



Conservation Practice Overview

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)

Tree/shrub establishment involves planting seedlings or cuttings, seeding, or creating conditions that promote natural regeneration.

Practice Information

Trees and shrubs can be established for a variety of purposes. Conservation benefits may include, but are not limited to—

- establishing forest cover
- enhancing wildlife habitat
- controlling erosion
- improving water quality
- capturing and storing carbon
- conserving energy

Species selection, site preparation, planting date and method, and tree spacing will vary depending on the planned purpose and site conditions. Once planted, trees and shrubs need to be inspected periodically and protected from insects, diseases, competing vegetation, fire, and damage from livestock or wildlife.

Depending on the site, supplemental water may be required to ensure survival during the establishment period, typically 1 to 3 years. Periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant vigor.

Common Associated Practices

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

