



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner _____

Definition

Tree planting is establishing and maintaining tree cover to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production and provide for wildlife benefits and future timber production.



Purpose

Tree planting is used to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, create or enhance wildlife habitat and establish trees for timber production.

Where used

Tree planting is used on land retired from agricultural production, including land entered in retirement programs. This practice does not apply to plantings for ornamental purposes or Christmas tree production.

Conservation Management System

Tree planting is often the only practice that is required to meet the requirements of a Conservation Management System (CMS). There may be other resource concerns present and could require other practice installation to meet program requirements. In addition other wildlife practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit that will result from this practice.

Wildlife

This practice is well suited to provide quality wildlife habitat. Tree species selected for

planting will affect what type of wildlife that will benefit from these acres.

Supplementing the tree plantings with other wildlife practices, plantings or seeding will further enhance the cover.

Planning Considerations

1. Tree plantings will be based on a DNR developed or approved tree-planting plan.
2. Select tree species best adapted to the climate and soils of the area/field being established to trees.
3. Select tree species that meet the long-term objectives for the use of the land.
4. Consider wildlife food and cover requirements.
5. Consider diversity of the actual planted areas in relation to adjacent land uses and cover types.

Specifications

Planting plans and tree planting activities will be consistent with DNR requirements for tree plantings. DNR has technical responsibility for plan development and practice certification. Additional provisions may be entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (643) Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats.

Required Management Activities

To ensure continued stand vigor and health, wildlife benefits and plant diversity, management activities are required for this practice.

Refer to "*Conservation Reserve Program Forest Management Activities*" for guidance on this requirement.

Management Considerations

On fields with a high potential for erosion, additional efforts may be required to minimize erosion until tree cover establishment.

Practices such as cover crops, contour planting, etc. should be considered in the planning process for inclusion into the plan.

Noxious and highly competitive weeds and invasive species must be controlled to allow establishment of the planting. Mechanical or chemical control methods used must be consistent with erosion control requirements and pesticide label requirements.

Manage the tree planting according to DNR planting plan requirements.

Nutrients

Nutrients are not required for tree planting. However, if management goals provide that there are going to be openings in the tree stand established to herbaceous material some fertilizer or lime may be needed in those areas.

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. Prevent animal damage and browse by rodents, mice, rabbits, deer, gophers and other wildlife which adversely affect woody vegetative cover.
2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.
3. 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 use of 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 areas from haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of each year.
5. Replace dead trees and shrubs as necessary, and control undesirable vegetative competition to promote a fully functional tree planting. Control weed and grass competition

around trees and shrubs for a minimum of 2 to 4 feet using cultivation, mulch, or chemical control measures. Mechanical cultivation needs to be kept shallow to avoid damaging tree and shrub root systems.

6. Periodically inspect for rilling, gulying, and concentrated flow erosion. Repair disturbed areas and re-vegetate areas that may need to have permanent cover.
7. Avoid direct spray applications and spray drift when applying herbicides on adjacent cropland.
8. Control insects and diseases damaging the vegetation. If you use pesticide to treat a problem read and follow label directions carefully.
9. Do not apply animal/livestock waste or municipal and industrial waste.
10. Do not use the planted area for field roads, turn areas, or other uses that will damage or destroy the vegetation.
11. Prune trees, as necessary, to remove dead or damaged branches, maintain a single leader and upright form.
12. Contact DNR and NRCS representatives for advice concerning critical problems such as: planting failure, severe erosion areas, weed infestations etc

