

# Planting Trees and Shrubs on Your Shoreline

Shoreline vegetation provides critical habitat for some of our most important plants and animals. It shades the water, buffers wave action, filters runoff, stabilizes eroding shores, and preserves the scenic character of our waters.

A mass planting with bareroot trees, shrubs, and small containerized herbaceous plants is an excellent way to restore your shoreline and encourage quick establishment. Pick plants based on their site preferences (e.g. soil/light/moisture), and plant them thick to minimize erosion.

- Preserve any native plants that are established on your shoreline and plan your design around them.
- Keep dead and fallen trees to provide habitat for fish, ducks, birds, and turtles.
- In addition to trees and shrubs, add a groundcover of smaller forbs, grasses, and sedges. Recommended species can be found in the companion flyer *Planting Perennials on Your Shoreline* ([https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/shoreland/shoreline-herbaceous.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/shoreline-herbaceous.pdf)) or online at [bwsr.state.mn.us/seed-mixes](https://bwsr.state.mn.us/seed-mixes).



## Tree and shrub list

The tree and shrub species listed here prefer moist to medium-wet soil conditions but should be adaptable to a wide range of soil types, regions, and locations.

### Low shrubs

- False indigo (F)
- Leatherwood (No)(S)
- Northern bush honeysuckle (S)
- Sweet gale (No)(F)

### High shrubs

- American elderberry (So)
- Beaked hazelnut (No)(S)
- Bladdernut (So)(F)(S)
- Chokeberry (No)(F)
- Nannyberry (S)
- Ninebark
- Pussy willow (F)(M)
- Red-osier dogwood (S)
- Silky dogwood (So)(F)

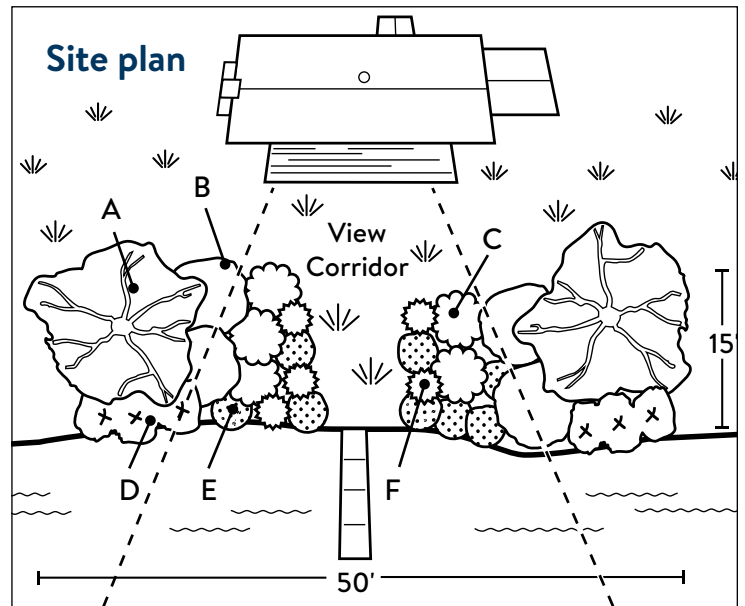
### Understory trees

- Blue beech (So)(S)
- Chokecherry
- Northern white cedar (No)

### Canopy trees

- American basswood (S)
- Hackberry (So)(F)
- Red maple (F)
- Silver maple (F)

- (No)= Northern MN only
- (So)= Southern MN only
- (F)= Flood/water tolerant
- (S)= Shade tolerant
- (M)= Use in moderation

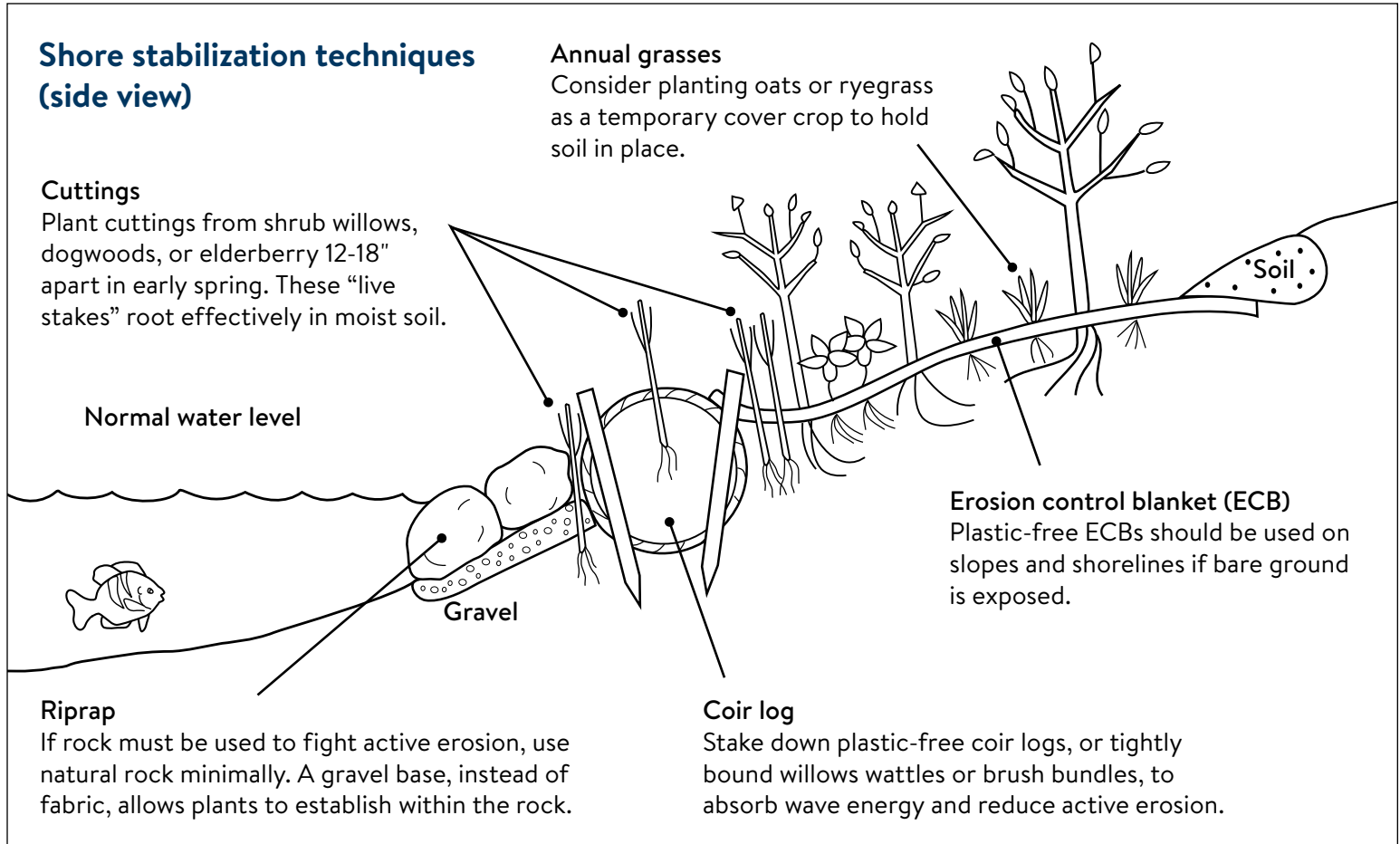


### Key

- A. American basswood
- B. Chokecherry
- C. Nannyberry
- D. Pussy willow
- E. Red-osier dogwood
- F. Northern bush honeysuckle

# How to Install Your Shoreline Restoration

Planting bareroot trees, shrubs and containerized herbaceous plants will keep disturbances to a minimum and help plants establish sooner. Additionally, bare root plants don't require staking. Seeding immediately adjacent to shore is not recommended because it requires tilling of the soil. Add mulch to control weeds, retain moisture, and reduce erosion. Water regularly during establishment and avoid midsummer plantings. Replace seasonal losses, as necessary.



(ECBs, coir logs, and annual grass plantings are recommended when there is loose soil or erosion.)

## Permitting requirements

- Contact your DNR area hydrologist to determine if your work below the ordinary high water level (OHWL) would require a DNR public waters work permit.
- Planting below the OHWL requires a no-cost DNR aquatic plant management permit.
- A local government permit may be needed for vegetation removal or land alteration activities above the OHWL.

## Naturalize your riprap—try a bio-engineered approach

- Plant fast-growing, dense, and resilient plant species near shore such as pussy willows, dogwood, bluejoint grass, and common rush.
- Install plants or cuttings into joints or open spaces in the rock to naturalize and reinforce shorelines.

## More information

- Steps to home landscaping at [mndnr.gov/nativelandscaping](http://mndnr.gov/nativelandscaping).
- Guidance for retaining and restoring natural shorelines—[mndnr.gov/shorelines](http://mndnr.gov/shorelines).
- Your local Soil and Water Conservation District may be able to provide technical assistance, planting recommendations, or cost share.