

Critical Area Planting

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

***** F=I >G 342



Definition

Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

Purpose

This practice is applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following:

- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by water,
- Restore degraded sites that cannot be stabilized through normal methods.

Additional conservation practices may be needed to achieve the desired level of treatment for soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources while meeting the objectives of the land user.

Where used

Critical area planting is applied on highly erodible or critically eroding areas. These areas usually cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment and management; and if left untreated can cause severe erosion or sediment damage. Examples include: small concentrated flow areas, dams, dikes, levees, cuts, fills, surface mined areas and denuded or gullied areas where vegetation is difficult to establish by usual planting methods.



Considerations

- Species selected for seeding or planting shall be suited to current site conditions and intended uses.
- Species selection should be based factors including: Climate, soil condition and pH, slope, wetness of the site, plant characteristics, resistance to diseases and the ability to achieve an adequate density to address the problem within an appropriate time frame and permit suitable uses with ordinary management activities.
- Utilize seed that is of high quality and meets state minimum standards or is certified.
- The timing of site preparation, seedbed preparation, fertilization, planting, and mulching should be done at a time and manner that best ensures survival and growth of the selected species.
- Any necessary federal, state, and local permits must be obtaining prior to implementation of this practice.
- Erosion must be reduced or maintained at acceptable levels.
- All tillage operations should be performed on the contour to the extent possible.
- Livestock must be controlled or excluded to allow for the establishment and maintenance of the desired vegetative cover.
- Additional practices such as water control and sediment retention structures may be required for control of excessive erosion or sedimentation.

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Site-specific requirements are listed on the specification sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and the Critical Area Planting practice standard (342). Information on this job sheet is considered to be part of the conservation plan.

| | | | |
|--------------|--|----------|--|
| Client Name: | | Farm #: | |
| Field(s): | | Tract #: | |
| Designed By: | | Date: | |

| Purpose: Check all that apply | |
|--|--|
| Stabilize areas with documented high rates of sheet, rill or gully erosion | Restore degraded sites that can not be stabilized through normal methods |
| Stabilize areas with expected high rates of soil erosion by water | Improve wildlife habitat and visual resources |
| Minimize sedimentation on and off-site | Other: |

| Seeding Type: | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Temporary cover seeding | Permanent Seeding |

| Specifications | Field | Field | Field |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Site Slope ¹ | | | |
| Seedbed Preparation Method ² | | | |
| Seedbed Preparation Date | | | |
| Selected Species #1 | | | |
| Species #1 Rate ³ | | | |
| Species #1 Planting Date | | | |
| Selected Species #2 | | | |
| Species #2 Rate ³ | | | |
| Species #2 Planting Date | | | |
| Selected Species #3 | | | |
| Species #3 Rate ³ | | | |
| Species #3 Planting Date | | | |

¹ Indicate the approximate site slope. **NOTE:** Machinery should only be operated on slopes flatter than 3:1.
² List the site/seedbed preparation method to be used: Farm Equipment, Heavy Equipment, Manual, or Other.
³ Specify seeding rates in quantities of lbs/acre or lbs/1000 ft².
⁴ Indicate whether to inoculate legumes. **Note: Inoculate Legumes**

| Lime and Fertilizer (Specify rates in quantities of tons/acre or lbs/1000 ft ²) | | | | |
|---|------|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| Area / Field | Lime | Nitrogen (N) | Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) | Potash (K ₂ O) |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

INSTALLATION OF STRAW BALES OR SILT FENCE TEMPORARY BARRIERS

(Show areas on the Sketch Map)

The following area(s) shall have a temporary straw bale barrier(s) installed. Bales shall be placed on the contour, placed on their sides, tight end-to-end. Two wooden stakes (30-36 inches long) shall be driven through each bale and at least 12 inches into the soil. _____

The following area(s) shall have a silt fence installed per the manufacturer’s recommendations on the contour. _____

Remove the temporary barriers after the area to be vegetated is stabilized.

Tree / Shrub Planting : Plant the following trees and/or shrubs at spacing specified.

See Sketch for layout .

Planting Period (from _____ to _____)

| Area / Field | Species #1 / Spacing | | Species #2 / Spacing | | Species #3 / Spacing | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | | ft X ft | | ft X ft | | ft X ft |
| | | ft X ft | | ft X ft | | ft X ft |
| | | ft X ft | | ft X ft | | ft X ft |

SODDING: Area / Field _____ Sodding Period: _____

Carefully place (specify species type) _____ sod on the prepared seedbed and press into place. Thoroughly soak the sod with water to a depth of 4 inches after placement. Additional anchoring will be required in the following areas _____. Never place sod on frozen soil. Where additional anchoring is needed, anchor the sod with stakes or netting. Use ½ “ X ¾ “ X 12 “ stakes spaced 4 feet apart in each strip of sod and stake each end; or use netting according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

MULCHING

Uniformly mulch all the seeded areas immediately after seeding (or seedbed preparation for a dormant seeding) with _____ or _____ @ _____ tons/acre or _____ lbs/1000 ft².

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Practice Installation Guidelines

It shall be the responsibility of the landowner to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to this installation.

Practice designs and specifications shall be reviewed by NRCS planner with the landowner prior to start of work for practice installation.

Contact the NRCS planner _____ at 401- _____ prior to installation. Keep NRCS planner updated throughout the installation process.

Contact the NRCS planner _____ at 401- _____ upon completion of practice.

Practice specifications and special requirements

Installation shall be in accordance with the following specifications and special requirements.
NO CHANGES ARE TO BE MADE IN THE DRAWINGS OR SPECIFICATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE NRCS.

1. Use Practice Specifications: Critical Area Planting Specifications Guidelines

The landowner/operator acknowledges that:

A) He/she has received a copy of the practice specifications, and Operation and Maintenance plan, and that he/she has an understanding of the contents and the requirements.

B) He/she has or will obtain all of the necessary permits prior to construction.

C) No changes will be made in the installation of the job without prior concurrence of the NRCS technician.

D) This practice has a lifespan of 10 years.

E) Adherence to the Operation and Maintenance plan of the installed work is necessary for proper performance during the practice lifespan.

F) NRCS planner shall be contacted prior to installation for a review of the practice installation and at completion for practice certification.

Accepted by :

Date:

Address :

Practice design approval

Lead Discipline for this practice: **Biological Conservation Sciences Division**

Job Classification:

_____ No design changes were made. _____ Design changes were approved and are included

Design approved by:

Date:

Practice certification

I have made an on-site inspection and have determined that the practice has been installed according to practice standard and specifications.

Certified by:

Date: