



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E612137Z

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Tree/shrub planting for wildlife cover

Conservation Practice 612: Tree/Shrub Establishment

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

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Tree and shrub planting will enhance habitat for native wildlife. A minimum of five tree and shrub species will be used; they will be species that provide cover for identified wildlife species.

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 and shrubs will be selected for their importance in providing cover for wildlife, and their adaptability to site conditions. Refer to state lists.
- Select a minimum of five species of trees and shrubs, with at least one tree species and one shrub species (i.e., one tree and four shrubs; two trees and three shrubs; three trees and two shrubs; four trees and one shrub).
- Trees and shrubs will be planted on selected areas within any land use. Groupings of trees and shrubs will be designed for best growth, visual appeal, proximity to areas of wildlife use, or other locations depending on landowner objectives.
- Trees and shrubs will be planted in areas with adequate sunlight. If plantings are used in forested settings, plant in canopy openings. Planting rates will follow State CPS Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).



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- No plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list, or plants known to be aggressive in the local area, 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.
- 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.

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.
- Document the wildlife cover benefits of the tree and shrub species chosen, and include a map of the locations of the plantings.
- **Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.**