



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY  
**E612130Z**

CONSERVATION  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
PROGRAM

Planting for high carbon sequestration rate

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

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

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Air Quality Impacts**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 15 years**

**Enhancement Description**

Plant tree species and use stocking levels for higher growth to increase the rate of carbon sequestration (capture). Use species with a longer life span as well as relatively fast growth, and species suitable for durable manufactured products. Increase stocking levels in forests that are not fully stocked. Implement afforestation on appropriate open lands.

**Criteria**

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Tree/Shrub Establishment 612 as listed below, **and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.**
- Trees will be selected for their rate of growth and suitability for use in durable manufactured products as well as their adaptability to site conditions. Refer to state lists.
- Trees and shrubs will be planted on selected areas within any land use.
- Trees and shrubs will be planted in areas with adequate sunlight. If plantings are used to supplement stocking within existing forested acreages, plant trees where light conditions are suitable. Planting rates will follow State CPS Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).
- No trees on the Federal or state noxious weeds list, or trees known to be aggressive and/or potentially invasive in the local area, shall be planted.



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- 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 CPS Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490).
- Selection of planting technique and timing will be appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
- Refer to criteria in CPS Integrated Pest Management (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.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States' Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- Plans and specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, implementation requirements, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. Clearly state the goals and objectives of the treatment, including documenting the purpose for species selection with reference to rate of growth and/or suitability for use in durable manufactured products, adaptability to site conditions, and lack of invasive characteristics.
- Document locations of plantings on a map or aerial photo.
- **Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.**