

Contact: Northeast Iowa RC&D
563.862.7112

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REDUCING EROSION AFTER PLANTINGS

Richard Kittelson, Trout Run Reforestation Coordinator at Northeast Iowa RC&D, has been working with landowners in the Trout Run watershed to reduce the amount of soil erosion experienced in designated "hot spots," designated as those land areas currently being cropped, which are on forest formed soils at a slope greater than 12%.

Reforestation of these hot spots is key to reducing the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering the Upper Iowa River. However, soil erosion can continue to be a problem as these plantings are being established. With proper site preparation and management, these problems can be addressed and alleviated. Based on the management plan prepared with the District Forester, landowners considering reforestation will have two options: Direct seeding or planting tree seedlings. Based on the option chosen by the landowner, a planting of grass strips or seeding with a cover crop may be recommended to alleviate the erosion and loss of plantings.

For more information on the Trout Run Reforestation project or reducing erosion after plantings, please call Richard Kittelson at Northeast Iowa RC&D at (563) 864-7112.