

PRIMARY USE: Minimize bank erosion.

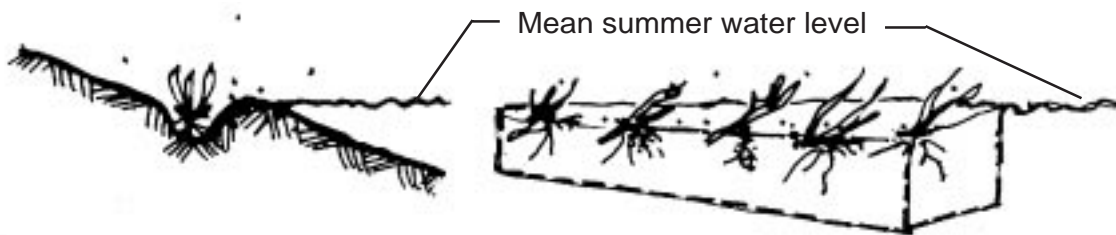
ADDITIONAL USES: Improve habitat for aquatic plants and animals, contribute to food web dynamics, and enhance aesthetics through the establishment of vegetation.

PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS PLANTS

What is it? This term describes plant communities of riparian weeds, inundation grasses, or tall perennial herbaceous communities growing in the riparian zone. Their spreading root systems or runners stabilize streambank soils.

Purpose

These plants are typically easy to transplant and establish readily, quickly providing soil stability as their roots spread. These plants can be used in conjunction with paving or stone facings. Plants have considerable regenerative capacity and flood damage to riparian formations is quickly repaired by vigorous new plant growth.



Planting Techniques for Perennial Herbaceous Plants Section Views

Rhizomes or cuttings in a trench



Place mature plant into prepared hole



Mature plant staked at water's edge

Limitations

Availability of native riparian plants may be a problem. Sufficient light is required. Shade from tall vegetation growing higher in the riparian zone may prevent establishment and growth of these plants.

Materials

Appropriate plant materials, suitable to climatic zone.

Installation

Dormant plants are placed in holes prepared in advance. They must be planted at the same depth as they were growing at previously. To plant rhizomes and shoots, slips are taken from existing beds during dormant season. Rhizomes and shoots are placed in holes or narrow trenches along the line of the average summer water level.

Source: Freshwater: Three Studies, Seibert.