

Jobsheet

327 - CONSERVATION COVER - NATIVE SPECIES

PURPOSE

Native Warm Species (Grasses, Legumes and Forbs) provide valuable conservation cover while providing valuable habitat for game and non-game wildlife species. Some of these plants have a tendency to bunch and reach heights of up to 6ft which will provide needed overhead cover and the legumes or forbs can provide food and cover as well as attract insects, which is important to ground nesting birds. These plants also provide similar benefits to larger species such as deer and turkeys.

REQUIREMENTS

- Establishment requires planning and attention to details at planting time.
- Mixture 3 grasses or 2 Grasses and 1 Legume from the following:

Grasses(Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Little Blue Stem, Big Blue Stem, Coastal Panic Grass, and Eastern Gamagrass.)

Legumes/Forbs(Partridge Pea, Illinois Bundleflower, Blackeyed Susan, and Maximilian Sunflower)

- A cultivated seedbed should be prepared and either rained on or packed using a culti-packer or other similar device.
- Soil PH should be above 5.5.
- Nitrogen is not recommended at planting since it will encourage undesirable plant competition.
- Phosphate and Potash can be added at planting.
- Use of Herbicides (i.e. Round-up, Gramaxone, Journey, or others as needed to control existing or anticipated weeds. Note: If legumes are present there is a possibility that they will be eliminated if herbicides are used after establishment.
- Plant March 15th thru June, depending on conditions.
- Broadcasting, with a spin spreader, drop seeder, cyclone seeder or the Truax Slinger, is the preferred method. However, several trips may be needed to ensure adequate coverage. No-till or grain drills may be used, if desired, although the fluffy seeds and set-up may be a challenge. Gamagrass must be planted with a corn planter with a sunflower plate or fingers depending on type of planter.
- Planting depth is ¼ to ½ inch. **Use Care Not to Plant to DEEP!**
- If weeds reach a height of 18 inches, mowing or spraying shall be utilized to control competition. If mowed do not cut below 6 inches to prevent injury to the desired plants.

Planting Guide to be used in MIX:

Grasses(Select 2 or 3)

Switchgrass	2 lbs. Pure Live Seed (PLS)
Little Blue Stem	2 lbs. Pure Live Seed (PLS)
Big Blue Stem	2 lbs. Pure Live Seed (PLS)
Indiangrass	2 lbs. Pure Live Seed (PLS)
Coastal Panic Grass	2 lbs. Pure Live Seed (PLS)
Eastern Gamagrass	3 lbs. Pure Live Seed (PLS)

Legumes/Forbs (Select 1 if using 2 Grasses)

Blackeyed Susan	1 lb. Pure Live Seed(PLS)
Illinois Bundleflower	1 lb. Pure Live Seed(PLS)
Maximillan Sunflower	1 lb. Pure Live Seed(PLS)
Patridge Pea	1 lb. Pure Live Seed(PLS)

Maintenance

- Establishment may be from 1- 3 years. **So be patient!!!**
- Begin to burn or mow every 2-3 years after stand is established.
If mowed, do not cut below 6 inches or you could destroy the stand and it will tend to thicken the grasses. **Therefore mowing should be the last option.**
- Burn or mow beginning February 1st thru April 15th to minimize the impact to ground nesting birds.

Site Specific Comments and Recommendations:

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