

Quality Criteria

D. Plant - Suitability/Condition/Management

RESOURCE CONCERN	DEFINITION	QUALITY CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT TOOL
1. Plant Suitability			
a. Growth and Development	Plants are not well adapted to the site.	Selected plants are adapted to the soil and climate conditions or the site is modified to make it suitable for the desired plants.	Plant Suitability Groups
b. Use	Plants do not meet the needs and objectives of the decision maker.	Plant selection addresses site resource needs and the intended use.	Plant Suitability Groups
2. Plant Condition			
a. Forestland Productivity and Health	Crops are of a kind and/or quality that do not meet the landowner's objectives and may not sustain the resource	Stand is in a fully stocked condition. Desirable species represent at least 25 percent of the stand in volume or density. Trees within the stand are uniformly distributed. Bare mineral soil comprises 50% or less of ground surface area.	Plot Measurement; KY Division of Forestry Stewardship Plan; Observation
b. Cropland Productivity and Health	Crops are of a kind and/or quality that do not meet the landowner's objectives and may not sustain the resource	A healthy, vigorous stand yielding 75% or more of the high management yield potential for the soil map unit indicated in the NRCS FOTG..	Comparison to similar crops in the area with different management. Crop consultant information, producer yields, soils data
c. Hayland/Pastureland Productivity and Health	Plant communities do not produce forage and/or cover in the quantity, quality and timeliness needed to meet decision-maker objectives and sustain the resource	A healthy, vigorous stand of desired species yielding 75% or more of the high management yield potential for the species for the given forage suitability group	Pasture Inventory; Pasture Management Jobsheet; KY Graze
d. Wildlifeland Productivity and Health	Plants do not provide the desired quality, quantity, or distribution.	Plant community is managed to meet the needs of the target wildlife species.	Wildlife Habitat Assessment, 644, 645
3. Plant Management			
a. Pests (brush, weeds, insects, disease, fungi)	Pests are not managed to meet the needs of the plant or decision maker.	Control measures are implemented when pest numbers reach economic treatment thresholds. Pesticides are applied according to label instructions.	Visual observation; Crop scouting, WIN-PST
b. Establishment, Growth, and Harvest	Plants are not established properly. Management leads to poor plant development and inadequate yields.	Seeding dates, seedbed preparation, fertility requirements, and weed control are based on FOTG. Adequate plant numbers are maintained throughout growth cycle. Harvesting is timely.	
c. Nutrients	The correct amount and type of plant nutrients are not available to meet plant needs.	Nutrients are available to meet the needs of plants without having adverse effects on other resources. Needed nutrients will be applied according to soil test results or tissue test recommendations.	UK: Agr-1; FOTG Standards (e.g. 512, 327, 342)
d. Threatened and Endangered Species	Population numbers are reaching critical levels for continuation of identified species.	Activities are planned to avoid actions that would reduce their current population numbers, health, or habitat quality.	FOTG T&E Impact Matrix