



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**  
**E612126Z**

**CONSERVATION**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**PROGRAM**

Cropland conversion to trees or shrubs for long term improvement of water quality

**Conservation Practice 612: Tree/Shrub Establishment**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial)**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Water Quality Degradation**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 15 years**

**Enhancement Description**

Cropland conversion to trees and shrubs for long term erosion control and improvement of water quality. Trees and shrubs are established on cropland where annually-seeded cash crops have been grown.

**Criteria**

- Composition of species will be adapted to site conditions and suitable for the planned purpose of providing long term soil erosion control.
- No plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list shall be planted.
- Planting or seeding rates will be adequate to accomplish long term soil erosion control 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.
- 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 NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).



## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Selection of planting technique and timing will be appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
- The seeding and/or planting will be protected from plant and animal pests and fire. Refer to NRCS CPS 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 cultural treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, brush mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.
- Evaluate residual chemical carryover prior to planting. Alter species selection and/or timing of planting/seeding to achieve adequate seed germination and/or seedling establishment.

### Documentation Requirements

- Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- **Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.**