

**342– Critical Area Planting  
Implementation Requirements  
(Construction Sites)**

**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**

<b>Designed By:</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Checked By:</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Approved By:</b>		<b>Date</b>	

## 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.

### Additional Criteria Applicable to Temporary Grass or Grain Cover

(Check if applicable)

Temporary cover during the first year of establishment is allowed if:

1. Required seeds or plant stocks are not available.
2. The normal planting period for the species has passed.
3. Where chemical residue does not allow for establishment of intended planting.
4. Permanent cover will be established the following year.

### Additional Criteria Applicable to Shrubs and Ground Cover Plantings

(Check if applicable)

Use good planting stock, adapted to soil and site conditions. Special plants require special handling and care. See <http://plants.usda.gov/> for fact sheets, and contact the State Resource Conservationist for assistance in selecting appropriate plant type and species.

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Keep plants moist and cool until planted. Dormant stock should not have initiated growth. Plant in early spring and some species in early fall. The density of cover and species type will govern plant spacing.

Check plants in the spring of the second year of growth. Replant if necessary.

### **Additional Criteria to Stabilize Stream and Channel Banks, Pond and Other Shorelines, Earthen Features of Structural Conservation Practices** (Check if applicable)

**Bank and channel slopes:** Shape channel side slopes so that they are stable and allow establishment and maintenance of desired vegetation.

A combination of vegetative and structural measures may be necessary on slopes steeper than 3:1 to ensure adequate stability.

Species selection. Plant material used for this purpose must—

- Be adapted to the hydrologic zone into which they will be planted.
- Be adapted and proven in the regions in which they will be used.
- Be compatible with existing vegetation in the area.
- Protect the channel banks but not restrict channel capacity.

**Establishment of vegetation:** Specify species, planting rates, spacing, methods and dates of planting based on local planting guides or technical notes.

Identify and protect desirable existing vegetation during practice installation.

Use a combination of vegetative and structural practices with living and inert material when flow velocities, soils, and bank stability preclude stabilization by vegetative establishment alone. Use Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Streambank Stabilization (Code 580) for the structural measures.

Control existing vegetation on a site that will compete with species to be established vegetatively (e.g., bare-root, containerized, ball-and-burlap, potted) to ensure successful establishment of the planted species.

Plant streambank stabilization vegetation in accordance with the NRCS Engineering Field Handbook Part 650, Chapter 16, "Streambank and Shoreline Protection," and Chapter 18, "Soil Bioengineering for Upland Slope Protection & Erosion Reduction."

**Site protection and access control:** Restrict access to planted areas until fully established.

### **Additional Criteria to Stabilize Areas Such As Sand Dunes and Riparian Areas** (Check if applicable)

Plants for sand dunes and coastal sites must be able to survive being buried by blowing sand, sand blasting, salt spray, salt water flooding, drought, heat, and low nutrient supply.

Include sand trapping devices such as sand fences or brush matting in the revegetation/stabilization plans where applicable.

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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		Mulch Method
			Fertilizer NPK	Fertilizer Rate/Acre		Fertilizer Method
			Lime	Lime Rate/Acre		Lime Method
Critical Area Planting Site #2						
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		Mulch Method
			Fertilizer NPK	Fertilizer Rate/Acre		Fertilizer Method
			Lime	Lime Rate/Acre		Lime Method

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

Seed: _____
Mulch: _____
Fertilizer: _____
Lime: _____

**Additional Instructions:**

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### Operation and Maintenance:

- Check new seedings and plantings every few days during the first month to assess progress and apply the needed care (irrigation, reseeding, mulching, 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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Refer to the 342 Critical Area Planting Specification Guide Sheet (attached).

A map(s) showing all sites/areas 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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### 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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