



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner _____



Definition

Grass Already Established is maintaining cover to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production.

Purpose

Grass Already Established is used to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality and create or enhance wildlife habitat

Where used

Grass Already Established is used on land retired from agricultural production, including land entered in retirement programs. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings.

Conservation Management System

Grass Already Established is usually all that is required to meet the requirements of a Conservation Management System. There may

be other resource concerns present and could require other practices to also be installed to meet program requirements. In addition other wildlife practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit of the cover that will result from this practice.



Wildlife

This practice is well suited for wildlife food and habitat. Selection of grass species will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the grass planting with other wildlife practices or plantings will further enhance the cover.



Planning

Considerations

1. Consider the long term use objectives in selection of vegetative cover species.
2. Consider the needs of wildlife species.

3. Consider existing wildlife habitat on land areas surrounding the field being established to permanent vegetative cover

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (327) Conservation Cover.

Management Considerations

Management activities will be scheduled during the contract period according to the specifications in the Grassland Management Fact Sheet.

Nutrients

Lime and fertilizer are usually not required for grass already established. However, if previous soil test history, current soil test results or the soils inherent fertility is low, top dressing with nitrogen at 40-50 pounds per acre may be beneficial. In mixed stands where the legume component is 30+% apply only phosphorus (40 lbs/acre), and/or potash (60 lbs/acre).

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 disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife established by FSA.
2. Control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws by:
 - Treating with chemicals per label directions.
 - Spot mow before seed heads form.
3. 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 unless authorized in your contract. Refer to the haying and grazing management plan for specifications.
5. Re-seed any areas that do not have adequate permanent cover.
6. Do not use the contract area for field borders, field roads, or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.
7. Do not use the field for disposal of livestock or organic waste unless that use is authorized in the additional specifications and remarks.
8. Control rodent infestations that adversely affect the perennial ground cover.
9. Use all chemicals according to label instructions.

An aerial view, or if needed an aerial photo of the area Grass Already Established can be shown below. Other relevant information, such as complementary practices, and adjacent field or tract conditions including structures and crop type, and additional specifications may be included.

Additional Specifications and Notes

Landowner _____ **FSA Contract Number** _____

Prepared By _____ **Planned Application Date** _____

Tract Number(s) _____ **Field Number(s)** _____ **Total Acres** _____

Total Acres _____ x cost/acre _____ = Project Cost Estimate x Cost Share Rate _____ = Estimated Cost Share Amount: _____

Additional Operation and Maintenance _____

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