

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Indiana – March 2016 (ver. 1.5)

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Tree Planting Program Job Sheet



PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to restore forested hardwood canopy areas that will enhance connectivity among existing tracts and provide high quality habitat for the Indiana Bat.

WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On fields that meet eligibility requirements for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

CRP POLICY

Fields must be located within the 47 counties identified in the Indiana Bat Priority Area (refer to Indiana guidance eligibility maps in 2-CRP).

SPECIES CRITERIA

Tree plantings will consist of a **minimum of eight (8) adapted hardwood tree species** that meet the following criteria:

1. At least 30% of the planting will consist of native Oak species.
2. At least 10% of the planting will include Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) and/or Shellbark Hickory (*Carya laciniosa*). The following loose bark species may be substituted for Shagbark or Shellbark Hickory (see Table 1 for soil criteria):

- Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*),
- Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
- Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

If additional substitutions are needed due to a lack of seedling availability for the aforementioned species then the following species can be substituted; Red Oak, Sugar Maple, or White Oak.

3. The remainder of the planting (except conifers may be planted as described under item 4) will be other adapted hardwood tree species selected from Table 1 or the Indiana, NRCS Field Office Technical Guide
4. Conifers may be planted if they do not exceed 5% of the total number of trees planted, and will only be planted as a group in the two outer most rows of a project.

Site-specific requirements are listed on the attached SAFE CP38C Specifications Sheet. Any changes to these specifications should be approved by NRCS.

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.

Controlling weeds before, during, and after planting will increase tree survival and improve tree growth and vigor. Site preparation before planting is necessary to control existing grass or weedy vegetation. Contact a professional forester, Purdue University Extension Service or a licensed pesticide applicator for specific herbicide recommendations. Always apply herbicides according to labeled directions.

Control all weeds within a three (3) foot circle around each tree or a two (2) foot band along each side of each row. Control weeds in the spring before or during tree planting. On sites with existing sod, apply herbicides both in the fall and again in the spring prior to or during tree planting. Trees should be planted in firm ground; therefore avoid using spring tillage for site preparation prior to tree planting.

CRP cost share is authorized for one weed control application within 24 months after planting.

PLANTING DATES AND INFORMATION

The minimum density for all tree plantings will be 436 trees per acre (10 by 10 foot spacing or equivalent). Do not plant trees/shrubs when the soil is frozen or dry. Trees/shrubs will be planted in a vertical position with the root collars approximately at or slightly below the ground line. Tree plantings will follow IN-NRCS Forestry Technical Note, Tree & Shrub Establishment for site preparation and for planting and storage guidelines.

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

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid detrimental effects to the surrounding land.

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 control pests that will damage the CRP cover or adjacent lands. MOWING and other maintenance activities are not authorized between April 1 to 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. 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 three (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). **The 10% loose bark species will be maintained for the life of the CRP practice.**

Reenrolled areas should be native forests containing at least 40 square feet of basal area per acre or at least 1000 native hardwood trees (any size) per acre. Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited. Exclude all acres from haying and grazing year round. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout the entire year.

Table 1. Deciduous Hardwood Tree Species

Species	Soil Drainage ¹	Flooding Tolerance ²
Black Cherry	MWD-WD	Intolerant
Black Gum	PD-WD	Somewhat
Black Walnut	MWD-WD	Intolerant
Eastern Cottonwood	SPD-WD	Somewhat
Hickory, Shagbark	MWD-WD	Intolerant
Hickory, Shellbark	VPD-WD	Somewhat
Kentucky Coffeetree	SPD-WD	Somewhat
Maple, Red	VPD-WD	Somewhat
Maple, Silver	VPD-WD	Tolerant
Maple, Sugar	SPD-WD	Intolerant
Oak, Black	MWD-ED	Intolerant
Oak, Bur	PD-ED	Somewhat
Oak, Cherrybark ³	SPD-WD	Somewhat
Oak, Chinquapin	MWD-ED	Intolerant
Oak, Chestnut ³	WD-ED	Intolerant
Oak, Overcup ³	VPD-SPD	Tolerant
Oak, Pin	VPD-WD	Somewhat
Oak, Red	MWD-WD	Intolerant
Oak, Scarlet	MWD-ED	Intolerant
Oak, Shingle	SPD-WD	Somewhat
Oak, Shumard	SPD-WD	Somewhat
Oak Swamp Chestnut ³	SPD-WD	Somewhat
Oak, Swamp White	VPD-WD	Somewhat
Oak, White	MWD-WD	Intolerant
Pecan ⁴	SPD-WD	Tolerant
Persimmon	SMD-WD	Somewhat
River Birch	VPD-WD	Somewhat
Sycamore	PD-WD	Tolerant
Sweetgum	PD-WD	Tolerant
Tulip Tree	MWD-WD	Intolerant

¹ VPD = very poorly drained

PD = poorly drained

SPD = somewhat poorly drained

MWD = moderately well drained

WD = well drained

ED = excessively drained

² Flooding Tolerance during growing season for established trees:

Tolerant - can withstand inundation for more than 30 days,

Somewhat Tolerant - can survive saturated soils and inundation for up to 30 days.

Intolerant - able to survive only 1 to 5 days of inundation

Consult NRCS web soil survey for flooding data

³ Recommended in Southern Indiana as documented in FOTG Section II

⁴ Recommended in Central and Southern Indiana as documented in FOTG Section II

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.

SAFE CP38C SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

Landowner:			County:	
Farm:	Tract:	Field(s):	Acres:	Date:

Soil Type(s):		Soil Drainage Class:	
Plant Spacing: x		Plants/Acre:	
Planting Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood Tree Planting <input type="checkbox"/> Bottomland Timber Establishment			
Species	Number	Species	Number
Total (rounded to the next highest 100)			

Before Planting in Year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tillage (in the year prior to planting)	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide ₁ (applied per label):	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide ₂ (applied per label):	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Dates:

Planting Method in Year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting Method: -	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide (applied per label):	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Dates:

Post Planting Maintenance and Weed Control	
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain a 3-ft. weed & grass-free radius for up to years around each tree for optimal growth	
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide (applied per label):	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Replace dead trees to ensure 70% stocking rate:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Dates:

MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT - STARTING IN YEAR:
<input type="checkbox"/> see the attached Mid Contract Management Job Sheet for details
For CRP Mid-contract Management job sheets see: http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/crphomepage.html

Additional Information