **Maintenance of Planting**

Fertilize annually according to the soil test or use Table 5 of MI NRCS 342 Critical Area Planting standard. Fertilization in the fall will aid in controlling annual grasses.

Weeds should be controlled by mowing or herbicides. When spraying, use herbicides according to Michigan State University recommendations and herbicide label. Mowing is encouraged during establishment to encourage a dense sod. See NRCS-MI Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) for Operation and Maintenance mowing specifications after the stand is adequately established.

Vehicular traffic must be controlled so as not to leave depressions or deposits of soil which can result in concentrations of water and formation of gullies. Overgrazing by livestock or grazing when wet should not be permitted. If washouts occur, repair by laying sod or reseedling.

Avoid removing more than one-third of the leaf surface at any one mowing.