

Handbook near-natural re-vegetation of raw soil

Handbuch naturnahe Begrünung von Rohböden

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English Text Version (pdf, without examples) available as download via www.surenet.info

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CONTENT

- overview about near-natural methods
- overview of site types, possible types of target vegetation and suitable restoration methods
- practical implementation of the methods (seed-rich mowing material and hay mulch, threads of hay, hay threshing®, seeding (grassland and forests), transfer of topsoil (grassland and forests), planting and introduction of non-rooted plant parts, planting on lake shores)
- costs of near-natural restoration measures

TARGET GROUPS

- landscape architects, bio-engineers, biologists, and students of these fields
- authorities and companies who are responsible for re-vegetation, restoration and recultivation measures
- producers for seeds and plants
- landscape conservation organisations, voluntary nature conservation associations and institutions

Over the last years, a very desirable development has led to a situation in which the occupational groups working in the field of re-vegetation and restoration have increasingly converged in their attitudes with regard to the requirements they place on the re-vegetation of raw soil. Whereas in the past bio-engineers and landscape architects focused almost exclusively on the protection against erosion in connection with a fast vegetation cover, at the moment the objectives of the preservation of the floristic identity of the natural areas and the development of vegetation communities typical of the respective natural area are also gaining in importance. On the other hand, conservationists and vegetation scientists are increasingly focussing on the requirements regarding erosion protection and the possibility of the practical implementation of pilot projects.

Moreover, numerous practical examples which have by now been implemented successfully document the positive ecological and economical impact on re-vegetation of raw soils today. The examples outlined in the German version of the handbook were facilitated by the co-operation of private and public associations and foundations.

Unfortunately, a broader application of near-natural methods is still hampered by information deficits. The aim of this manual is to reduce any prejudices regarding the success, expenditure and costs of these near-natural methods and introduce them to a broad public as real alternatives to conventional restoration methods.

The practical examples and contact persons listed in the German version of the handbook should facilitate the contact to experts in case of questions regarding planning and implementation of near-natural re-vegetation of raw soil for authorities, planning offices, mining companies, conservation associations and other institutions. At this point, we would like to emphasize that the selection of the examples was not connected with an evaluation of any type. To encourage development and implementation of new strategies in near-natural re-vegetation we would welcome it very much if other people/ institutions will contact us to include further experiences and practical examples for a continuation of this manual (kirmer@loel.hs-anhalt.de). The rapid gain in knowledge in the field of near-natural re-vegetation of raw soil requires anyway the development of a network of excellence. Within the SURE network this is already in progress.

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