



Conservation Practice Overview

July 2021

Herbaceous Weed treatment (Code 315)

Herbaceous weed treatment is the removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious, prohibited, or undesirable plants.

Practice Information

This practice applies to all lands—except active cropland—where herbaceous weeds need to be removed, reduced, or otherwise manipulated.



This practice is used to control undesirable plants while protecting or enhancing desired plant species. This practice can enhance the quality and quantity of forage, restore wildlife habitat, protect soils from erosion, reduce fuel loads and wildfire hazards, and control pervasive plants on the site. Ecological site descriptions, when available, other suitable information, and the producer's purpose for applying the practice are used to enhance plant communities adapted to the site.

Treatment methods for undesired plants can be chemical, mechanical, or biological. Herbicide use always requires following product labels. Selective herbicides can treat the target species and minimize impacts to the desired and native vegetation. Mechanical treatment methods can include mowing, manually removing, or other nonchemical methods. Biological treatment with NRCS assistance can be done when using grazing or browsing animals.

Herbaceous weeds can shade out desired species and leave the soil vulnerable to erosion. When treating the weeds, efforts to minimize soil disturbance must be taken to avoid potential erosion. Pervasive weeds may need more than one treatment to control them to the desired level.

Whichever treatment method is chosen—chemical, mechanical, or biological—a written plan with specific details is part of planning to use this practice.

Operation and maintenance of this practice is especially important as weeds can resprout or regrow with favorable conditions.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) is commonly applied with other conservation practices, such as NRCS CPSs Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512), Nutrient Management (Code 590), Conservation Cover (Code 327), Range Planting (Code 550), Tree /Shrub Establishment (Code 612), or Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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