

Producer:

Project or Contract:

Location:

County:

Farm Name:

Tract Number:

Practice Lifespan – 1 year



Practice Purpose(s):

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes–

- To restore the physical conditions and/or unique plant community on sites that partially support, or once supported, a rare or declining natural community. Application of this practice addresses resource concerns of a degraded plant condition and/or inadequate wildlife habitat.

Description of work:

A map(s) showing all fields planned for Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Habitats is attached.

Specifications:

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the attached map(s) or sketches. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the VT NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard for Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats, code 643, Tree/Shrub Establishment, code 612, Pest Management, code 595, Forest Site Preparation, code 490, Conservation Cover (340), and Critical Area Planting (342).

Installation shall be in accordance with the specified drawings, specifications, and special requirements. No changes are to be made in the drawings or specifications without prior approval.

If you have questions about this planned conservation practice contact:

Name:	<input type="text"/>	Tel:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>
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NRCS Review Only

Designed By:

Date

Checked By:

Date

Approved By:

Date

643 – Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities Implementation Requirements

Considerations:

Habitat management activities should be prioritized, initiated, and orchestrated in concert with an existing state or regional conservation plan for the habitat, species and associated relationships. Confer with other agencies and organizations to develop guidelines and specifications for conserving declining habitats. Follow up habitat assessments shall be performed on a regular basis. Only certified, high quality, native and naturalized seed and plant material will be used. Seed and plant material native to the local area should be used whenever possible. Species will be adapted and appropriate to soil-site conditions. Refer to “Wetland, Woodland, Wildland – A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont” for specific plant community descriptions. Also, refer to ‘Soils Series of Vermont and their associated natural communities’ under Section II, A. Soils Information, 1. Statewide Soils Information in the Vermont electronic [Field Office Tech Guide](#).

All habitat manipulations will be planned and managed according to soil capabilities and recommendations for management will avoid excessive soil loss. Residual chemical carryover should be evaluated prior to planting. Species considered locally invasive or noxious should not be used. Refer to the Pest Management (595) Conservation Practice Standard when planning invasive plant control in the restoration plan.

Specification Sheet - Restoration of Rare and Declining Natural Habitats

Tract Number(s):

Field Number(s):

Drawing No(s):

Method (check all that apply)		
Planting seedlings	Natural Regeneration	Seeding
Prescribed Burning	Mechanical weed control	Chemical weed control
Rotating treatments	Other (describe in notes)	

Existing Plant Community =	Restored Plant Community =
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Location and Layout Specifications: (Attach a plan map or sketch)	
Width (feet; include widths of maintenance areas next to outer rows):	
Length (feet):	Area (acres):
Total area of site managed, enhanced or restored (acres):	
Additional requirements:	
Plant Materials Information – For planting/Seeding, refer to Attachment 1 – VT Supplemental Specifications, page 612-5 of the VT Standard 612 for plants per acre and average spacing. Refer to VT FOTG Section II or other VT technical references for species to plant. For natural regeneration, complete, Field, Ac., Species/Cultivars, Plants/acre, Total, Avg. Spacing.	

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Field	Ac	Species/cultivars:	Plants/acre or seeding rate ³ :	Total No.	Kind of stock ¹ :	Planting dates:	Avg. Spacing ² :
							Ft X Ft
							Ft X Ft
							Ft X Ft
							Ft X Ft
							Ft X Ft
							Ft X Ft
							Ft X Ft

¹BAreroot, COntainer, Cuting, Tubelings; Seed; include size, caliper, height, and age as applicable. ²Spacing between plants to achieve plants/acre. ³Pounds/Acre of Pure Live Seed (PLS) where available.

Plants/acre = 43,560 (ft²/ac) ÷ [Between-Row Spacing (ft) X In-Row Spacing (ft)]

Note: Sources of Plant Materials can be found in the Vermont Field Office Technical Guide Section I-A. Refer to Reference Lists –Ecological Science – References 1 and 2. Contact your local USDA-NRCS office for more information regarding these references.

Temporary Storage Instructions (Refer to VT Standard 612)

Planting stock that is dormant may be stored temporarily in a cooler or cool, moist, darkened area up to 3 days. For more than 3 days or for stock that is expected to begin growth before planting, dig a V-shaped trench (heeling-in-bed) sufficiently deep and bury seedlings so that all roots are covered by soil. Pack the soil firmly and water thoroughly.

Additional requirements:

Site Preparation (See VT Standard and Specification 490 – Forest Site Preparation, 340 Conservation Cover, or 342 Critical Area Planting)

- Remove debris and control competing vegetation.
- The following method of site preparation is planned:

Mechanical means such as as plowing, disking or rototilling,

Chemical control of vegetation,

Prescribed burning,

Hand scalping the area where vegetation is to be planted,

Other: _____

- Apply recommended amendments as needed, including the following;

_____Tons/Ac. Lime, _____Lbs/Ac. N-P²O⁵-K²O and prepare a firm seeding bed.

Additional requirements:

643 – Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities Implementation Requirements

Planting Method (Refer to VT Standard and Specification 612, 340 or 342)		
Hand	Machine	Amount:
<p><i>For container and bareroot stock, plant stock to a depth even with the root collar in holes deep and wide enough to fully extend the roots. Pack the soil firmly around each plant. Cuttings are inserted in moist soil with at least 2 to 3 buds showing above ground. Plants will be established prior to May 30 unless containerized seedlings are used or plants will be watered.</i></p> <p><i>Drill small grass and legume seed ¼ inch deep uniformly over area.</i></p> <p>Additional requirements or special planting instructions:</p> 		
Cultural Practices (Refer to VT Standard and Specification 643, 340, 342, and 612 for specific requirements)		
<p><i>Pest Management is required. Weed control, especially of non-native, invasive species, is necessary, either by prescribed burning, mechanical cutting, herbiciding or mulching for at least 2 years after planting or seeding.</i></p> <p>Vegetation Mat-Size _____ # _____ Tree Shelter-Size _____ # _____</p> <p>Mulch- coverage _____ # _____ Other _____</p> <p>Additional requirements or special management instructions:</p> 		

Operation and Maintenance:

- The treatment area must be inspected periodically and protected from damage so proper function is maintained.
- Replace dead and dying woody species in newly established plantings.
- New plantings must be protected from grazing during the establishment (prescribed grazing, use exclusion) period, as well as fire and pests, including insects, diseases, competing vegetation and animals (deer, beaver and mice).
- Supplemental water as well as periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant health and vigor.
- Any use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the intended purpose of this practice.

Specific Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements For Your Practice:

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