

## Chapter 5 - VEGETATIVE PRACTICE STANDARDS

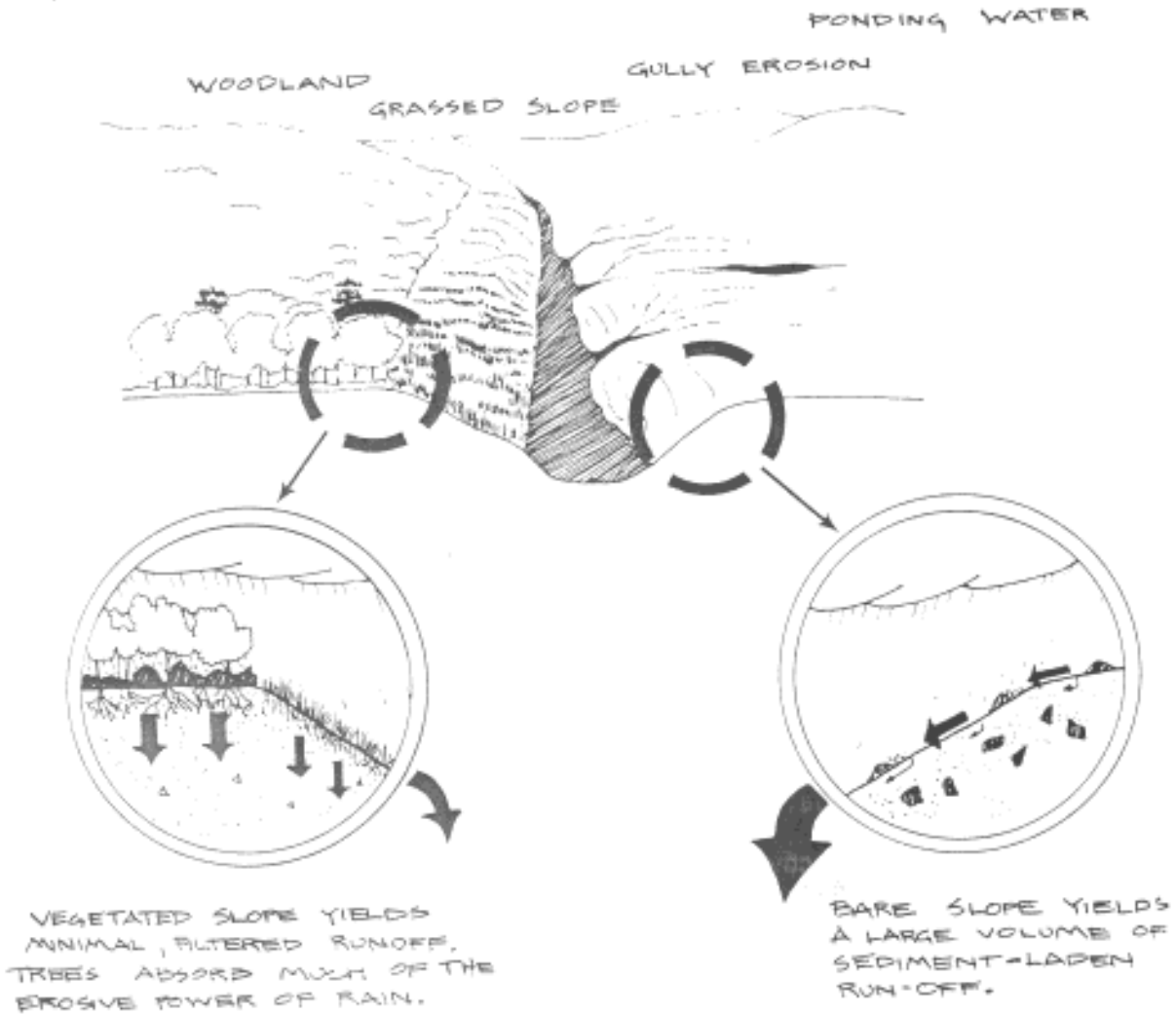


Figure 5-1 Effects of vegetation on erosion.

### Site Considerations

Slope - The steeper the slope, the more essential is a vigorous vegetative cover. Good establishment practices, including seedbed preparation, quality seed, lime, fertilizer, mulching and tacking are critical. The degree of slope may limit the equipment that can be used in seedbed preparation, planting, and maintenance; steep slopes also increase costs.

Aspect - Aspect affects soil temperature and available moisture. South-facing slopes tend to be warmer and drier, and often require special treatment. For example, mulch is essential to retain moisture, and drought-tolerant plant species should be added to the seed mixture (Figure 5-2). North-facing slopes may be subject to more cold damage.

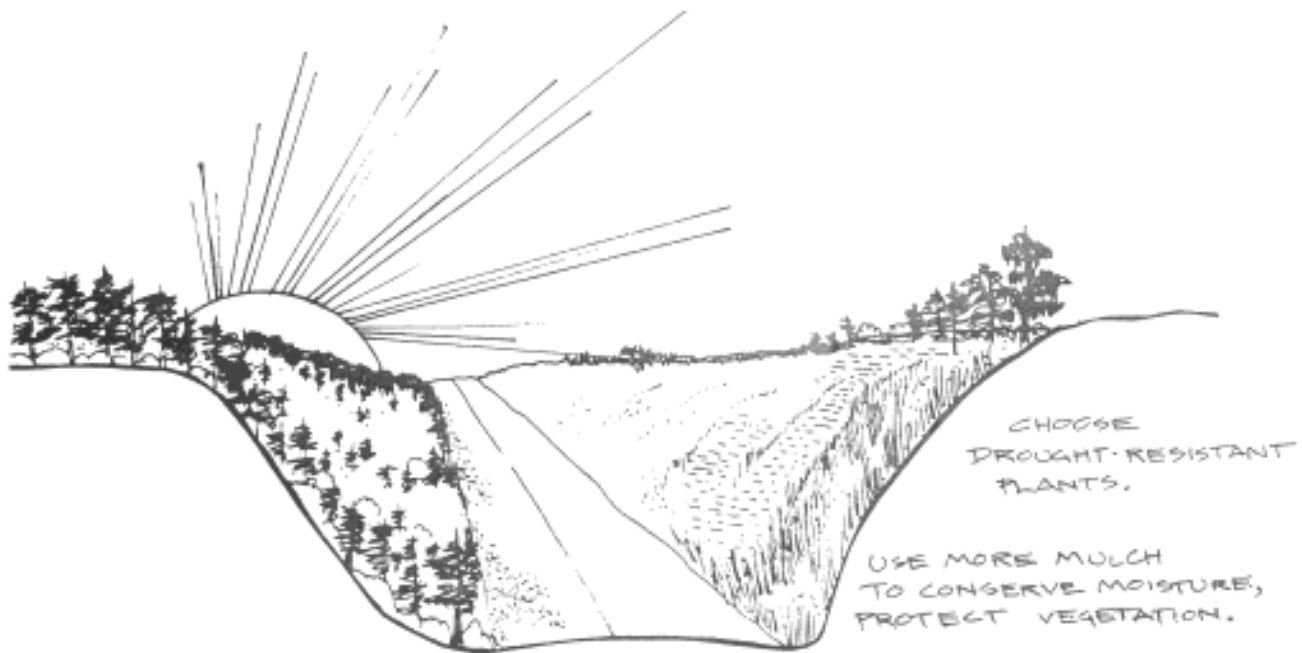


Figure 5-2 South-facing slopes are usually warmer & drier.

Climate - The regional climate must be considered in selecting well-adapted plant species. Mississippi has been divided into three plant adaptability/suitability regions: North, Central, and South (Figure 5-3). Climatic differences determine the appropriate plant selections based on such factors as cold-hardiness, tolerance to high temperatures and high humidity, and resistance to disease.

Management - When selecting plant species for stabilization, consider post-construction land use and the expected level of maintenance. In every case, future site management is an important factor in plant selection.

Where a neat appearance is desired, use plants that respond well to frequent mowing and other types of intensive maintenance. Likely choices for quality turf in the north are tall fescue and Bermudagrass, or in central and south, Bermudagrass, centipedegrass, zoysiagrass, and Bahiagrass.

At sites where low maintenance is desired, longevity is particularly important. *Sericea lespedeza*, tall fescue, Bermudagrass, Bahiagrass and crimson clover are likely choices.

# PLANT ADAPTABILITY/SUITABILITY REGIONS IN MISSISSIPPI

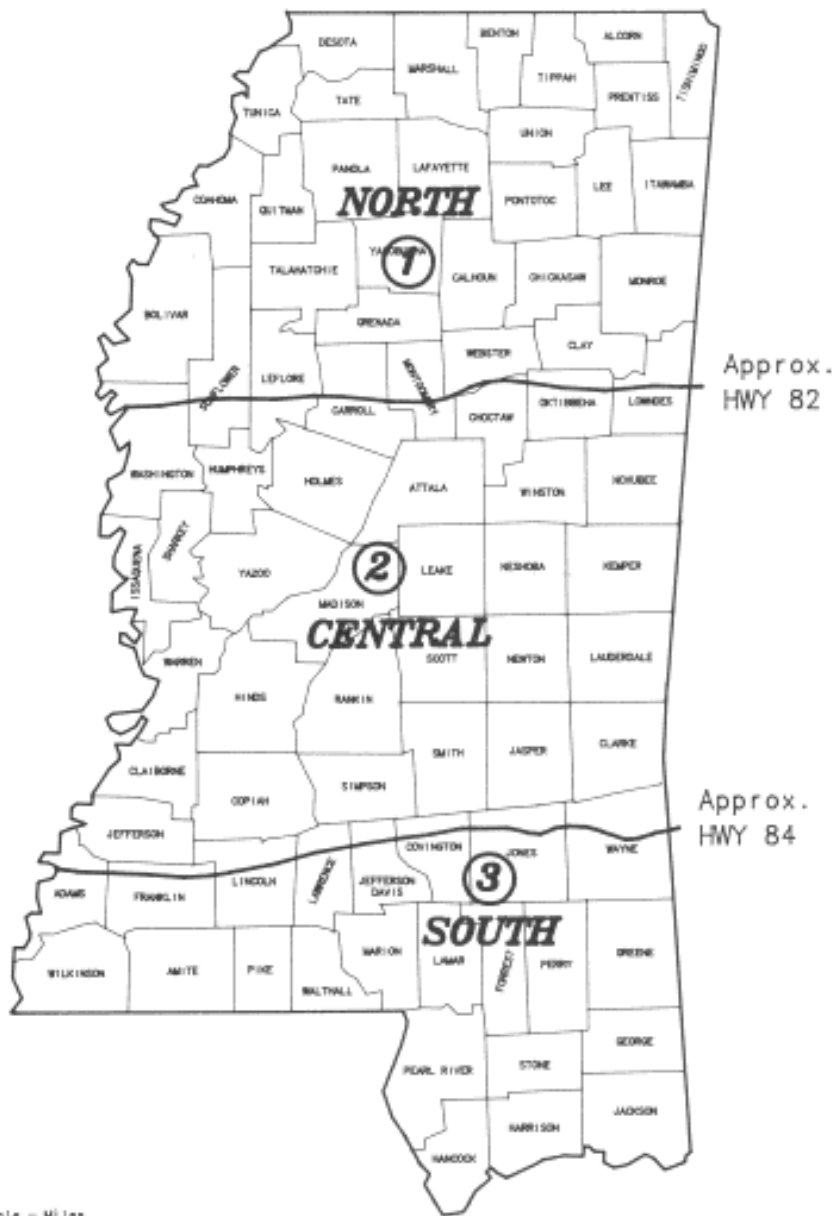


Figure 5-3

