

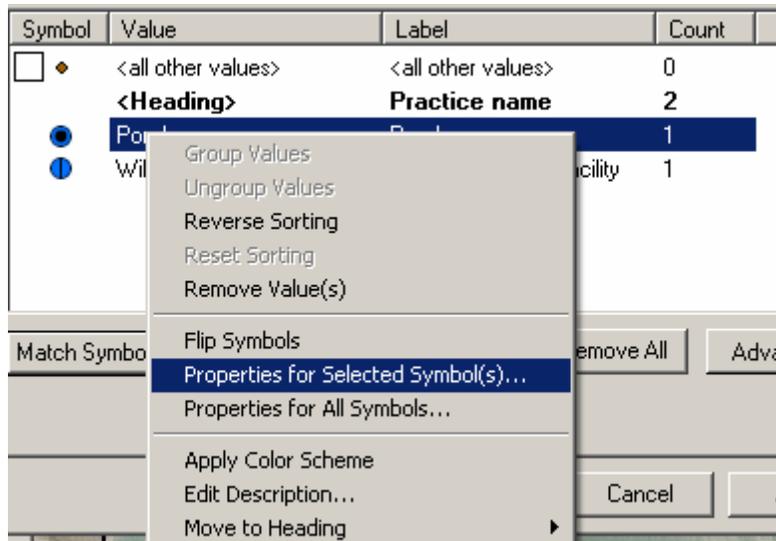
Helpful Hint—Put a Mask Around a Practice Symbol

Applies to Version:	Toolkit
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Helpful Hint Date:	5-12-2007

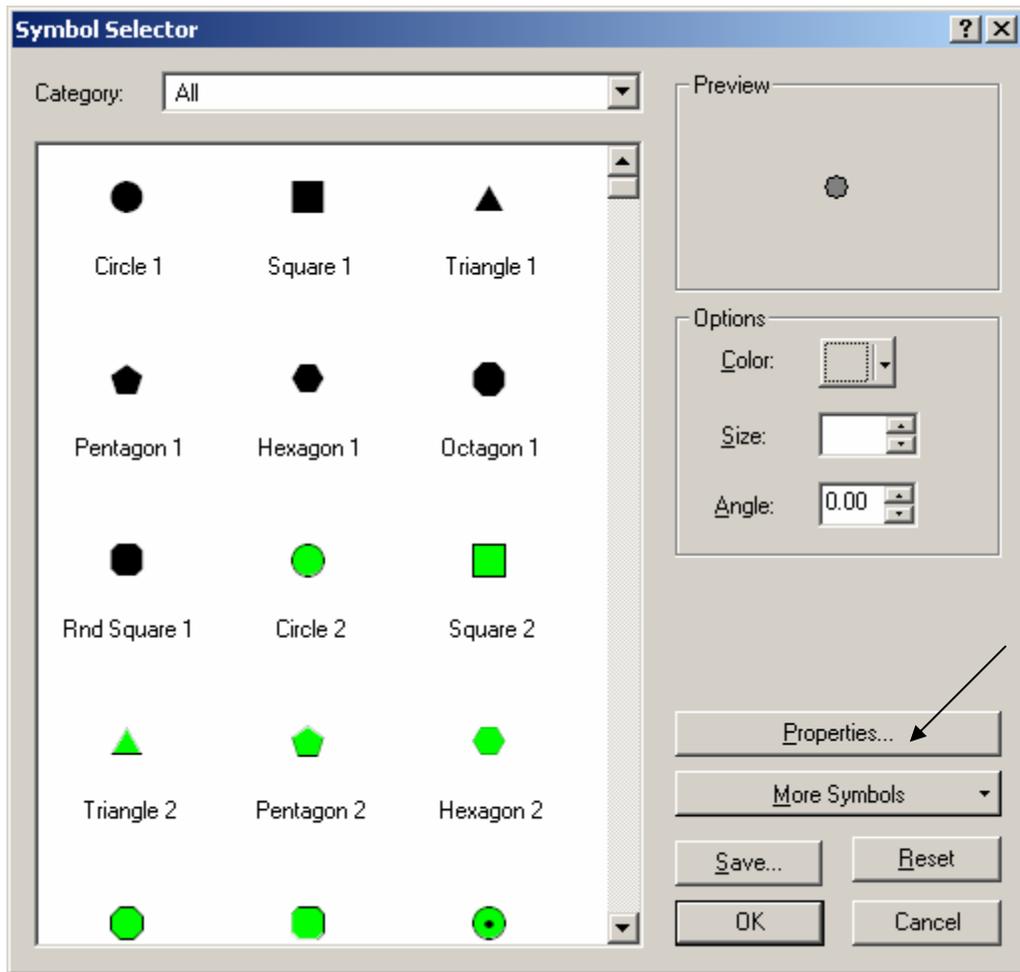
Background: Often, the NRCS planning symbols used in ArcMap are hard to see on a map. In this situation, a user can apply a mask around the symbol to make it stand out.

Procedure:

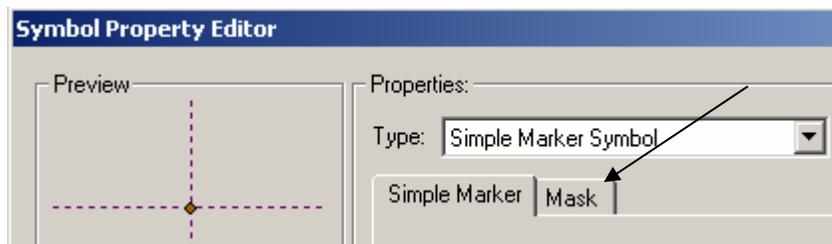
1. Add a practice (point) layer.
2. Attribute the points.
3. Right mouse click on the layer name and go to **Properties**.
4. Click on the **Symbology** tab.
5. Select categories. Do one of the following:
 - a. Select **Unique values** and use **Practice Name** or **Practice Code** for the values field.
 - b. Select **Unique values, many fields** and use **Practice Code** and **Practice name** for the value fields.
 - c. Select **Match symbols to a style** and use **Practice Name** and pick **NRCS_Toolkit4_Practice_Styles_WA.style** or **NRCS_Toolkit4_Practice_Styles.style** in Match Symbols to Style if you have the NRCS practice stylesheet available. (See Helpful Hint - Using the NRCS_Toolkit5_Practice_Styles in ArcGIS found at http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Geo/gen_hints.html). Click **Add All Values** or **Match Symbols**.
6. Click **Apply** or **OK** and look at the symbols on the map. If they are hard to see go back to the symbology tab for the layer's properties.
7. Right mouse click on one of the symbols and pick **Properties for Selected Symbol(s)**



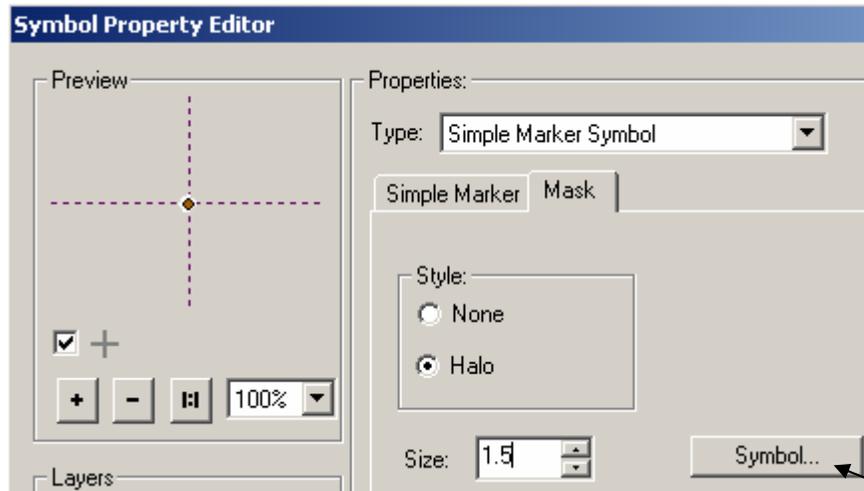
8. On the Symbol Selector window click on the Properties button



9. On the Symbol Properties Editor window, click on the Mask tab:

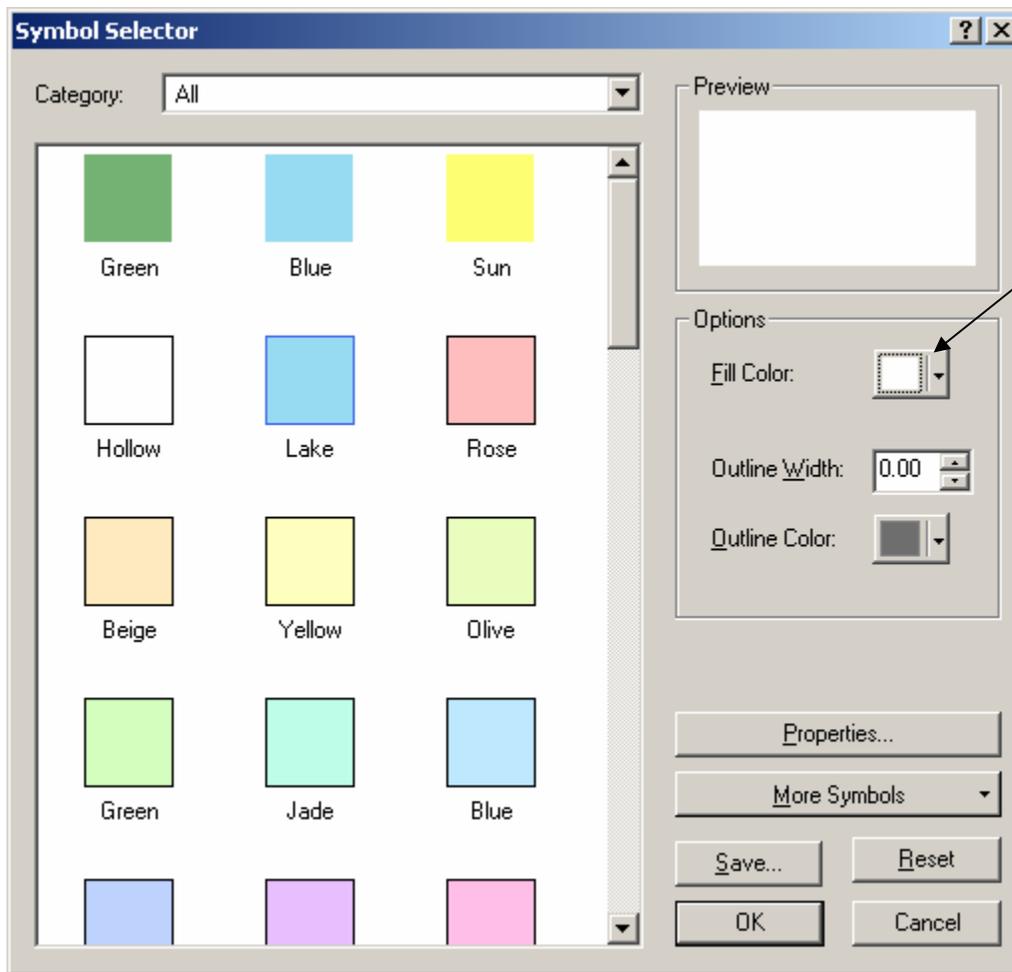


10. Pick **Halo** and set the **size** to **1.5**



11. The default mask color is white. If another color is desired, click on the **Symbol** button

12. Pick one of the colors shown on the Symbol Selector screen or choose a fill color



13. Click **OK, OK, OK**