

TECHNICAL NOTES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
JULY 2011

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

PLANT MATERIALS TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 19

When to Plant Conservation Species in Louisiana

When planting conservation species in Louisiana several factors can contribute to a landowner having a poorly established stand or even a complete stand failure. Using species and varieties not adapted to the site, using poor planting techniques, and a failure to plant at the proper time of the year are considered to be the three main reasons for planting failures.

Producers will often invest considerable amounts of time and money buying and planting conservation seeds but will fail to consider optimum planting windows to insure the best success.

Establishing optimum planting windows for conservation species take into consideration several factors including;

- type plant being planted (grasses, legumes, forbs)
- cool season plant vs. warm season plant
- perennial plant or annual plant, and
- climate (rainfall patterns, season, temperatures)

To assist landowners and planners in the scheduling of conservation planting the reference titled “Quick Guide - When to Plant Conservation Species in Louisiana” was developed using species and optimum seeding date included in the Appendix 1 - Planting Rates for Louisiana by MLRA’s. This guide is available in poster format for wall display. See figure 1 - Quick Guide example.

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Quick Guide

When to Plant Conservation Species in Louisiana

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
PERENNIAL GRASSES												
Bahiagrass, <i>Paspalum notatum</i>												
Bermudagrass (broadcast green hay), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>												
Bermudagrass (hulled), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>												
Bermudagrass (sod), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>												
Bermudagrass (sprigging green hay), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>												
Bermudagrass (sprigs), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>												
Bermudagrass (unhulled), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>												
Bitter Panicum, <i>Panicum amarum</i>												
Bluestem: big, <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>												
Bluestem: little, <i>Schizachyrium scaparium</i>												
Bluestem: seacoast, <i>Schizachyrium maritimum</i>												
California Bulrush, <i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>												
Carpetgrass, <i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>												
Centipede Grass, <i>Eremochloa ophiuroides</i>												
Cordgrass: marshhay, <i>Spartina patens</i>												
Cordgrass: smooth, <i>Spartina alterniflora</i>												
Dallisgrass, <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>												
Eastern Gamagrass, <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>												
Indiangrass, <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>												
Paspalum: brownseed, <i>Paspalum plicatulum</i>												
Paspalum: Florida, <i>Paspalum floridanum</i>												
Paspalum: seashore, <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>												
Purpletop, <i>Trident flavus</i>												
Sea Oats, <i>Uniola paniculata</i>												
St Augustine (sod), <i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>												
Switchgrass, <i>Panicum virgatum</i>												
Tall Fescue, <i>Schedonorus phoenix</i>												
Velvet Rosettegrass, <i>Dichanthelium scaparium</i>												
Wildrye: Canada, <i>Elymus canadensis</i>												
Wildrye: Virginia, <i>Elymus virginicus</i>												
Zoysia (sod), <i>Zoysia japonica</i>												
PERENNIAL LEGUMES, FORBS												
Alfalfa, <i>Medicago sativa</i>												
Black-eyed Susan, <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>												
Butterfly Milkweed, <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>												
Compass Plant, <i>Silphium laciniatum</i>												
Coralbean, <i>Erythrina herbacea</i>												
Fragrant Goldenrod, <i>Solidago odora</i>												
Goat's Rue, <i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>												
Herbaceous mimosa, <i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>												
Illinois Bundleflower, <i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>												
Ironweed, <i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>												
Labiab, <i>Labiab purpureus</i>												
Maximilian Sunflower, <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>												
Perennial Peanut, <i>Arachis glabrata</i>												
Plains Coreopsis, <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>												
Prairie Clover: purple, <i>Dalea purpurea</i>												
Prairie Clover: white, <i>Dalea candida</i>												
Rough Coneflower, <i>Rudbeckia grandiflora</i>												
Sericea Lespedeza, <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>												
Slender Mountain Mint, <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>												
Sunflower: ashy, <i>Helianthus mollis</i>												
Sunflower: swamp, <i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>												
Thickspike Gayfeather, <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>												
Trailing Fuzzybean, <i>Strophostyles helvola</i>												
Yellow Wild Indigo, <i>Baptisia sphaerocarpa</i>												
ANNUAL GRASSES												
Annual Ryegrass, <i>Lolium multiflorum</i>												
Cereal Rye, <i>Secale cereale</i>												
Chufa, <i>Cyperus esculentus</i>												
Corn, <i>Zea mays</i>												
Grain Sorghum, <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench ssp. <i>bicolor</i>												
Millet: browntop, <i>Panicum ramosum</i>												
Millet: pearl, <i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>												
Millet: proso, <i>Panicum miliaceum</i>												
Oats, <i>Avena sativa</i>												
Sorghum X Sudangrass Hybrids												
Sudangrass, <i>Sorghum vulgare</i>												
Triticale, xTriticosecale <i>rimpai</i>												
Wheat, <i>Triticum aestivum</i>												
ANNUAL LEGUMES, FORBS												
Alyceclover, <i>Alysicarpus ovalifolius</i>												
Annual Lespedeza, <i>Kummerowia striata</i> , <i>K. stipulacea</i>												
Austrian Winterpea, <i>Pisum sativum</i> ssp. <i>arvense</i>												
Clasping Coneflower, <i>Dracopis amplexicaulis</i>												
Clover: arrowleaf, <i>Trifolium vesiculosum</i>												
Clover: ball, <i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>												
Clover: berseem, <i>Trifolium alexandrinum</i>												
Clover: crimson, <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>												
Clover: red, <i>Trifolium pratense</i>												
Clover: subterranean, <i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>												
Clover: white or ladino, <i>Trifolium repens</i>												
Cow Peas, <i>Vigna unguiculata</i>												
Partridge Pea, <i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>												
Purple Horsemint, <i>Monarda citriodora</i>												
Singletary Pea, <i>Lathyrus hirsutus</i>												
Smartweed, Pennsylvania, <i>Polygonum pennsylvanicum</i>												
Soybeans, <i>Glycine max</i>												
Sunflower, <i>Helianthus annuus</i>												
Sunn Hemp, <i>Crotalaria juncea</i>												
Sweet Clover; yellow, <i>Melilotus indicus</i>												
Vetch: common, <i>Vicia sativa</i>												
Vetch: hairy, <i>Vicia villosa</i>												

Optimum Planting Dates Planting Dates Special Applications*

* Extended planting dates are allowed for these species when planned under specific conservation practices. Review "Planting Rates for Louisiana by MLRA's" for guidance.