



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

Michigan State  
Office

3001 Coolidge  
Road, Suite 250  
East Lansing, MI  
48823-6321  
(P) 517-324-5270  
(F) 517-324-5171  
[www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov)

February 22, 2005

**TECHNICAL GUIDE**  
**NOTICE #182 (electronic)**

**Purpose:** To transmit information regarding the electronic NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

**Effective Date:** This notice is effective upon receipt.

**Notice of Changes:**

**Section II:** A new subsection has been created for Forestry Information. Two previously posted folders have been placed in the Forestry Information subsection. They are: "Forestry Site Classes for Different Tree Species" and "Silvicultural Standards for Forest Stand Improvement." These two tables provide guidance in determining when and how to apply Forest Stand Improvement (666).

A new folder entitled "Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Groups (CTSG)" has been added to the Forestry Information subsection. Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Groups are guides for selecting tree and shrub species best suited to different kinds of soils. CTSGs are a tool for selecting woody plants for windbreaks, shelterbelts, riparian forest buffers, and any other conservation practice that calls for planting trees or shrubs. All soils series mapped in Michigan have been placed into 10 groups of similar soils. Each tree or shrub species has certain climatic and physiographic limits. Within these parameters, a woody plant may be well or poorly suited because of soil characteristics. CTSGs have been developed by considering individual species performance under specified conditions of soil, climate, and physiography. Some species are also limited to certain geographic areas, as described in the footnotes. In all cases, care should be taken when planning species of plant materials to be sure they will be adapted to the planting site. A seed source within 200 miles of the planting site will often assure good adaptability.

The first spreadsheet in the CTSG folder alphabetically lists and describes all Michigan soil series with a cross-reference to the appropriate CTSG. The second spreadsheet includes a description of each of the 10 CTSGs together with an alphabetical list of Michigan soil series and appropriate CTSG. The third spreadsheet lists all woody plants native or adapted to Michigan, together with other relevant information such as height at age 20 years, regional adaptation, and range of CTSGs to which the species is adapted.

Questions regarding these Forestry tables should be addressed to Tom Ward, Forester, at 517/324-5234 or [Tom.Ward@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Tom.Ward@mi.usda.gov).

Questions regarding the eFOTG should be directed to Gary Rinkenberger, Resource Conservationist, at 517/324-5266 or [Gary.Rinkenberger@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Gary.Rinkenberger@mi.usda.gov).

JOHN A. BRICKER  
State Conservationist

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