

A young plant with yellowing leaves is growing inside a wire mesh cage. The cage is supported by two wooden stakes and is situated in a grassy area next to a stream. In the background, there are trees with autumn foliage and a house under a clear sky.

A Guide to

MAINTAINING STREAMSIDE PLANTS



MAINTENANCE TASKS

Effective weed control and thorough site prep will be a priority in new streamside plantings.

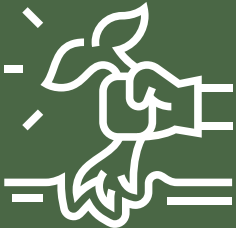
Year 1 site preparation to occur in summer or early fall:

- A 3 X 3 foot area around each of the plants should be mowed, scalped, tilled and mulched.
- Weed mats placed, or aquatic safe herbicides- **read the labels** - applied to area when broadleaf weeds are actively growing.

Year 1-3 seasonal maintenance recommendations:



Fall & Winter: Add mulch or weed mats (i.e. jute) for effective weed suppression around plantings and to help retain moisture into the summer. Organic materials like newspapers, cardboard, wood chips and other low-cost alternatives can be used as mats for weed suppression



Spring: Each spring (when the soil is still wet) it is a good time to dig or hand pull emerging weeds like Tansy ragwort, Blackberry, Hemlock, Teasel, English ivy.



Summer: mowing may be necessary to control reeds canarygrass and other broadleaf weeds. Keeping the 3 X 3 foot area around the plantings weed free will allow for more nutrients and water availability.

Irrigation during the first one or two growing seasons will help the plantings establish. Irrigation methods include sprinklers, drip systems, and hand watering.



Herbicides can be an effective way to control weeds after planting, but new plantings are also susceptible to commonly used herbicides. Check the label to see if a product allows your intended use and if it is an aquatic safe herbicides for use near riparian areas.

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL

Animals can cause damage to young plantings. Protecting them in this stage is vital.



Protection methods for beaver and nutria include individual tree protectors (e.g., 2- or 4-inch wire mesh cages loosely wrapped around larger tree trunks), and fencing between the planting and stream.



The most effective control for mice and voles is to eliminate cover by mowing grasses short and eliminating grassy weeds in a 3 ft by 3 ft area near plantings. Aluminum foil (wrapped around the base of seedlings) can protect plants.



Livestock (e.g., cows, horses, sheep, goats, and llamas) find young plantings palatable and can damage unprotected plants. The best way to keep livestock out of planted areas is standard woven wire.



Deer will browse up to about 3.5 or 4 feet. If deer are a problem, you need to protect trees leaders with a 6-8 foot fence to keep out deer.

RESOURCES

Marion SWCD Weed Resources:

<https://www.marionswcd.net/resources/plants/invasive-plants/>

Oregon State Extension Guide to Riparian Planting:

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9040>

[Integrated Weed Calendar](#)