

Duxbury Beach – Grass Planting - Spring, 2007

Prepared by a Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc. Member



In its first year of operation, the Reservation, with the help of many volunteers, planted 12,000 stalks of beach grass. After the blizzard of '78, the Reservation planted 40,000 to 50,000 culms for the next several years. Then came the No-Name Storm in November 1991. In the spring of 1992, a huge army of volunteers over several weeks planted 500,000 culms of grass. In 1994, another 300,000 culms were planted. Since then, grass planting has continued on an annual basis, but the amount of grass planted has dropped to about 15,000 culms per year.

Grass planting is a wonderful tradition on Duxbury Beach,

despite the cold, often snowy weather that usually prevails in March or April when grass planting takes place. Some



volunteers dig the holes using hand-crafted awls that twist into the sand to leave about an 8-inch hole. The rest of the volunteers drop a culm of grass into each hole. Spring snow and rain give the plants a good start, and several weeks later the Reservation fertilizes the grass, in recent years through aerial fertilization.

