PURPOSE
Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands is used to establish hardwood trees that will control erosion, reduce nutrient and pesticide losses, promote carbon sequestration, and restore and enhance wetlands to provide wildlife habitat.

CREP POLICY
To be eligible for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the acreage offered must be land that meets eligibility requirements as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Bottomland Timber Established on Wetlands is eligible on cropland areas that are located within the 100-year floodplain of a river or stream. Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forestry or Technical Service Provider (TSP).

This practice will be installed according to Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Standard in the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). No more than 25% of site may be planted to appropriate softwood species.

A minimum of three (3) different species of mast producing hardwood trees will be planted and the entire area must be established to trees.

PLANTING
Site-specific requirements are listed on the attached Specifications Sheet. Any changes to the planting specifications must be approved by the IDNR, Division of Forestry.

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

It is very important to plant the vegetation into a weed-free seedbed. Weed control efforts should begin prior to planting and may require multiple applications in both the fall and spring prior to planting. Use herbicides, fall tillage, or temporary cover to eliminate competing vegetation. If necessary, for erosion control, seed a temporary cover. As Appropriate, eliminate the temporary vegetation for erosion control at planting time with tillage or herbicides.

Bare rooted stock (seedlings) shall not be planted when the soil is frozen or dry and will be planted with the root collars approximately at or slightly below the ground line. Bare rooted stock shall be planted in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1.

Weed Control During Establishment Period: Weed control is important to ensure survival and maximum growth of the trees for three years after they are planted. Nine (9) ft² around each tree will remain weed-free during establishment period to maximize tree growth, unless a tree friendly temporary cover is used. Mowing is allowed at any time between tree rows during the establishment period.
CREP cost share is authorized for one weed control application within 24 months after planting a shelterbelt. For information on herbicide controls, contact a local consultant or Purdue Extension Specialist. Always apply herbicides according to labeled directions.

**HAYING AND GRAZING**
Exclude all acres from haying and grazing year-round. Managed haying or grazing are not authorized for tree/shrub planting practices.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**
Throughout the life of the contract, noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests will 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 CREP 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 CREP cover or adjacent lands. Burning must be in accordance with a prescribed burn plan. 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 (allowed on a spot basis only) during these times, the FSA County Committee must approve the maintenance activity prior to the activity occurring. Native grasses will not be mowed lower than 12 inches. Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.

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

**Operation and Maintenance in Tree/Shrub Plantings.** Check survivability of planted tree/shrub species after three (3) years to ensure that the desired stocking rate for the site is present, usually 70% survival of the planted rate unless otherwise stated in the plan. 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 300 acceptable woody plants per acre are established.

The contract area cannot be used for field roads or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover. Shelterbelts should be inspected on a seasonal basis and following major storm and runoff events. Any damages or sediment accumulation that would adversely impair the function of the shelterbelt must be corrected immediately, at the landowner's expense.

The landowner will replace dead trees and shrubs if average number of trees drops below 300 per acre. The landowner is responsible for replacing dead plants (cost share may be available if approved by FSA). In addition, trees should be pruned to maintain central stems and eliminate forks and multiple leaders.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY**
CREP CP31 no longer requires management activities in Indiana (effective with Fiscal Year 2020 signups). If voluntary management is needed, contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources District Forester.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Soil Drainage</th>
<th>Flood Tolerance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tree Species</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Baldcypress 3</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Gum</td>
<td>PD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Walnut</td>
<td>MWD-WD</td>
<td>Intolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple, Red</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple, Silver</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak, Bur</td>
<td>PD-ED</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak, Cherrybark 4</td>
<td>SPD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak, Overcup 4</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak, Pin</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak, Shumard</td>
<td>SPD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak, Swamp Chestnut</td>
<td>SPD-WD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak, Swamp White</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pecan 3</td>
<td>SPD-WD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persimmon</td>
<td>MWD-WD</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Birch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweetgum 4</td>
<td>PD-WD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shellbark Hickory</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>PD-WD</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shrub and Small Tree Species</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Chokeberry</td>
<td>SPD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buttonbush</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderberry</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogwood, Silky</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highbush Cranberry</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninebark</td>
<td>VPD-WD</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 the growing season for established trees: Tolerant (T)-can withstand inundation for more than 30 days, Somewhat Tolerant (ST)-can survive saturated soils and inundation for up to 30 days, Intolerant (I)-able to survive only 1 to 5 days of inundation
3 Flood tolerance from IN NRCS, Forestry Technical Note, “Tree Planting in Flood plains”
4 Recommended only in Southern Indiana as documented in eFOTG Sect. II

Recommended only in Central and Southern Indiana as documented in eFOTG Sect. II