

**Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT05 - Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of nontimber forest plants**



**Enhancement Description**

This activity involves the manipulation of forest species composition, structure, and canopy cover to achieve or maintain a desired native plant community to facilitate the sustainable management of native non-timber forest plant(s) (e.g., goldenseal, ramps, mushrooms, ginseng, ferns, “sugarbush”, etc.).

**Land Use Applicability**

Forestland

**Benefits**

Implementation of this enhancement activity can result in increased plant health and vigor, decreased intensity of pest outbreaks, decreased spread of diseases, decreased use of pesticides and improved water quality.

**Criteria**

Multi-Story Cropping can cover a wide variety and types of plants and products. Multi-Story Cropping requires the development and implementation of a plan for the manipulation of forest growth through management of the competition for light, nutrients, moisture and control of allelopathic (toxic) effects to promote the production of a nontimber forest plant complex while maintaining a healthy forest ecosystem. The plan will include the following components as a minimum:

1. The objectives of the multi-story cropping enhancement.
2. Maps, images and/or descriptions of the proposed multi-story area.
3. An inventory appropriate to the targeted species of the area to identify trees and understory species necessary to achieve the desired purposes.
4. Listing of management activities that will be used to complete the multi-story cropping such as, but are not limited to, pruning, selective thinning and the introduction of new species to achieve plant diversity or to re-establish native plants.
5. Identification of specific canopy and plant densities in the overstory and understory to achieve the intended purpose(s)
6. The plant community will be diverse to avoid species-specific pests and to enhance wildlife food and habitat.



United States Department of Agriculture  
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2011 Ranking Period 1

### **Documentation Requirements**

1. Brief written description of the actions taken to enhance the multi-story cropping.
2. Delineations on a map or aerial photo of the areas being treated with multi-story cropping
3. Representative digital pictures of the overstory and understory plant community following multi-story cropping management activities.

**Michigan Supplement**

**Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT05 – Multi-Story Cropping, Sustainable Management of Non-timber Forest Plants**

The following plant species are eligible native non-timber forest products for this enhancement. Only species native to Michigan are eligible.

<b>Food</b>
American hazelnut
blueberries, huckleberries
currants, gooseberries
elderberries
fern fiddleheads
mushrooms
pawpaw
raspberries, blackberries, thimbleberry
roses
serviceberry species
wild leeks

<b>Botanicals/Medicinal Plants</b>
American ginseng
goldenseal
Labrador tea
partridgeberry
Solomon’s seal
wintergreen
witch hazel

<b>Decorative/Floral/Handicrafts</b>
birch
ferns and fern allies, i.e., club mosses, princess pine, etc.
grape
pine, spruce, cedar, fir, hemlock

Note: some plants are commonly utilized in multiple categories. For example, roses could be used for food, medicinal and decorative products.

All enhancement activities must meet all applicable NRCS Michigan conservation practice standards in the eFOTG, Section IV, such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), Brush Management (314), and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).