

VETIVER SYSTEM - PROPAGATION & PLANTING

Vetiver grass is propagated generally in nurseries to produce either bare rooted or potted plants. 1 ha of nursery can produce enough planting material for more than 100 linear km of vetiver hedgerows sufficient to protect 100 ha of farm land on a 5% slope. Nurseries can be of any size or design, but should be located on fertile soil with access to water so that the plants can be watered if planted outside of the rainy season



VETIVER SYSTEM - PROPAGATION & PLANTING

Depending on growth rate vetiver is normally dug from the nursery between 3 to 6 months. The clumps are trimmed to leave about 15 cm of leaf and 8 cm of root. These trimmed clumps are then divided into planting slips, each with three tillers. They are then bundled up, ready for transporting to the application site. In some cases (recommended) these bundles of slips are soaked for three days in water containing rooting hormones in order to accelerate root growth.



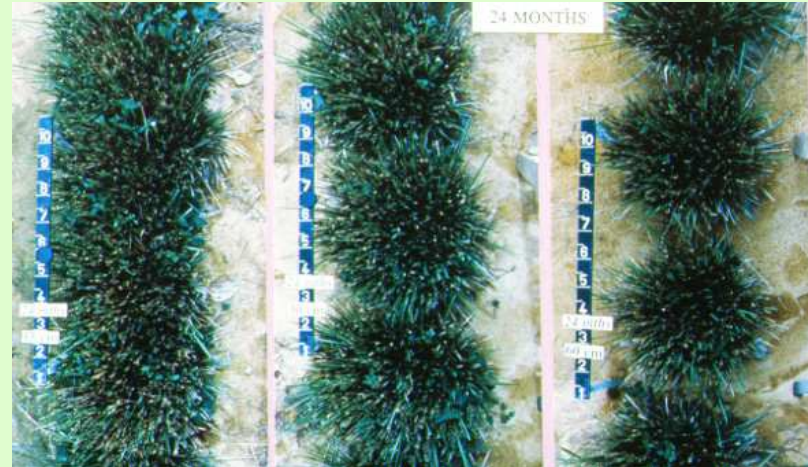
VETIVER SYSTEM - PROPAGATION & PLANTING

Field planting is easy. A small furrow is dug on the contour across the slope and the vetiver slips from the nursery are planted about 10 - 15 cm apart. If water is available the plants are watered (not necessary if planted during the rainy season). After about three months the lines are weeded and the tops are cut back to about 30 cm in order to promote tillering. These photos are from Ethiopia and Mexico.



VETIVER SYSTEM - PROPAGATION & PLANTING

In line spacing of vetiver is important. The top image shows from left to right 2 year old vetiver hedgerow at in line planting distances of 1, 30, and 60 cm respectively. The closer planted vetiver on the left has formed a continuous hedgerow.



The bottom image shows a cut back hedge in Malaysia, it is dense and very effective.



For the technology to be successful it needs good quality planting material, correct spacing, moist soil at time of planting, and follow up weeding and trimming in the first year



VETIVER SYSTEM - PROPAGATION & PLANTING



The results from top left: soil and water conservation on a maize field in the Ethiopian highlands (1,700 m a.s.l), a rural road protected against flooding and washout in Madagascar, a highway fill slope stabilized in Malaysia, and a riverbank in Vietnam is prevented from washing away, thus saving a villager's home.

