



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E612133X2

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Cultural plantings

Conservation Practice 612: Tree/Shrub Establishment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Forest, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Plant trees and shrubs that are of cultural significance, such as those species utilized by Tribes in traditional practices, medicinal plants, species used in basket-making, etc. (e.g., paper birch, slippery elm, witch hazel).

Criteria

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 612 as listed below, **and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.**
- Refer to CPS Multi-Story Cropping (379) for guidance when cultivating plants under a forest canopy.
- Trees and shrubs will be selected for their cultural importance and their adaptability to site conditions.
- No plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list 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.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- 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.
- 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.

Documentation Requirements

- Plans and 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.
- Document the cultural uses of the selected tree and shrub species, and their suitability for the site where they were planted. Document the condition of plants during follow-up inspections to expand knowledge of site requirements and management practices for these less-often cultivated species.
- **Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.**