

Forage and Biomass Planting

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

512



Definition

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

Criteria

Select plant species and their cultivars based on:

- Climatic conditions, such as annual precipitation and its distribution, growing season length, temperature extremes and the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone.
- Soil condition and landscape position attributes such as; pH, available water holding capacity, aspect, slope, drainage class, fertility level, salinity, depth, flooding and ponding, and levels of phytotoxic elements that may be present.
- Resistance to disease and insects common to the site or location.

Follow recommendations for planting rates, methods and dates obtained from the *Virginia Plant Establishment Guide* or other approved sources.

Seeding rates will be calculated on a pure live seed (PLS) basis.

Plant at a depth appropriate for the seed size or plant material, while assuring uniform contact with soil.

Prepare the site to provide a medium that does not restrict plant emergence.

Plant when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.

All seed and planting materials will meet state quality standards.

Do not plant federal, state, or local noxious species.

Apply all plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes according to a current soil test.

Application rates, methods and dates are obtained from the plant materials program, land grant and research institutions, extension agencies, or agency field trials.

When planting legumes, use pre-inoculated seed or inoculate with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.

Exclude livestock until the plants are established.

If using coated seed, recalibrate planting equipment to deliver the same number of seed per area as would be applied with non-coated seed.

Select forage species based on the intended use, level of management, realistic yield estimates, maturity stage, and compatibility with other species. Verify plant adaptation to the area prior to planting.

Producer _____ Farm # _____ Tract # _____

Field Office _____ Contract # _____

Producer's Purpose

- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
- Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.
- Reduce soil erosion.
- Improve soil and water quality.
- Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

Practice Specifications

- Species, rates (lbs/ac), planting depth, and range of planting date, include companion species if used:

- Describe site preparation (include tillage, herbicide application, mowing, intensive grazing or other methods used to reduce surface residue and prepare site for successful establishment)

- Seed/plant source: _____ Seed analysis: _____
- Method of establishment: Broadcast Drill Frost Seed
 Other describe: _____
- Fertilizer application (if applicable): _____
- If legume, was it pre-inoculated () or inoculated just before planting ()
 Type of inoculant used: _____
See list in Southern Forages, 4th Edition, A. 21

Planner Certification

This forage and biomass planting plan meets the requirements of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 512.

 Signature Title Date

Certification of Practice Completion

This forage and biomass planting plan has been completed and maintained according to NRCS plans and specifications. (Indicate in Practice Specifications if there were any changes to the planned practice and acreage.)

 Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

Additional Specifications and Notes:

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