



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Conservation Practice Overview

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Forest Farming (Code 379)

Managing or establishing stands of trees or shrubs in coordination with the management and/or cultivation of understory plants or nontimber forest products.

Practice Information

Forest farming, also known as multi-story cropping, requires the development and implementation of a forest management plan that incorporates the growth, management, and harvest of nontimber forest products (e.g., foliage, mushrooms, berries, roots, nuts, etc.) while maintaining the option to manage existing trees. This practice does not apply to land that is grazed.



Conservation benefits may include but are not limited to: improved soil quality from increased organic matter, improved wildlife habitat, increased plant and tree diversity, and improved crop diversity by growing compatible crops on the same area.

Common Associated Practices

Forest Farming (379) is commonly applied with practices such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), Tree-Shrub Establishment (612), Tree-Shrub Pruning (660), Tree-Shrub Site Preparation (490), and Access Control (472).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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