



United States Department of Agriculture

CRP Practice CP3A

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Indiana – March 2016 (ver. 1.0)

Hardwood Tree Planting Job Sheet



PURPOSE

Hardwood tree plantings are used to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, create or enhance wildlife habitat, and establish trees for future timber production.

WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Apply this practice on fields that meet eligibility requirements for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

PLANNING

A site specific tree planting plan will be developed in consultation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) District Foresters or Technical Service Providers (TSP) and installed according to the Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Standard in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Technical responsibility, practice certification, and any changes to these specification are assigned to the IDNR, Division of Forestry.

When selecting tree species, consider the long-term objectives for the land, wildlife food and cover requirements, diversity of area in relation to adjacent land uses and cover types, adaptability to the soils, and moisture conditions in the field being established.

CRP POLICY

General Signup: To award 50 points for National Ranking Factor N1a, existing trees or tree planting must have a mix of three (3) or more hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area. To award 30 points, existing trees or tree planting must have a mix of two (2) hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area. To award 20 points, existing trees or tree planting of a solid stand of a single hard mast-producing species. To award 10 points, existing trees or tree planting of a solid stand of a single hard non mast-producing hardwood species. **Note:** Up to 20% shrubs may be planted to create open areas and/or as a habitat fringe. Up to 50% softwoods may be planted as nurse trees (640 trees/acre).

All acreage must be planted within 12 months of contract approval to remain in compliance. If circumstances beyond the landowner’s control prohibit the planting within the first 12 months, the local FSA County Committee may approve an extension to the next planting season.

Indiana CP3A Hard Mast-Producing Species

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Black Walnut | Oak, Overcup |
| Butternut | Oak, Pignut |
| Hickory, Bitternut | Oak, Pin |
| Hickory, Mockernut | Oak, Red |
| Hickory, Pignut | Oak, Scarlet |
| Hickory, Shagbark | Oak, Shingle |
| Hickory, Shellbark | Oak, Shumard |
| Oak, Black | Oak, Swamp Chestnut |
| Oak, Bur | Oak, Swamp White |
| Oak, Cherrybark | Oak, White |
| Oak, Chestnut | Ohio Buckeye |
| Oak, Chinkapin | Pecan |

WEED CONTROL

It is important to plant tree seedlings into a weed free area to help ensure survival and maximum growth of the trees. Use herbicides or tillage to eliminate competing vegetation as recommended in a site specific plan. Weed control efforts should begin prior to

planting and may require multiple applications in both the fall and the spring prior to planting and during tree planting. Cost share for weed control is available as part of the tree establishment expenses. Mowing is usually not recommended for weed control because it encourages grass competition and mowing equipment can damage tree seedlings. However in some explicit instances it may be recommended in a site specific plan.

For information on herbicide controls, contact a local consultant or Purdue Extension Specialist. Always apply herbicides according to labeled directions.

If necessary for weed suppression or erosion control, seed a temporary cover of native *Elymus* species (Wildrye) adapted to the site.

WEED CONTROL DURING ESTABLISHMENT

Control competing vegetation as needed until a Final Status Review is issued or three (3) years (whichever comes first). Mow, burn, or apply herbicides as needed to control unwanted vegetation for up to 3 years after planting. Mow when competing weeds are taller than the planted vegetation, and at a height above the planted vegetation. Use selective herbicides and/or spot spraying to protect the desired species. Refer to Purdue Extension – [Weed Control Guide WS-16](#) for herbicide timing and treatment.

Cost share is authorized with prior approval from FSA for an additional weed control application within 24 months after planting.

PLANTING

Bare rooted stock (seedlings) will not be planted when the soil is frozen or excessively dry and will be planted with the root collars approximately at or slightly below the ground line. It is important that tree species are randomly planted throughout the site and not planted with like species unless otherwise indicated in the planting plan.

Bare rooted stock will be planted in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

After the Final Status Review or three (3) years (whichever comes first), maintain the planting according to your CRP conservation plan. Maintenance activities are allowed only on a spot basis and only if necessary to maintain stand health, maintain stand diversity, or to control pests that will damage the CRP cover or adjacent lands. MOWING and other maintenance activities are not authorized between April 1 and August 1 to protect ground-nesting wildlife (i.e. –

the Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing season). If maintenance activities are needed during these times, the FSA County Committee **must** approve the maintenance activity **prior to** the activity occurring, and it may **only be on a spot basis**.

Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.

Exclude all acres from haying and grazing year round, unless authorized. Fence may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout the entire year.

The contract area cannot be used for field roads or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.

Check survivability of planted species after 3 years to insure that the desired stocking rate for the site is present, usually 70% survival of the planted rate. Additional planting will be completed if it is determined that additional natural regeneration will not be sufficient to colonize the site within an acceptable time frame (usually 5 years), so that a total of **300** acceptable woody plants per acre are established.

MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Mid-Contract Management (MCM) is required on this practice. The entire acreage can be managed in a single year. For maximum habitat value, disturb no more than 1/3 of the contract acreage in any given year.

Areas devoted to trees have the following options:

- Inner Seedling Planting (re-enrollments)
- Inter-seeding forbs/legumes/pollinator habitat
- Follow-up Weed Control
- Pruning
- Thinning (re-enrollments)

MCM activities will be avoided on environmentally sensitive areas as marked on the plan map.

MCM activities operations will not be performed during the Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing season. It is also recommended, but is not required, to delay MCM activities until after August 15 to reduce the chance of harming fledgling birds and other young wildlife.

CUSTOMARY FOREST ACTIVITIES

Activities consistent with customary forestry practices such as pruning, thinning, or timber stand improvement, may be performed as management practices to enhance the health and vigor of the CP3A. Incentive payments may be authorized for these practices if approved by FSA prior to the activity commencing.