

Planting Wetland or Native Areas

Planting wetland or native areas can be accomplished with some ease. That is not to say this work will be easy. Determining the parameters of the desired site to be planted is essential. Generally working on recently disturbed ground is more conducive to plant establishment. Although there can be good success in areas that possess cover.

Determining overall condition of the site is required. Some questions you may want to ask are as follows: Is it in full sun, shade, or a mix of both? Is it a upland of a wetland? Does it have poor, moderate, or good soils? What kind of existing vegetation does it have? And so on.

After determining the site condition; plant selection should be the next step. In most cases aggressive plant materials should be chosen. Aggressive plants being defined as those that will out compete existing, undesired plants, will reseed or spread by rhizomes readily and require as little maintenance as possible. If those characteristics are met there is little doubt these plants will accent the landscape, with or without color, and perform well.

With the site, it's conditions and plant species chosen there is one final step to

complete. Determining the stage of the plants maturity to be used. Again, planting on newly disturbed areas will quicken plant establishment. Therefore immature forms (i.e.: seed, bareroot, or smaller caliper) may be the better choice. In areas with existing cover more mature forms (i.e.: 2 inch or slightly larger potted plants or larger caliper) can be used. Usually planting herbaceous materials from 4 inch or larger pots is not cost effective for two reasons. The first reason being common sense. If the proper plant has been selected for the site it will, given time dominate. Secondly, nurseries usually do not grow the plants in similar soils or conditions as those at your site. Nurseries try to grow their materials in the best conditions possible. Therefore, plants coming from a good site and going to a less than good site will go through more stress than a typical transplant

from a good site to a good site. The reason being the roots are slower to push out into new, less desirable soils.

Lastly, one additional note. A plant selection may sound good in a book or on paper, but be sure it is available. More and more nurseries are producing wetland and native species, but some species are still difficult to locate.

Wetlands: A Never Ending Issue

Golf has become one of the most popular sports in the United States. The growing demand for playing surfaces outreaches the supply of golf courses. The golf course development industry is building golf courses on the average of 300 per year.

Along with the difficulties of golf course construction comes environmental awareness. There are so many environmental issues golf course architects, developers, and superintendents have to deal with. One of the more prevailing issues is wetlands.

Wetlands inhabit the transitional zone between permanently wet and generally dry

environments. They share characteristics of both environments, but can not be classified exclusively as either aquatic or terrestrial. Wetlands perform a wide range of functions that are necessary for supporting plant and animal life and for maintaining the quality of the environment. These functions include: flood control, shoreline stabilization, ground water recharge and discharge, and food chain support.

Classification of wetlands is plagued with controversy and problems. Not only is there enormous variety of wetland types and their

high dynamic character, but defining their boundaries with precision is difficult. There are no universally accepted or scientifically precise answers to their classification. Additionally, over time, some wetlands may evolve through various stages of natural succession to become dryland areas.

Therefore, a generally accepted standard for determining wetlands is needed. Until then, the optimum goal is coexistence with wetlands. We need to protect and manage to maintain sustainable benefits for human kind, wildlife, and environmental quality.

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