



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Plant Management Enhancement Activity – Sugar Bush Health Spouts (MI-EPL43)

### Plant Management

Maple syrup production requires the tapping of trees by drilling holes that will run sap for approximately six weeks. New holes need to be drilled in producing trees every season. The size of the hole being drilled into the tree is dependent on the size of the spout being tapped. The larger the hole that is drilled, the larger the wound is to the tree. The same wound area can not be drilled into more than once because the wounded area becomes nonfunctional due to the formation of scar tissue.

### Benefits

Using smaller diameter spouts and limiting the amount of holes drilled per year for sap harvesting increases the health and vigor of the tree. This also increases the sap production life of the tree.

### Criteria for Plant Management Enhancement Activity

This enhancement requires a participant to follow and document **one of the following activities**:

- Use health spouts at 5/16 inches or smaller and utilize the live circumference of each tree to determine the number of spouts per tree. One health spout will be used for trees that are 28-44 inches in circumference. If the circumference is 47-63 inches in circumference, two health spouts may be utilized per tree. If the circumference is greater than 64 inches in circumference, three spouts may be utilized per tree.
- Use standard spouts at 7/16 inches or smaller and utilize the live circumference of each tree to determine the number of spouts per tree. One health spout for trees that are 36-54 inches in circumference. If the circumference is greater than 55 inches in circumference, two health spouts may be utilized per tree.

### References:

Heiligmann, R.B. 2007. Hobby Maple Syrup Production. Ohio State Univ. publ. F-36-02, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/for-fact/0036.html>

Koelling, M.R. and R.B. Heiligmann. North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2007. Ohio State University Extension Bulletin 856. 329 pp. <http://extension.unh.edu/forestry/Docs/Maple1.pdf>



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## CSP Enhancement Certification Sheet

### Sugar Bush Health Spouts (MI-EPL43)

**Participant Acknowledgement Statement:**

I agree to apply this enhancement under the terms and conditions of my CSP contract and understand the requirements of the activity.

The participant must choose at least one of the activities listed below.

- Use health spouts at 5/16 inches or smaller and utilize the live circumference of each tree to determine the number of spouts per tree. One health spout will be used for trees that are 28-44 inches in circumference. If the circumference is 47-63 inches in circumference, two health spouts may be utilized per tree. If the circumference is greater than 64 inches in circumference, three spouts may be utilized per tree.
- Use standard spouts at 7/16 inches or smaller and utilize the live circumference of each tree to determine the number of spouts per tree. One health spout for trees that are 36-54 inches in circumference. If the circumference is greater than 55 inches in circumference, two health spouts may be utilized per tree.

Number of Trees Taped	Drill holes Per Tree	Acres of Sugar Bush Tapped

Compensation will be on a *per acre* basis as described in my CSP contact.

**I agree that the following information will be provided to NRCS upon request:**

1. Written documentation of the activity performed.
2. Copies of dated receipts for equipment or services purchased.
3. Plan map of maple syrup production location
3. Photo documentation

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of these activities.

**Accepted by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_