

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS**

**RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT**

**1. Scope**

The work shall consist of establishing and or improving existing vegetation to enhance areas for recreational use. This specification (including references made within to other Conservation Practice Standards and Technical Notes), the Kansas Grass Seeding Field Sheet (Form KS-ECS-4), and/or Kansas Tree/Shrub Planting Field Sheet (Form KS-ECS-5) shall be used to design the practice. Practice application will be documented on the Grass Seeding Field Sheet (Form KS-ECS-4) and/or Kansas Tree/Shrub Planting Field Sheet (Form KS-ECS-5), and in the conservation plan.

**2. Species Selection**

Species will be adapted to soil site conditions. For woody species, see Kansas Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section II - Forestland and Windbreak Interpretations, Conservation Practice Standard 612, Tree and Shrub Establishment, and Kansas Forestry Technical Note No. 9. For herbaceous species, see Kansas FOTG, Section II - Pasture and Hayland Interpretations, Conservation Practice Standards 512, Pasture and Hayland Planting, and 550, Range Planting, and Kansas Plant Materials Technical Note No. 1 (Rev 6).

**3. Planting Details**

Specific planting requirements for woody species are provided in Kansas Forestry Technical Note No. 9. Herbaceous species seeding requirements are addressed in Conservation Practice Standards 512, Pasture and Hayland Planting, and 550, Range Planting. See also local extension recommendations for the establishment and maintenance of turf grasses.

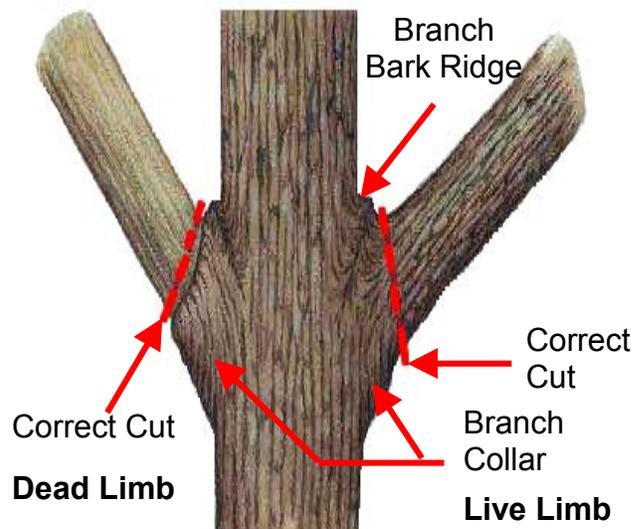
**4. Pruning/Thinning Details**

For pruning:

- Prune early while the plant is still dormant.
- Prune dead and diseased branches annually.
- Prune storm damage as soon as possible after the storm.
- Prune branches as close to the trunk as possible (Figure 1).
- Prune all low hanging branches.
- Pruning should improve the appearance of the trees and not present a "hedged" effect.
- Properly dispose of all pruned material.

For thinning:

- Thin defective, infested, damaged, or poorly formed trees or those that may be a safety hazard.
- Thinning should favor those species that have a long life span such as oak or walnut.
- Thinning should result in a natural appearance.
- Cut unwanted trees to the ground and remove the stump.
- Protect trees from undue damage from livestock, insects, disease, wildlife, and people.



**Figure 1. Proper pruning**

- Properly dispose of all pruned material.

#### **5. Maintenance**

Inspect the area after storm events and repair all eroded areas, re-seed disturbed areas, and remove debris and hazardous trees.

For safety and overall appearance, remove dead and down woody material from the recreational area.