

CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

CONSERVATION JOB SHEET - Agronomy Series Dune Stabilization With Grass

342.2



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michigan



American beach grass, Lake Michigan, Mason County.

Critical Area Planting – Sand Stabilization with Grass

Establishment of permanent vegetation on sites that have or expect to have high wind erosion rates that prevent establishing vegetation with normal practices.

Specifications

American beach grass is the best grass for initial stabilization of wind blown sand. Plantings are established by sprigging (live sprouted plants).

Start on the windward side of large areas with planting extending over a period of years. Plant two or three rows with 18 inch x 18 inch spacing every 40 feet for strip planting of large areas. This method requires 2,500 culms per acre, but it will take several years to stabilize the blowing sand.

Plant in early spring or fall when the weather is cool. Select hardy plants 2 to 3 inches high for planting. Protect the roots from drying. Slope steep banks by mechanical means no steeper than a 2 to 1 side slope or flatter.

Place 2 to 3 culms (a single stem with roots attached) into each hole. Plant 6 to 10 inches deep so the buds at the base of the stem do not dry out or get blown out. Culms with seed heads shall not be used as they will die after the seed matures.

For solid planting of large areas, space culms 18 inches x 18 inches where wind velocity and sand movement is high. (About 20,000 culms or 40,000 to 60,000 culms/acre). Space culms 24 inches x 24 inches in areas not directly exposed to strong winds (11,000 culms or 22,000 to 33,000 culms/acre). Use a regular square or diamond pattern. Sand must have enough moisture to prevent backflow of dry sand into the planting trench before the plant is set. Firm the wet sand around the plant to exclude any air pockets around basal nodes. Do Not Trim plants!

Operation, Management, and Maintenance

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 to 3 years of planting. Recommendations may vary from complete re-establishment to overseeding or spot-planting.

Maintain all necessary fencing (see Fence Standard, 382), if applicable. Protect the area from grazing by livestock or human traffic until the vegetative cover is established. Consider recycling Christmas tree branches laid flat along the area perimeter to deter barefoot human traffic. Or plant a low growing juniper species (Emerald Seashore Juniper) as a perimeter fence to deter human use.

Two years after planting beach grass, where surface sand movement has ceased, plant other native dune tree and shrub species such as Jack pine, White pine, and Canada buffaloberry.

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Client name:	County:	Design Date:
	Township:	
	Section(s):	

Attach Site map(s)

Specifications:				
Purpose: <u>Stabilize Dunes</u> Planned by: _____				
Fertilizer Recommendation:		Site Preparation & Design (partial or solid planting):		
Site & size	Species	Recommended rate or spacing	Total seed or plants needed	Recommended Planting Time
Planting Method Specify:				

The above was installed on _____ and completed according to plan design. This practice as installed meets the specifications of the NRCS MI Critical Area Planting Standard 342.

_____ Planned by _____ date
 _____ Checked by _____ date

Notes: