

Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center

Coffeerville, MS

No. 3

Technical Note

1994

SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL WITH MAIDENCANE

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Shoreline erosion on reservoirs may be controlled vegetatively within certain limits with maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon* J.A. Schultes), if waves do not exceed 2-3 feet high for an extended period of time. Maidencane is one of few grasses that will grow along the waterline to a depth of about 18 inches and up the bank above the waterline to about 30 inches. This characteristic is important if wave action is to be successfully controlled. The following guidelines have been written to provide technical assistance on how to properly establish and manage maidencane for shoreline protection:

SITE CONDITIONS WHERE MAIDENCANE IS ADAPTED

- * Soils that range from slightly acid to neutral.
- * Soils that range from sands to clay.
- * Moisture requirement - wet sites but will withstand short periods of drought.
- * Plant where the shoreline is 5:1 or steeper at the normal water level. This will keep the grass confined to a relatively narrow band by the water depth.
- * Optimum growing range is 30 inches above and 18 inches below normal summer waterline.

PLANTING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

- * Vegetatively established from rhizomes, 4-6 inches long.
- * Plant in damp soil at the edge of the normal summer waterline.
- * Plant rhizomes 2 inches deep in a trench or holes made with a spade, or if the soil is soft, push rhizomes into place by hand. Cover the entire rhizom but if leaves are present, leave them above ground.
- * Do not plant in water over 1 inch deep.
 - * Space rhizomes 1 foot apart in rows. A single row should provide adequate shoreline cover in 2 to 3 years. Planting additional rows 2 feet apart will increase shoreline coverage and protection.
- * After plants begin growing, apply 1-2 lb of 13-13-13 or its equivalent per 100 feet of row.
- * Plant in April-May.
- * Maidencane is palatable to livestock and must be protected from grazing.

VARIETY OF MAIDENCANE

'Halifax' or locally adapted sources.

COMMERCIAL SOURCES OF MAIDENCANE

Flowerwood Nursery
P.O. Box 665
Loxley, AL 36551

Hydro-Perfect Vegetation
P.O. Box 369
Loxley, AL 36551

Telephone: 205-964-5122

Telephone: 1-800-367-9331

EROSION CONTROL ABOVE THE SHORELINE

Use plant materials recommended for critical area stabilization in the FOTG.

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