



## Conservation Practice Overview

May 2019

### Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420)

Establishing herbaceous or herbaceous and shrubby wildlife habitat by planting of seeds or plants can provide essential wildlife food and cover. These plantings are particularly valuable when converting cropland or pastureland to dedicated wildlife habitat.



### Practice Information

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420) is used to create herbaceous or shrubby wildlife habitat in areas that are currently being used for other purposes (e.g., crops or pasture). Additionally, this practice is used to convert existing poor quality habitat to high quality habitat. For example, this practice is commonly used to convert monoculture introduced grasslands areas (e.g., smooth brome grass, old-world bluestems, and fescue) to habitat with more plant species richness. CPS Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420) is very commonly used to provide habitat rich in blooming forbs for pollinators and monarch butterflies.

The practice lifespan is 5 years, with a target plant community dominated by species that will persist for the life of the practice. Annual wildlife plantings (e.g., annual food plots) are not planted using this practice, but rather are planted using CPSs Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644), each having a practice lifespan of 1 year. Habitat planted to trees is implemented using CPS Tree and Shrub Establishment (Code 612), with a practice lifespan of 15 years.

### Common Associated Practices

CPS Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420) is commonly associated with conservation practices such as CPSs Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315), Brush Management (Code 314), Fence (Code 382), and Prescribed Burning (Code 338).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.