



Conservation Practice Overview

May 2024

Conservation Cover (Code 327)

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover.

Practice Information

Conservation cover reduces soil erosion and sedimentation, enhances wildlife habitat, and improves water quality.

Conservation cover is applied on all lands needing permanent vegetative cover. It does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings.



Operation and maintenance of the conservation cover includes mowing to control weeds and maintain vegetative cover. Additional measures may be necessary to control noxious weeds and other invasive species.

If wildlife habitat enhancement is a goal, maintenance practices and activities must not disturb cover during the reproductive period for the desired species. To benefit insect food sources for grassland nesting birds, spraying or other control of noxious weeds will be done on a “spot” basis to protect forbs and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Conservation Cover (Code 327) is commonly applied with CPSs such as Brush Management (Code 314), Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.