



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E612E

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Cultural plantings

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Planting trees/shrubs that are of cultural significance, such as those species utilized by Tribes in traditional practices, medicinal plants, species used in basket-making, etc. (e.g., paper birch, slippery elm, witch hazel).

Criteria

- States will apply criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), and any additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Species will be selected for their cultural importance.
- Build forest resilience by favoring existing species that are better adapted to projected future climate conditions, and by enhancing relative compositional and structural diversity.
- Do not plant species on the Federal or State invasive species or noxious weed lists.
- Only viable, high-quality and site-adapted planting stock or seed will be used.
- A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Refer to criteria in NRCS CPS Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Implementation and timing of planting will be appropriate for the site and ensure successful establishment.



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- Plantings must be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from insects, disease, wildlife, and/or fire. Apply supporting practices and treatments as necessary to protect establishing trees and shrubs.
- Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water, or other treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, weed mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States’ Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation:
 - provide an updated Forest Management Plan that documents intended objectives for cultural plantings.
 - prepare the planned acres for trees and/or shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree-Shrub Site Preparation (490).
 - select a combination of tree and shrub species selected for their cultural importance and their adaptability to site conditions.
 - select planting technique, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site conditions.

Species	Note selected species characteristic(s)

- During implementation:
 - install and maintain erosion control measures for the site, as needed.
 - protect the planting(s) from plant and animal pests and fire.
 - notify NRCS in writing of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.



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TASK	Species	Species	Species
Planting Date			
Planting Technique			
Arrangement/Spacing			

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation:
 - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (CPS 490) as it relates to implementing this enhancement. Verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for tree/shrub establishment.
 - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
 - verify the enhancement is planned for the appropriate land use.
 - verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included in the planning combination.
 - verify cultural significance and use is documented.
 - NRCS will provide Technical Assistance, as needed, in the following:
 - Selecting a combination of species to meet enhancement criteria.
 - Selecting planting techniques, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
 - Planning the use of additional erosion control for the site, as needed.
 - Preparing specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved state implementation requirements, national technical notes, appropriate state technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

- During implementation:
 - evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria and were established to specifications developed for the site.

- After implementation:
 - verify the plantings were protected from plant and animal pests and fire.
 - verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.



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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____

Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____

Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date

2024 CSP ENHANCEMENTS – GUIDANCE & PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION

ENHANCEMENT NUMBER AND TITLE:

E612E – Cultural Tree/shrub Planting

Conservation Practice 612: Tree/shrub Establishment

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ENHANCEMENT Plant trees and shrubs that are of cultural significance. Examples are: Species utilized by Tribes in traditional practices or plants that are known to be important in the cultural heritage of the people of the Southern countryside of the United States over the last 200+ years. Plants such as medicinal plants, species used in basket-making, etc. (e.g., native cane or white oak) or commonly used native or old southern varieties of fruit (southern apples, muscadines, etc).

Some important things to note:

- Documentation must be provided that the plants used qualify as cultural plants. For example, new varieties of fruit trees or vines do not qualify; only old varieties.
- Plants used ***must be on Culturally Significant Plant List*** OR must be approved by state staff wildlife biologist, forester or cultural resources specialist.
- Plant density will vary greatly depending on species planted. Minimum planting density will be determined by the conservation planner in consultation with NRCS Cultural Resource Specialist and NRCS Forester or Wildlife Biologist.
- This type of planting is generally not done on large acreage blocks.

ATTACH COPIES OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AS NOTED BY THE ENHANCEMENT JOB SHEET. CHECK THE BOX OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFY THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

- MAPS OF THE AREA or LOCATION(S) WHERE PLANTING OCCURED SHOWING SPECIES PLANTED BY LOCATION
- PLANT INVOICE SHOWING SPECIES AND VARIETIES PURCHASED.
- REPRESENTATIVE DIGITAL IMAGES/PHOTOS OF THE AREA AND INDICATE AREA ON MAP
- DATES OF COMPLETED ACTIVITY

The attached documents support the full implementation of this Conservation Stewardship Enhancement.

CSP Participant Name

Date

NRCS CSP Enhancement 612E **Culturally Significant Plant List**

- yellowroot *Xanthorhiza simplicissima*
- sassafras *Sassafras albidum*
- flowering dogwood *Cornus florida*
- black raspberry *Rubus occidentalis*
- black walnut *Juglans nigra*
- butternut walnut *Juglans cinerea* (range is generally limited to north Alabama)
- pecan *Carya illinoensis*
- native persimmon *Diospyros spp*
- yaupon *Ilex vomitoria*
- southern magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora*
- sweetbay *Magnolia virginiana*
- umbrella-tree *Magnolia tripetala*
- giant cane *Arundinaria gigantea*
- switchcane *Arundinaria tecta*
- pawpaw *Asimina triloba*
- white oak *Quercus alba*
- crabapple *Malus spp*
- old southern apple varieties *Malus spp*
- old southern pear varieties *Pyrus spp* (caution: rootstock can be invasive if allowed to resprout after parent plant dies)
- old southern muscadine/scuppernong varieties *Vitus spp*
- old southern fig varieties *Ficus carica*