



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E612E

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Cultural plantings

Conservation Practice 612: TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Forest, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Plant trees and shrubs that are of cultural significance, such as those species utilized by Tribes in traditional practices, medicinal plants, species used in basket-making, etc. (e.g., paper birch, slippery elm, witch hazel).

Criteria

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 612) as listed below, and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Multi-Story Cropping (Code 379) for guidance when cultivating plants under a forest canopy.
- Trees and shrubs will be selected for their cultural importance and their adaptability to site conditions.
- No plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list shall be planted.
- Planting or seeding rates will be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose for the site.
- Planting dates, and care in handling and planting of the seed, cuttings or seedlings will ensure that planted materials have an acceptable rate of survival for the intended purpose.
- Only viable, high-quality and adapted planting stock or seed will be used.



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- A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Selection of planting technique and timing will be appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
- Refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (Code 595) to assist with site-specific strategies for pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression.
- Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water or other treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, weed mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, prepare the planned acres of cultural tree and shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree and Site Preparation (Code 490). (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed).
- Prior to implementation, select a combination of tree and shrub species selected for their cultural importance and their adaptability to site conditions.

Species	Cultural Significance and or Use

- Prior to implementation, select a planting technique, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance as needed.)

Task	Description	Planting Date
Planting Technique		
Arrangement and Spacing		

- Prior to implementation, determine types of tree and shrub protection that may be needed to prevent damage from plant and animal pests.
- During Implementation, protect the planting from plant and animal pests and fire.
- During implementation maintain all erosion control needed for the site.
- During implementation notify NRCS of any changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After Implementation, notify NRCS that the planting and other measures are complete.



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NRCS Will:

- Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is for acres that have been appropriately prepared for tree/shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree and Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (Code 595) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included in the planning combination and that the cultural significance and use is documented.
- Prior to implementation verify that all species are native to the state and adaptable to the site.
- Prior to implementation, as needed, NRCS will provide Technical Assistance in:
 - Planning Site Preparation meeting NRCS CPS Tree and Shrub/Site Preparation (Code 490).
 - Selecting planting techniques, arrangement and spacing design, and planting date.
 - Determine if or what type of tree and shrub protection would be beneficial for protecting against plant and animal pests and fire.
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After Implementation, verify the planned trees/shrubs species have been established to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the planting is protected from pest and fire.
- Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.



NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

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Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date





**IOWA SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

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Additional Criteria for Iowa

- This enhancement must be implemented following a Forest Management Plan developed and/or recently updated by an Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Forester or certified TSP.
- Trees and shrubs that are of cultural significance will be determined by the IDNR Forester or certified TSP and included in the Forest Management Plan.