

Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS



Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)

Establishing wildlife habitat by planting herbaceous vegetation or shrubs.

Practice Purpose(s):

- Improve degraded wildlife habitat for the target wildlife species or guild
- Establish wildlife habitat that resembles the historic, desired, and reference native plant community

Conservation benefits may include but are not limited to:

- Improve wildlife habitat
- Reduce erosion
- Increase pollinating insects
- Improve rangeland health
- Restore natural plant communities
- Achieve/maintain a desired understory plant community
- Improve aesthetic and recreation values
- Increase carbon storage over planted area

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies to all lands where inadequate wildlife habitat is identified as a primary resource concern and a plant community inventory or wildlife habitat evaluation indicates a benefit in altering the current vegetative conditions (species diversity, richness, structure, and pattern) by establishing herbaceous plants or shrubs. The use of annuals that persist over the life of the practice, and annuals that serve as a nurse crop to support the establishment of the persistent vegetative species are appropriate under this conservation practice.

Practice Information

Wildlife Habitat Planting (420) is used to create herbaceous or shrubby wildlife habitat in areas that are currently being used for other purposes (e.g., crops or pasture). Additionally, this practice is used to convert existing poor-quality habitat to high quality habitat. For example, this practice is commonly used to convert monoculture introduced grasslands areas (e.g., smooth brome grass, old-world bluestems, and fescue) to habitat with more plant species richness.

Wildlife Habitat Planting (420) is very commonly used to provide habitat rich in blooming forbs for pollinators and monarch butterflies. The practice lifespan is 5 years, with a target plant community dominated by species that will persist for the life of the practice. Annual wildlife plantings (e.g., annual food plots) are **not** planted using this practice, but rather are planted using Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), each having a practice lifespan of 1 year. Habitat planted to trees is implemented using Tree and Shrub Establishment (612), with a practice lifespan of 15 years.

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**WILDLIFE HABITAT PLANTING (420)
IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Client _____	Date _____
Location _____	County _____
Tract/Field _____	Acres _____
Planned By _____	ESJAA _____

Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)

Establishing herbaceous or herbaceous and shrubby wildlife habitat by planting of seeds or plants can provide essential wildlife food and cover. These plantings are particularly valuable when converting cropland or pastureland to dedicated wildlife habitat.

Goals and Objectives

Client's Goals and Objectives:

The purpose(s) for this practice is to:

- ☐ Improve degraded wildlife habitat for the target wildlife species or guild
- ☐ Establish wildlife habitat that resembles the historic, desired, and reference native plant community

Description of Work &

Target Species and Specific Habitat Component OR Native Plant Community to be Established

Desired Vegetative Stand at Maturity:**% Canopy Cover:**

Grass _____

Forb _____

Shrub _____

Bare ground/Litter _____

Number of Species:

Grass _____

Forb _____

Shrub _____

Species/Guild: _____ WHEG Before Score: _____ WHEG After Score: _____

Species/Guild: _____ WHEG Before Score: _____ WHEG After Score: _____

OR Ecological Site Description (ESD)/Range Site Description: _____



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Management Specifications

Attach a completed NRCS Colorado Grass Seeding Worksheet, CO-ECS-05. Seed tags are required. The following specification components will be provided, as a minimum.

1.) Describe current vegetative cover (example: grain stubble, smooth brome expired CRP, etc.)

If currently or formerly irrigated cropland, provide nitrogen results from a soil test taken within the last 3 months. N ppm: _____

2.) Narrative Planting Plan (include existing cover and site prep steps) & Establishment Procedures

3.) Other management actions needed to ensure adequate stand establishment

Final Seedmix Planting Dates: _____

Planting Equipment: _____

Seedmix: **See Attached ECS-05 form.**

Operation & Maintenance Plan (check all that apply):

The following actions should be carried out to ensure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. The life expectancy of this practice is 5 years with a target plant community dominated by species that will persist for the life of the practice.

- ☐ Since wildlife habitat enhancement is the purpose, maintenance practices and activities shall not disturb cover during the reproductive period for the desired species. Exceptions should be considered for periodic limited burning, grazing, or mowing when necessary to maintain the health of the plant community.
- ☐ Planting will not be mowed during the establishment period without written allowance from NRCS.
- ☐ Planting will not be hayed during the practice lifespan.
- ☐ Planting will only be grazed during the planting lifespan 3 years after stand is determined established and if grazing enhances the wildlife benefits of the practice. If stand is to be grazed, a prescribed grazing plan will be provided.
- ☐ Protect plantings for life of practice: no driving through the planting, leaving equipment in planting, or hay stacking on the planting.
- ☐ To benefit insect food sources for grassland nesting birds, spraying, or other control of noxious weeds shall be done on a “spot” basis to protect grasses, forbs, and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife.
- ☐ Revegetate bare spots.
- ☐ Other _____

**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Practice Approval**

This conservation practice is classified as Job Class ☐ I ☐ II ☐ III ☐ IV ☐ V as provided in Title 190, General Manual, Part 417. I certify that the practice was planned and designed in accordance with NRCS policy and guidance under the oversight and approval of appropriate ecological sciences job approval authority (ESJAA).

Authorized NRCS Representative Signature
Conservation Planner, ESJAA Job Class _____

date

Client's Acknowledgement and Approval

I have received a copy of the conservation practice standard, specification and implementation requirements and understand the contents and requirements for application of this practice. I agree it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and rights in advance of practice application, and will comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice. I am willing to install and maintain the practice, as planned, for the practice's lifespan of five (5) years.

Client's Signature

date

Practice Certification

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client and made an on-site inspection to determine whether the implemented practice conforms to the conservation practice standard, specification and implementation requirements and is functioning as planned to address the identified resource concerns. Documentation of certification is provided in the client's administrative case file.

Date: _____ Certified ☐, Not Certified ☐, Needs Follow-up (see notes below) ☐

Authorized NRCS Representative Signature:
Conservation Planner, ESJAA Job Class _____

Date: _____ Certified ☐, Not Certified ☐, Needs Follow-up (see notes below) ☐

Authorized NRCS Representative Signature:
Conservation Planner, ESJAA Job Class _____

Date: _____ Certified ☐, Not Certified ☐, Needs Follow-up (see notes below) ☐

Authorized NRCS Representative Signature:
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Notes

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