

Producer:
Location:
Farm Name:

**Project or
Contract:**
County:
Tract Number:

Practice Lifespan – 10 years



Practice Purpose(s): (check all that apply)

Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water.

Stabilize stream and channel banks, pond and other shorelines, earthen features of structural conservation practices.

Other: (Specify)

Description of work:

NRCS Review Only

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Designed By: | <input type="text"/> | Date | <input type="text"/> |
| Checked By: | <input type="text"/> | Date | <input type="text"/> |
| Approved By: | <input type="text"/> | Date | <input type="text"/> |

342 – Critical Area Planting Implementation Requirements

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes:

Site preparation: Conduct a site investigation to identify any physical, chemical, or biological conditions that could affect the successful establishment of vegetation. Clear areas to be planted of unwanted materials and smooth or shape, if needed, to meet planting purpose(s).

Prepare a suitable seedbed for all seeded species. Rip compacted layers and re-firm the soil prior to seedbed preparation, as needed.

As site conditions dictate, when grading slopes, stockpile topsoil to be redistributed over area to be planted.

Species selection: Select species for seeding or planting that are suited to local site conditions and intended uses, and common to the site or location. Selected species will have the capacity to achieve adequate density and vigor to stabilize the site within an appropriate period.

Establishment of vegetation: Plant seeds using the method or methods best suited to site and soil conditions.

Limit sod placement to areas that can naturally supply needed moisture or sites that can be irrigated during the establishment period. Place and anchor sod using techniques to ensure that it remains in place until established.

Specify species, rates of seeding or planting, legume inoculation, minimum quality of planting stock (e.g., pure live seed (PLS) or stem caliper), method of seedbed preparation, and method of establishment before application. Use only viable, high-quality seed or planting stock.

Seed or plant at a time and in a manner that best ensures establishment and growth of the selected species.

Plant during approved times for the species to be used.

Apply soil amendments (e.g., lime, fertilizer, compost) according to the requirements in the local Field Office Technical Guide.

Mulch or otherwise stabilize (e.g., polyacrylamide (PAM)) plantings as necessary to ensure successful establishment.

Refer to the [Specification Guide Sheet for Critical Area Planting \(342\)](#), FOTG Section IV for site preparation, seeding and mowing recommendations.

Specification Guide Sheet for Critical Area Planting 342 (attached).

A map(s) showing all fields planned for Critical Area Planting is attached.

If you have questions about this planned **Critical Area Planting** practice contact:

| | | | | | |
|-------|--|------|--|--------|--|
| Name: | | Tel: | | Email: | |
|-------|--|------|--|--------|--|

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Specifications:

| Critical Area Planting Site #1 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Field # or Unit Name | Acres | Associated Conservation Practice or CIN | Plant Species | Seeding Rate per Acre | Planned Date | Seeding Method |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | Mulch Type | Mulch Rate/Acre | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | Fertilizer NPK | Fertilizer Rate/Acre | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | Lime | Lime Rate/Acre | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Critical Area Planting Site #2 | | | | | | |
| Field # or Unit Name | Acres | Associated Conservation Practice or CIN | | | Planned Date | Seeding Method |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | Mulch Type | Mulch Rate/Acre | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | Fertilizer NPK | Fertilizer Rate/Acre | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | Lime | Lime Rate/Acre | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Total Quantity of Materials - Seed, Fertilizer and Lime Required:

| |
|-------------------|
| Seed: _____ |
| Mulch: _____ |
| Fertilizer: _____ |
| Lime: _____ |

Additional Instructions:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

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Operation and Maintenance:

- Check new seedlings and plantings every few days during the first month to assess progress and apply the needed care (irrigation, reseeding, remulching, etc.). Water sod establishments as needed for the first 30 days after placement. After the first month, the planting should be inspected at least twice in the establishment year and then at least annually. Evaluate the site within several months of seeding. If the stand is uniform but too thin (50 to 80% ground cover), apply additional seed during the next optimum seeding period with a no-till drill, grain drill, or hydroseeder as site conditions dictate. Sites with an establishment rate of less than fifty percent (50%) should be reseeded in accordance with the original planting plan. Determine the reasons for planting failure and corrective measures should be incorporated into the remedial planting.
- The planting must be restored and protected from adverse impacts such as vehicular and pedestrian traffic, pest infestations, pesticide use on adjacent lands, livestock damage and fire. Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, or erosion should be repaired promptly. The area must be protected from livestock grazing until the vegetation is well established and the site is stabilized. If soil moisture becomes critically deficient, irrigate the site if practical and feasible. Weed competition must be controlled by mowing or with herbicides. Use caution when spraying chemicals on lands that are adjacent to the site.
- Maintenance practices and activities are not to disturb cover during the primary nesting period from May 1 to July 15 for grassland species. Activities may occur during this period only in the establishment year. To benefit insect food sources for grassland nesting birds, spraying or other control of noxious weeds should be done on a “spot” basis to protect forbs and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife.
- Remove temporary diversions, silt fences, etc. after the area is stabilized.

Specific Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements For Your Practice:

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342 – Critical Area Planting Implementation Requirements

For NRCS Use Only:

PRACTICE CHECKOUT AND CERTIFICATION:

Certifying official completes 'Check Out information'

Recommendation: Attach digital photograph(s) to document practice installation and illustrate practice before and after effects.

CHECK OUT INFORMATION:

Establishment Year: _____

CIN # (if applicable): _____

Amount Completed: Number of Plantings: _____ Total Acres: _____

* Mark the completed Critical Area Planting locations on the conservation plan map.

Remarks:

Certification Statement:

I certify that implementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated purpose(s), and meets the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.

This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications

Yes

No

Check out and Certification by: _____

Date: _____

Planner/Technical Service Provider Signature

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