



Purpose

CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat, is used to enhance wildlife habitat by accomplishing one or more of the following:

Provide food for the desired kinds of upland wildlife species



Provide cover types for the desired kinds of upland wildlife species



Manage with wildlife habitat to achieve a viable wildlife population within the species home range.

The cover may include grasses, legumes, forbs, shrubs and trees and may be newly established or existing cover.

Wildlife

This practice is well suited for wildlife food and habitat. Selection of cover species will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the planned cover with other wildlife practices such as food plots or water developments will further enhance the cover.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the grass seeding worksheet in the conservation plan for grass and legume plantings and tree planting plan for tree and shrub plantings. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (645) Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

Procedures and adopted cultivars are covered in the standard and specifications for Conservation Cover (327). Refer to Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreak (380) for adapted tree and shrub species.

Grass Species

Plant species and varieties selected will be those best adapted to the climate and the soils in the field being established to permanent vegetative cover. Refer to the attached listing for acceptable species and mixes. The selected mixture may impact the ranking for a general CRP sign-up offer. The conservation plan will include the selected species and seeding rates. Seeding rates for grasses and legumes are based on pure live seed (PLS).

Refer to ND Extension Service Publication, R-794 (revised) "Grass Varieties for North Dakota" for the names of approved grass varieties. Acceptable points of origin for non-varietal or common grasses are the states of ND, SD, NE, MT, WY, MN and the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

All seed must meet the requirements of the North Dakota State Seed Laws. All seed must be officially tested for purity and germination to enable PLS calculations to determine the proper seeding rate. Germination tests for all species should be made within nine months prior to planting. If seeding is delayed, the lot may need to be retested.

Establishment Considerations

A nurse crop may be used for spring seeded grasses and legumes for erosion control and weed suppression. Use a maximum of 10 lbs./acre of oats or barley, or 7 lbs./acre of flax. No companion crop is required for late summer seeding but it may be desirable for erosion control and to protect developing seedlings.

Companion crops shall be clipped prior to the boot stage to minimize competition with emerging grass and legume plants.

Seeding Dates

For cool season grass species mixtures:

Season of Planting for Cool Season Species	Area of the State	
	North of North Dakota Hwy 200	South of North Dakota Hwy 200
Spring	Prior to May 20	Prior to May 10
Late Summer	Aug 10 to Sept 1	Aug 10 to Sept 15
Late Fall	After Oct 20	After Nov 1
Warm Season	May 10 – June 25	May 10-June 25

Species		
Warm/Cool Season Mix	May 1-June 15	April 20-June 1

If legumes are part of a late summer seeding, the seed is to be planted by August 25. Warm season species mixtures should be planted in the spring from May 10 to June 15.

Cover should be seeded within 12 months of the CRP contracts effective date. Tree and shrub plantings must be completed by June 1, except containerized stock may be planted up to two weeks later.

Seedbed Preparation

The seedbed must be essentially free of competing vegetation. It should be firm enough to permit seed placement at the desired depth and protected against erosion. A firm seedbed should hardly reveal adult footprints. This will allow for placement of the seeds at a depth of 1/4 to 3/4 of an inch into the soil.

Seedbed preparation will be mechanical or chemical. Refer to North Dakota Weed Control Guide (NDSU Circular W-253) for specific herbicide and weed control recommendations.

Seeding Operation

The seed may be planted with a grain drill or grass drill. Broadcasting seed does not meet practice specifications and is ineligible for cost share payments. Grain drills, including air-seeders, may be used provided that they can deliver the desired amount of seed to the proper depth. The seeding depth will be as follows:

Soil Texture	Seeding Depth
Fine to Medium	1/4 to 3/4 inch
Coarse	1/2 to 1 inch

Use of Pesticides

Only those pesticides which are labeled for the specific use will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.

2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.

3. After the seeding is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: a) treating with chemicals per label directions, or b) spot mow before seed heads form. When possible, delay control measures until after August 1st to protect nesting wildlife. Spot treatment on problem areas may be authorized by FSA during the primary nesting season.

4. Protect the acres from haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of the year.

5. Replace dead trees and shrubs as necessary, and control undesired vegetative competition to promote a fully functional tree/shrub planting. Control weed and grass competition around trees and shrubs for a minimum of 2-4 feet using cultivation, mulch, or chemical control measures.

6. Do not use the contract area for field borders, field roads, or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.

7. Control rodent infestations that adversely affect the perennial ground cover. Use all chemicals according to label instructions.

Cover Management

All CRP participants with contracts beginning with signup 26 are required to have management activities that are site specific and ensure:

- Plant diversity
- Wildlife benefits
- Protection of soil and water resources.

Management activities may include:

- Light disking
- Heavy harrowing
- Clipping and removal
- Prescribed burning
- Interseeding legumes

Management of cover will be required once for ten-year contracts. The cover management activity for a ten-year contract must be completed before the eighth year of the

contract. Cost share may be available for these activities.

Temporary Cover

When CRP seeding is delayed beyond the recommended planting dates due to weather, seed availability or site specific conditions, a temporary cover may be required. The temporary cover will be planted with a grain drill. Cost share payments are available if the temporary cover is seeded by June 20. Refer to the following table for recommended species, planting dates and rates.

Barley, Oats	25 to 30 lbs./ac.	April 15 to June 20
Flax	8 to 10 lbs./ac.	May 1 to June 20
Grain Sorghum, Millet, Sudangrass	10 to 20 lbs./ac.	May 15 to Aug 15

CP4D	40	<p>An existing or newly established stand with a minimum of 4 species. The stand may include of grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs or legumes planted in mixes, blocks or strips best suited for wildlife in the area. Grass stands must include at least one forb or legume.</p> <p>Note: Legumes may be seeded into an existing grass stand in order to meet the CP4D cover requirement.</p> <p>Existing stands that are predominantly crested wheat grass, Kentucky blue grass or quack grass are considered a 10-point CP1 cover. Existing stands that are predominantly Siberian elm are 10-point CP3A cover.</p>	<p>1 Tall Wheatgrass Intermediate Wheatgrass Alfalfa Sweetclover</p> <p>2 Western Wheatgrass Intermediate Wheatgrass Alfalfa Sweetclover</p> <p>3 Intermediate Wheatgrass Switchgrass Alfalfa Sweetclover</p>
CP4D	50	<p>An existing or newly established mixed stand of at least 5 species of either predominantly native species of grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks or strips best suited for wildlife.</p> <p>Only native grasses are authorized. There must be at least one forb or legume in an existing grass stand in order to meet the CP4D cover requirement.</p> <p>Note: Legumes may be seeded into an existing grass stand in order to meet the cover requirement.</p>	<p>1(Loamy, steep loam, clayey subsoil) Green Needlegrass Big Bluestem or Switchgrass Sideoats Grama Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>2(Loamy, steep loam, clayey subsoil) Western Wheatgrass Big Bluestem or Switchgrass Sideoats Grama Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>3(Loamy, steep loam, clayey subsoil) Big Bluestem Switchgrass Indiangrass Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>4(Claypan) Western Wheatgrass Slender Wheatgrass Blue Grama Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>5(sand) Canada Wildrye Prairie Sandreed Sideoats Grama Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p>

CP4D	50		<p>6(Sand) Canada Wildrye Sand Bluestem Sideoats Grama Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>7(Droughty or very droughty loam) Green Needlegrass Prairie Sandreed Sideoats Grama Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>8(Overflow) Big Bluestem Green Needlegrass Switchgrass Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>9(Limy upland) Little Bluestem Sideoats Grama Prairie Sandreed Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>10(Very shallow to gravel) Sideoats Grama Prairie Sandreed Western wheatgrass Alfalfa Legume/forb/shrub/tree</p> <p>11(Wet and subirrigated) Big Bluestem Switchgrass Indiangrass or Prairie Cordgrass Maximillian Sunflower Legume/shrub/forb/tree</p> <p>12(Saline) Beardless Wildrye Slender Wheatgrass Western Wheatgrass Alsike Clover Fourwing or Gardner Saltbush</p>
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- The mixture does not identify the required legume, forb, shrub or tree species. The additional species is to be selected from the list below.

Legumes and Forbs

Maximillian Sunflower
Purple Prairie Clover
Canada Milkvetch
American Vetch
Echinacea Purpurea
Echinacea angustifolia
Yellow coneflower
Lewis Blue flax

Shrubs

Fourwing Saltbush
Gardner Saltbush
Winterfat
Leadplant
Prairie Rose
Western Snowberry
Wood's Rose
Buffaloberry
Chokecherry
Plum
Sandbar Willow
Juneberry
Hawthorn