DISTURBED SITES AND STEEP SLOPES HAVE various soil types and conditions. They are typically distinguished by lower quality soils and a predisposition to runoff and erosion. Examples: Landfills, surface mines, road cuts or construction sites.
SITE PREPARATION

Eradicate existing vegetation by having a licensed spray technician apply an approved herbicide. Perennial weeds not addressed before establishment will be difficult to remove later. Whenever possible, regrade the site to reduce slope and build diversions which will reduce erosion and minimize seed loss.

For areas with slope greater than 3:1, final tracking should be perpendicular to the slope as the tracks will help reduce erosion and retain seed and moisture.

Mulching with straw, hydromulch or straw/coconut fiber mats is recommended on these sites to protect the seed from drying out or washing away. For areas steeper than 3:1, the use of erosion control blankets or flexible growth medium (e.g., Flexterra®) is recommended. When erosion control blankets are used, be sure to toe them in at the top of the slope.

GROWING SEASON MAINTENANCE

FIRST GROWING SEASON

If the ground is not too rough or steep to be feasible, post-planting maintenance will provide improved results. Whenever canopy height (overall vegetation) reaches 18”-24”, use a brush hog mower or string trimmer to trim the meadow to a height of 8”. A lawn

HABITAT:
Various soils resulting from construction leaving exposed clay, sand and rock outcropping without topsoil; generally occupied with upland species.

FERTILITY:
Generally low in fertility; therefore, adding topsoil or organic matter (compost) can be very beneficial. Check your soil pH and select species adapted to that pH. Add lime and fertilizer as recommended by soil analysis. Incorporate amendments into the soil in a manner that will leave the soil rough and minimize soil erosion and rapid runoff (e.g., tracking). Fertilizing is not recommended if there is a weed problem.

SEEDING METHOD:
Hand seed, broadcast seed, hydrosed or drill seed. For areas with slope less than 3:1, cover the seed 1/8”-1/4” deep by dragging with a spring-tooth harrow or by firmly pressing the seed into the soil using a cultipacker, lawn roller or ATV.
A 1-year-old *Andropogon gerardii* (Big Bluestem) meadow at Fishkills Landfill on Staten Island, New York.

mower is not recommended as the mower height will be too low and native seedlings will be killed. Trimming will reduce competition by fast-growing weeds for sunlight, water and nutrients needed by slow-growing perennial natives.

If bioengineering materials were used on the site, mowing should be above the new growth of these materials. Trimming should cease by mid-September.

Problem weeds should be hand pulled or spot sprayed with an approved herbicide, such as Roundup®, Rodeo®, Garlon®, Garlon® 3A, Stinger® or Milestone®. If you did not plant vines or spiny plants as part of your mix, be vigilant about controlling them. These are more easily pulled when they are young rather than after they have had two to three months of growth. Examples include bindweed, blackberry, multiflora rose, mile-a-minute and Japanese hops. Be equally vigilant about controlling other invasive species, such as autumn olive, Canada thistle and mugwort.

### DISTURBED SITES & STEEP SLOPES SEED MIXES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mix Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERNMX-101</td>
<td>Non-Native Ernst Best Strip Mine &amp; Gas Production Mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNMX-102-1</td>
<td>Pipeline Mix with Switchgrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNMX-103</td>
<td>Non-Native Good Value Mine Mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNMX-104</td>
<td>Quick Erosion Control Cover Mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNMX-109</td>
<td>Crownvetch Seeding Mix (Naturalized)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERNMX-110</td>
<td>Ernst Native Biomass Mix for Strip Mines &amp; Gas Production Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNMX-111</td>
<td>Ernst Native Habitat Mix for Strip Mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNMX-181</td>
<td>Native Steep Slope Mix with Annual Ryegrass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These mixes are good for controlling erosion and provide food and/or cover for wildlife. Visit ernstseed.com for more options.

Mix formulations are subject to change without notice depending on the availability of existing and new products. While the formula may change, the guiding philosophy and function of the mix will not.
SECOND & SUBSEQUENT GROWING SEASONS

› For sites that are not too rough or steep, prior to new spring growth reaching a height of 2” (e.g., shortly after forsythia or redbud blooms), trim any material standing from the previous year close to the ground (approximately 2”). This will allow the soil to warm more quickly, which will stimulate the emergence and growth of native plants and reduce the likelihood of shrub invasion.

› If bioengineering materials were used on the site or seed of shrubs/trees were part of the mix, the site should not be trimmed after the establishment year.

› Problem weeds should be hand pulled or spot sprayed with an approved herbicide, such as Roundup®, Rodeo®, Garlon®, Garlon® 3A, Stinger® or Milestone®. If you did not plant vines or spiny plants as part of your mix, be vigilant about controlling them. These are more easily pulled when they are young rather than after they have had two to three months of growth. Examples include bindweed, blackberry, multiflora rose, mile-a-minute and Japanese hops. Be equally vigilant about controlling other invasive species, such as autumn olive, Canada thistle and mugwort.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If you notice a heavy infestation of ragweed or foxtail in the second growing season, trim the meadow to a height of 8”. Trimming should cease by mid-September. However, vegetation allowed to grow without mowing provides more protection for wildlife and aids in erosion control.