



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

**E612G**

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food

Conservation Practice 612: TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT

**APPLICABLE LAND USE:** Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial), Pasture, Range, Forest, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

**RESOURCE CONCERN:** Animals

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN:** 15 years

#### Enhancement Description

Tree or shrub planting to enhance habitat for native wildlife. A minimum of five tree and shrub species will be used; they will be species that provide food and/or cover for identified wildlife species.

#### Criteria

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as listed below, and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Trees and shrubs will be selected for their importance in providing food and cover for wildlife, and their adaptability to site conditions. Refer to state lists.
- Select a minimum of five species of trees and shrubs, with at least one tree species and one shrub species (i.e., one tree and four shrubs; two trees and three shrubs; three trees and two shrubs; four trees and one shrub).
- Trees and shrubs will be planted on selected areas within any land use. Groupings of trees and shrubs will be designed for best growth, visual appeal, proximity to areas of wildlife use, or other locations depending on landowner objectives.
- Trees and shrubs will be planted in areas with adequate sunlight. If plantings are used in forested settings, plant in canopy openings. Planting rates will follow State NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612).



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- No plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list, or plants known to be aggressive in the local area, 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.
- 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. Protect plantings from competition from invasive plants.
- 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 for tree or shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490). (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- Prior to implementation, select a combination of tree and shrub for their importance in providing food for native wildlife, and their adaptability to site conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species / Type	Number	Note wildlife habitat requirements/characteristic(s)

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

TASKS	Tree/Shrub	Shrub	Tree/Shrub	Tree/Shrub	Tree/Shrub
Planting Date					
Planting Technique					
Arrangement/Spacing					

- During implementation, use forms of erosion control as needed for the site. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- During implementation, notify NRCS in writing of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, protect the planting from plant and animal pests and fire.



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- During implementation, maintain all erosion control needed for the site.

### NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490) as it relates to implementing this enhancement. Verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for tree/shrub establishment.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- 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.
- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
  - Planning site preparation meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
  - Selecting a combination of tree and shrub species.
  - Selecting planting techniques, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the target native wildlife, site and soil conditions.
  - Planning the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.
  - Preparing specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, verify the planned trees and shrub species were established to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the planting is protected from pests and fire.
- After implementation, verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.



**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  
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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.
- By applying Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food within Iowa’s Forest landscapes according to the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan, the following species will benefit but are not limited to:
  - For Forest Practices: Eastern Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-pewee, Wood Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Long-eared bat.
  - For Shrubs: Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Kingbird, Bell’s Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Field Sparrow, Spotted Skunk.
- If applicant is managing for a species of concern not contained in the above list, reference the [Iowa Wildlife Action Plan](#) and contact an IDNR Biologist.