

Critical Area Planting

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

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 establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

Purpose

- Stabilize stream and channel banks, and shorelines.
- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water.
- Rehabilitate degraded sites that can't be stabilized using normal techniques.
- Stabilize coastal areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas.

Criteria

Site Preparation:

Conduct a site investigation to identify any physical, chemical, or biological conditions that could inhibit establishment of vegetation.

Clear areas to be planted of unwanted materials and smooth and shape them as needed.

Prepare a suitable seedbed for all seeded species.

Amend soil with compost, lime, fertilizer, etc. as necessary to eliminate conditions that inhibit plant establishment. Rely on soil testing to choose rates of relevant nutrients (lime, P, K).

Species Selection:

Choose species and associated planting specifications (seeding rates, dates, depths, and methods) consistent with the Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia or other Virginia technical notes and approved guidance.

Choose species suited to site conditions and intended uses with the capacity to stabilize the site within an appropriate period.

Do not establish plants on noxious weed lists.

Establishment of Vegetation:

Specify establishment methods and associated details (rates, depth, and timing of seeding or planting, minimum quality of planting stock, etc.) prior to practice implementation.

Choose plantings methods and timing best suited to the species and site and soil conditions.

Use only high quality seed or planting stock.

Mulch plantings as needed to ensure successful establishment and mulch disturbed areas as needed to prevent erosion.

Specify prior to planting what constitutes successful establishment (e.g. minimum percent ground/canopy cover, percent survival, stand density). Acceptable targets for long-term performance shall be no less than 80% cover or canopy year-round for herbaceous species and no less than 60% survival for trees and shrubs.

NOTE: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Critical Area Planting Standard (VA-342). Consult the Standard for further details.

General Information

Client: _____	County: _____
Field Office: _____	Contract #: _____
Farm #: _____	Tract #: _____
Field # and acreage: _____	

Client’s Purpose(s) (check all that apply)

- Stabilize stream and channel banks, and shorelines.
- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water.
- Rehabilitate and revegetate degraded sites that can’t be stabilized with normal techniques.
- Stabilize coastal areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas.

Practice Specifications

Follow all specifications and recommendations below for practice installation & implementation.

Site Map(s) – See Attached

Attach map(s) identifying all critical areas to be treated.

Additional Site Description(s)

Include any additional description to specify location and nature of critical areas to be treated. Refer to above maps as needed.

Site Preparation Specifications

Specify any site prep to be conducted ahead of planting. Issues to address include: removal of unwanted materials; grading; topsoil stockpiling, spreading, etc; soil testing; and soil amendment with compost/lime/fertilizers. Refer to attachments as needed.

Species Selection & Planting Specifications

Specify planting instructions for each field or critical area to be treated. Refer to attachments as needed.

Field Number	Species Selected	Seeding Date/ Acres Planted	Planting Method	Planting Rate/ Depth

Additional Planting Specifications & Recommendations

Specify any additional planting-related specifications, including but not limited to: minimum quality of seed and planting materials (% PLS, stem caliper, etc.); mulching recommendations; irrigation; protection of plantings. Refer to attachments as needed.

Minimum Performance Targets / What Constitutes Successful Establishment

Specify minimum cover and/or plant survival required to fulfill this practice (see page 1 or Standard for guidance).

To successfully carry out this practice, the following level of vegetative cover and/or plant survival must be achieved and maintained for the period of time indicated:

Field Number / Critical Area ID	Minimum performance required	Period of time performance is required	Performance achieved? (check box if yes; write comments)	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	

Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

Carry out all of the following actions to ensure that the planned practice functions as intended after initial installation.

Minimum O&M Requirements

1. Restrict access to and use of the area as long as necessary to ensure vegetation is fully established and site is stabilized.
2. Inspect the treated area regularly, especially after heavy rain or other potentially damaging events, until plantings become well established. Repair and replant as needed to ensure above targets for plant performance are achieved for the period of time specified.
3. Implement a maintenance plan to ensure that above targets for plant performance are achieved for the period of time specified. Key maintenance elements typically include: Periodic inspection; grazing and traffic management; soil testing and fertilization; mowing or other control of competing vegetation; and reseeding or replanting when needed.
4. Follow additional site-specific minimum O&M requirements listed below:

Additional O&M Recommendations

Provide any additional practical guidance for actions to ensure the long-term effectiveness of practice.

Planner Certification

The contour buffer strip practice planned in this job sheet fulfills minimum requirements of Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 342.

Signature

Title

Date

Certification of Practice Completion

The critical area planting practice planned in this job sheet has been completed and maintained according to NRCS specifications (indicate in specs any changes to planned activities and acreage).

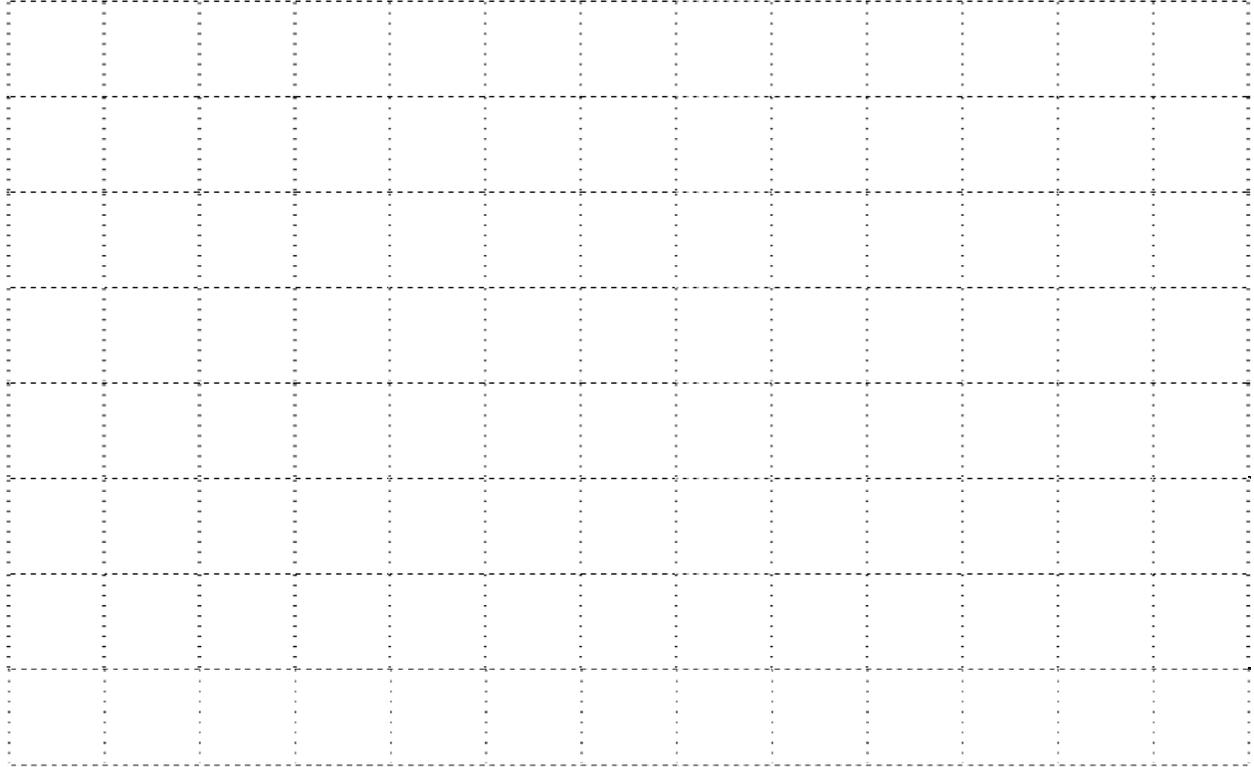
Signature

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:

Empty rectangular box for additional specifications and notes.

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