



Conservation Practice Standard Overview

May 2016

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)

Tree/shrub establishment involves planting seedlings or cuttings, seeding, or creating conditions that promote natural regeneration.

Practice Information

Trees and shrubs can be established for a variety of purposes. Conservation benefits may include, but are not limited to—

- establishing forest cover
- enhancing wildlife habitat
- controlling erosion
- improving water quality
- capturing and storing carbon
- conserving energy



Species selection, site preparation, planting date and method, and tree spacing will vary depending on the planned purpose and site conditions. Once planted, trees and shrubs need to be inspected periodically and protected from insects, diseases, competing vegetation, fire, and damage from livestock or wildlife.

Depending on the site, supplemental water may be required to ensure survival during the establishment period, typically 1 to 3 years. Periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant vigor.

Common Associated Practices

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) is commonly associated with conservation practices such as Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490), Mulching (Code 484), Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Brush Management (Code 314), Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315), Integrated Pest Management (Code 595), and Access Control (Code 472).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.