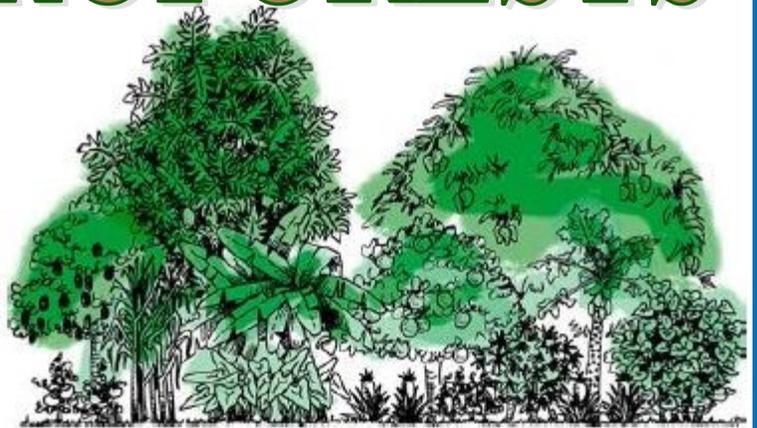


MIXED AGROFORESTS

WHAT are Agroforests?

Agroforests are farming systems that integrate trees with crops and livestock for environmental, economic & social benefits.



Picture from: "Agroforestry Guides for Pacific Islands"

NRCS Pacific Islands Area Mixed Agroforest

This type of agroforest is supported by both NRCS technical and financial assistance. Mixed agroforests are fully stocked forest covered fields, installed primarily for controlling invasive species, increasing species diversity and increasing carbon sequestration. Depending on the planting location and your objectives, other conservation goals that can be addressed include improved water quality, soil erosion control, soil quality and wildlife habitat.



Example of a mixed agroforest planting

Picture by Craig Elevitch

Resources

NRCS Forestry: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pia/technical/landuse/forestry/>

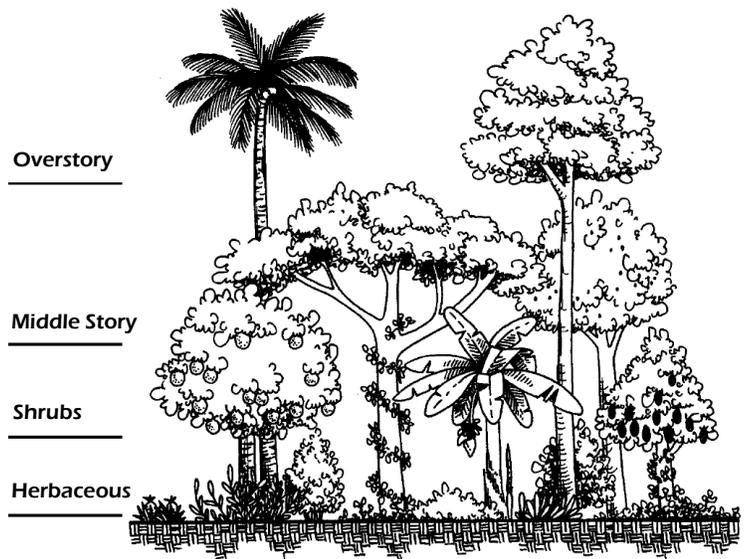
NRCS mixed agroforest spec: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1187369.pdf
http://agroforestry.org/images/pdfs/Growers_Guide_Pacific_Agroforestry_Elevitch_etal.pdf

<http://www.agroforestry.org/>

University of Hawaii Forestry: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/links.html>

NRCS specifications for mixed agroforests focus on conservation. NRCS views production of any fruits or other market products as consequential secondary benefits. These mixed agroforest design specifications are required to meet NRCS financial assistance eligibility:

- Mixed agroforest acreage can not exceed **4 acres** on a given farm
- Pre-existing forest areas containing at least 20% or more native trees & shrubs do NOT qualify
- If there are pre-existing **native trees & shrubs** in the project area, they **MUST be kept**
- The MAX stem density of trees & shrubs **producing fruits** & other market products is **50%**
- MIN stem density for **native** trees & shrubs is **20%**
- The balance of trees and shrubs can be non-invasive, non-native species including timber
- **Six to sixteen** (depending on field size) **different tree & shrub species** must be selected with an equal mixture of tall and short species for structural diversity
- Each species producing fruits or other market products are limited to contiguous groups of up to a MAX of 5 trees or 20 shrubs/vines
- **Expect to plant at least 100 trees and 200 shrubs/vines per acre, potentially many more.**
- Only **limited numbers** of each tree or shrub **species producing fruit** or other market products are allowed. The maximum count includes pre-existing plants over the entire farm (example - The MAX for mango is 12 trees, if you have 20 trees on your farm already, then mango cannot be included in your planting,. If you have 6 mangos on your farm, then you may include up to 6 more in your planting)
- Lifespan of this planting is **15 years**, tree and shrub mortality cannot go lower than what is specified for the project during this time.



*Multi-story forest showing vegetation layers
Picture from: "Agroforestry Guides for Pacific Islands"*

Contact NRCS for more information

Your local NRCS Field Office
Pacific Islands Area State Forester
808-541-2600 ext. 122