



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service**

National Mapping Program Technical Instructions

Part 9

Vegetative Surface Cover

**Standards for USGS and USDA Forest Service
Single Edition Quadrangle Maps**

Standards for USGS and USDA Forest Service Single Edition Quadrangle Maps
Part 9: Vegetative Surface Cover

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9. VEGETATIVE SURFACE COVER

This part of the standard provides a description of the Vegetative Surface Cover features shown on USGS and USDA Forest Service single edition quadrangle maps.

CULTIVATED CROPLAND

CULTIVATED CROPLAND - Land that has been plowed or otherwise cultivated for crop production.

Characteristics

Show the following CULTIVATED CROPLANDS based on their distinctive cultivation process:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Cranberry Bog | Planting of cranberries in flooded fields. |
| Orchard/Grove | Planting of evenly spaced trees that bear fruit or nuts. |
| Vines/Bushes | Planting of grapevines, or other cultivated climbing plants, such as berry vines and hops, usually supported and arranged evenly in rows. |

Delineation

The limit of a CULTIVATED CROPLAND is the extent of the area under production. When a CULTIVATED CROPLAND is a planting of cranberries, the edge is defined by the outermost ditch or embankment surrounding the planting. When a CULTIVATED CROPLAND is a planting of trees, the edge is defined as the center line of the bounding row.

Depiction Conditions

If a CULTIVATED CROPLAND is ≥ 0.1 " (200 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis,
Then show.

Source Interpretation Guidelines

All

The minimum size for a non-linear clearing within a CULTIVATED CROPLAND is 0.1" (200 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis.

Do not show CULTIVATED CROPLAND in a linear clearing that is ≥ 0.05 " (100 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis, whether there is another linear feature or not.

Do not show CULTIVATED CROPLAND in a linear clearing that is ≥ 0.02 " (40 feet at 1:24,000 scale) and < 0.05 " (100 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis that does not coincide with another linear feature that meets

CULTIVATED CROPLAND

depiction conditions.

Generalize the outline where a CULTIVATED CROPLAND has an intricate outline.

Do not depict nurseries or Christmas tree farms as CULTIVATED CROPLANDS. See TREES and/or RESERVATION (Boundaries theme).

Do not show rice fields.

If a CULTIVATED CROPLAND coincides with a BUILT-UP AREA, show the BUILT-UP AREA but do not show the CULTIVATED CROPLAND.

Graphic

Do not show rice fields that are on previously published maps.

Symbolization

| Characteristics | Symbol | Label |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|
| Cranberry Bog | 541.49 | Cranberry Bog |
| Orchard/Grove | 555.1 | N/L |
| Vines/Bushes | 556.1 | N/L |

SHRUBLAND

SHRUBLAND - Area covered with plants that have persistent woody stems and a relatively low growth habit, and that generally produce several basal shoots instead of a single shoot.

Characteristics

N/A

Delineation

The limit of a SHRUBLAND is the extent of the area covered with the low growing shrubs.

Depiction Conditions

If a SHRUBLAND is ≥ 0.1 " (200 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis, and has a crown density $\geq 20\%$,
Then show.

Source Interpretation Guidelines

All

Estimate the crown density by comparing the diameter of the crowns to the distance between the crowns. For example, if the average open space distance between the crowns is equal to the average crown diameter, the crown density is 20%; if it is three-quarters the average crown diameter, the crown density is 25%; if it is one-half the average crown diameter, the crown density is 35%; if it is one-quarter the average crown diameter, the crown density is 50%.

Depict cactus, mesquite, sagebrush, and thick brush found in wet and mountainous areas as SHRUBLAND. Prior to 4/99, SHRUBLAND was sometimes referred to as "scrub" by the USGS.

Do not depict immature or stunted trees as SHRUBLANDS. See TREES.

The minimum size for a non-linear clearing within a SHRUBLAND is 0.1" (200 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis.

Do not show a SHRUBLAND in a linear clearing that is ≥ 0.05 " (100 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis, whether there is another linear feature or not.

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SHRUBLAND

Do not show a SHRUBLAND in a linear clearing that is $\geq 0.02''$ (40 feet at 1:24,000 scale) and $< 0.05''$ (100 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis that does not coincide with another linear feature that meets depiction conditions.

Generalize the outline where a SHRUBLAND has an intricate outline.

If a SHRUBLAND coincides with a BUILT-UP AREA (Built-up theme), show the BUILT-UP AREA but do not show the SHRUBLAND.

Graphic

N/A

Symbolization

| Characteristics | Symbol | Label |
|-----------------|--------|-------|
| N/A | 554.1 | N/L |

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TREE

TREE - A woody perennial plant having a self supporting main stem or trunk and a definite crown.

Characteristics

Show the name of the TREE.

Delineation

The limit of a TREE is the extent of the crown.

Depiction Conditions

If a TREE is named and is of unique cultural and historical significance,
Then show.

Source Interpretation Guidelines

All

Depict a fallen tree as a TREE, if the depiction conditions are met.

Graphic

N/A

Symbolization

| Characteristics | Symbol | Label |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|
| N/A | 512.72 | N/L; Show name |

TREES

between the crowns is equal to the average crown diameter, the crown density is 20%; if it is three-quarters the average crown diameter, the crown density is 25%; if it is one-half the average crown diameter, the crown density is 35%; if it is one-quarter the average crown diameter, the crown density is 50%.

If the crown density of the TREES is scattered trees or woodland, depict the distinctive property of the vegetation as unspecified.

If the distinctive property of the vegetation of the TREES is mangrove, depict the crown density as unspecified.

See appendix 2-A for the location of arid regions.

TREES, except for mangrove, can coincide with LAKE/PONDS and/or SWAMP/MARSH. (See the Hydrography theme for LAKE/PONDS and SWAMP/MARSH.)

Depict forested areas that have been clear-cut, but are expected to be reforested, as TREES.

The minimum size for non-linear clearings within TREES is 0.1" (200 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis.

Do not show TREES in linear clearings that are ≥ 0.05 " (100 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis, whether there are other linear features or not.

Do not show TREES in linear clearings that are ≥ 0.02 " (40 feet at 1:24,000 scale) and < 0.05 " (100 feet at 1:24,000 scale) along the shortest axis that do not coincide with other linear features that meet depiction conditions.

Generalize the outlines where TREES have intricate outlines.

If TREES coincide with BUILT-UP AREAS (Built-up theme), show the BUILT-UP AREAS but do not show the TREES.

Graphic

N/A

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TREES

Symbolization

| Characteristics | Symbol | Label |
|---------------------------------|--|-------|
| Scattered Trees, Unspecified | 553.1 | N/L |
| Unspecified, Mangrove | 544.1 pattern 552.4 fill | N/L |
| Woodland, Unspecified | 552.1 552.2 wooded swamp 552.3 submerged wooded swamp 552.5 submerged woods | N/L |