

HEDGEROW PLANTING



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michigan



Space rows 12 feet apart for shrubs and 16 feet apart for trees. Space shrubs 8 feet apart in the row and trees 12 feet apart in the row. For optimum wildlife habitat, expand the spacing for shrubs to 10 feet apart in the row.

Select native grass, tree, and shrub species that are adapted to the site conditions. Native trees include species such as: white spruce, white pine, red pine, and white ash. Native shrubs include species such as: grey, red-osier, and silky dogwood; highbush cranberry; crabapple; serviceberry; and elderberry. Native grasses include switchgrass, big bluestem, indiangrass, or wildrye.

Proper site preparation is essential for successful establishment. This can be accomplished through either mechanical or chemical treatment.

Exclude livestock from all plantings.

Control noxious weeds and invasive plants through spot treatment of herbicides or mechanical methods.

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

For wildlife travel lanes, plant a minimum of three or more rows of trees and shrubs. Select plant species that provide berry or nuts for wildlife foods and nectar for pollinating insects.

WHAT IS A HEDGEROW PLANTING?

A hedgerow is a linear planting of tall grass, shrubs, or trees in, across, or around fields of cropland, hayland, pastureland, or wildlife land.

Hedgerows can be used to delineate field boundaries; serve as a living fence; establish contour guidelines; provide visual, noise, or odor screens; provide travel lanes for wildlife; provide wildlife food and cover; and improve agricultural landscapes. Hedgerows can also provide habitat for beneficial insects.

CONSIDERATIONS

The minimum width of a hedgerow is 15 feet or two rows wide and the maximum width is 66 feet. For wildlife habitat purposes, the minimum width is 30 feet.

For visual or noise screens, plant a minimum of 3 rows of conifers or 2 rows of conifers and a dense shrub row.

For natural fencing, plant a minimum of two rows of species that are thorny or spiny.

Consider the prevailing winds and snow drift patterns when planning a hedgerow. Do not cause snow to drift onto roads, driveways, or parking lots.

When feasible, design hedgerows to be sinuous or curvy in nature instead of straight.

Consider the benefits of adding nest boxes to shrub hedgerows for cavity nesting birds or animals.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Control competing vegetation before and after planting. Methods include mechanical weed control, chemical weed control, and mulch weed control. Weed control will be needed a minimum of 3 years after planting.

Protect the hedgerow planting from livestock.

Replant dead trees and shrubs as needed to provide a continuous hedgerow system.

Control invasive and noxious weeds as needed to ensure healthy and productive hedgerow plant species.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional information on hedgerow planting can be located in “Managing Michigan’s Wildlife, A Landowners Guide” at the following web site:

<http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov>

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HEDGEROW DESIGN WORKSHEET

Landowner: _____

Field: _____

Tract: _____

Date: _____

REQUIREMENTS

Soil Type _____

Before planting:

_____ Lime

_____ Fertilizer

_____ Weed-free Seedbed

Recommended plant species:

Total Required Amounts

Row

Species

Spacing

Number Needed

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Spacing between Rows _____

Total area of planting(ac.) _____

Planting Method

Weed Control Method

LOCATION AND LAYOUT SKETCH