

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

HEDGEROW PLANTING

(Feet)
Code 422

DEFINITION

Establishing a living fence of shrubs or trees in, across, or around a field.

PURPOSES

To delineate field boundaries, serve as fences, establish contour guidelines, provide wildlife food and cover, provide screens, improve the landscape or snow control.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In, across or around fields.

CONSIDERATIONS

Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates or runoff, infiltration, evaporation and transpiration.
2. Effects of snowcatch and melt on water budget components.
3. Effects of vegetation on soil moisture.

Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.
2. Filtering effects of vegetation on movement of sediment and dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Effects on the movement of dissolved substances to ground water.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

All plantings shall be protected from chemical spray drift, fire and destructive livestock use.

Plantings shall consist of one or two rows. Preferred shrubs for wildlife are dense and tend to sucker such as American plum, common chokecherry and silver buffaloberry.

Spacing between rows may be a minimum of 3 feet apart but not more than 16 feet apart. Shrub spacing in the row shall be 3 to 8 feet apart and conifer spacing in the row shall be 6 to 12 feet apart.

Plant species to be used are limited to shrubs and conifers. Following are accepted species but closely related adapted varieties may be used.

Shrubs:

Hawthorn	Manchurian crabapple*
Lilac	Siberian crabapple *
Caragana	Common chokecherry
Russian olive *	Silver buffaloberry
Redosier dogwood	Peking cotoneaster
American plum	Woods or Hansen rose
Golden currant	Nanking cherry ¹

* Tall shrubs

Conifers:

Eastern redcedar	Colorado blue spruce
Rocky Mt. juniper	Black Hills spruce

Plantings intended partially for snow control along roads and highways will be located in conformance to state, county or local regulations. In the absence of regulations the hedgerow shall be placed a minimum of ten rods from the right-of-way.

Plantings may be on either cultivated or uncultivated sites.

1. Cultivated Sites

Except for the foregoing specifications, the establishment of hedgerows shall follow the same specifications as stated for windbreak/shelterbelt establishment.

2. Uncultivated Sites

Plantings on these sites should be limited. They are applicable on sites with high erosion hazard or where fast growth is not required.

¹ Species usually has a serious decline in vigor within 8-15 years.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Site preparation is required by scalping where grass sod exists. It shall be accomplished by using a scalper planting machine, opening a furrow at least 12 inches wide and 3 inches deep, or hand scalping a site at least 20 inches in diameter for each plant. Furrows or scalper

machine planting shall be on the contour where practical. Sod shall be placed downhill from the scalped area or furrow. (EXCEPTION: Site preparation may not be required for some species as indicated in the Table below.)

The application of suitable herbicides to kill grass may be used as an alternative or adjunct to scalping. Herbicides may be used for controlling unwanted vegetation for

maintaining the planting. Herbicides must be applied according to label directions specified by the manufacturer and information derived from current official publications and documents of the USDA or its cooperating agencies.

Compaction requires above normal attention and must be provided with above normal weight on the planter packing wheels or hand follow-up compaction or both.

The following is a guide to woody plant species most adaptable to various uncultivated sites.

	SCALPED	NO SCALPING	SCALPED	NO SCALPING	SCALPED	NO SCALPING
Species	Native Sod		Tame Sod		Wetland Margin	
Russian olive	x		x		x	
Silver buffaloberry	x		x		x	
Common chokecherry		x		x		x
American Plum	x		x		x	
Hawthorn	x		x		x	
Golden Currant						
Redosier dogwood			x	x		
Woods or Hansen Rose		x			x	
Lilac	x					
Caragana	x					
Black Hills spruce	x					
Colorado blue spruce	x					
Eastern redcedar	x				x	
Rocky Mt. juniper	x				x	

* Use juniper only on sandy, droughty sites.