



Critical Area Planting

Conservation Practice Job Sheet FL-342-JS

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida

August 2006



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 the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

Purpose

- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by water.
- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind.
- Restore degraded sites that cannot be stabilized through normal methods.

Where Used

On areas with existing or expected high rates of erosion or degraded sites that usually cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment and/or management, and if left untreated, could be severely damaged by erosion or sedimentation can cause significant off-site damage. Examples of critical areas are dams, dikes, diversions, grassed waterways, mine spoil, levees, cuts, fills, borrow areas, surface-mined areas, road banks, and denuded or gullied areas where vegetation is difficult to establish by usual planting methods.

Ordinary conservation treatment such as pasture planting cannot stabilize these areas. If they are left untreated, severe soil erosion and sediment damage can occur.

Resource Management System

Rarely does one conservation practice provide the treatment needed for all of our natural resources. Critical area planting is usually a component of a resource management system which is a combination of conservation practices and management that achieves a level of treatment for our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources while also meeting the objectives of the land user.

Plans and Specifications

Specifications for applying this practice need to be prepared for each site and recorded and filed using the approved specification sheets or narrative statements in the conservation plan. The plan needs to include information about the location, construction sequence, vegetation, establishment, and management and maintenance requirements. Minimally, specifications need to include: a) site preparation specifics including type and amount of soil amendments; b) species selection and seeding or planting rates; c) planting dates, care and handling of seed and/or planting material; and d) statement that says only viable, high quality, and regionally adapted seed or planting material will be used.

Operation and Maintenance

Plantings need to be managed the area as long as necessary to stabilize the site and achieve the intended purpose. Sites seeded to suitable species may be grazed after established. See Florida NRCS Critical Area Conservation Practice 342 Guidance and Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Pest Management, Code 595; Nutrient Management, Code 590; Pasture and Hayland Planting, Code 512; Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645, and Tree/ Shrub Establishment, Code 612, for more information.

Certification

This practice can be certified by completing the applied column in the layout table in the site specific sheet or the FL-CPA-1 form.



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Land User:		County:	Date:
Farm #:	Tract#:	Field(s) #:	
Purpose (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by water.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore degraded sites that cannot be stabilized through normal methods.		

Layout	Planned	Applied
Total Area Planted (acres) ¹		
Site Slope (actual or designed) ²		
Site/Seedbed Preparation Method ³		
Site/Seedbed Preparation Treatment Date		
Species for Temporary Cover		
Rate (lbs/acre or plant spacing)		
Temporary Cover Method of Establishment ³		
Temporary Planting Date		
Species for Permanent Cover		
Rate (lbs/acre or plant spacing)		
Permanent Cover Method of Establishment ⁴		
Permanent Planting Date		
Supplemental Nutrients for Establishment (N, P ₂ O ₅ and K ₂ O lbs/acre)		
Lime (tons/acre)		
Mulching ⁵		
Livestock Exclusion is Required ⁶		

¹ If needed, attach an aerial view or a side view of the practice to this job sheet.

² Indicate the estimated or designed site slope. **NOTE:** Machinery should only be operated on slopes flatter than 3:1.

³ List the site/seedbed preparation method to be used: **Farm Equipment, Heavy Equipment, Hand,** or **Other.** Refer to Florida NRCS Critical Planting Area Guidance for specific instructions.

⁴ Identify how the vegetation is to be established: **Hydroseed, No-Till Drill** or **Conventional** (Includes disked or hand established and broadcast methods).

⁵ Indicate (**Yes, No, NA**). If **Yes**, indicate type and/or method used. Refer to Florida NRCS Critical Planting Areas Guidance and Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Mulching, Code 484, for more information.

⁶ Refer to Florida NRCS Use Exclusion (472) Statement of Work or associated job sheets for more information.



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Additional Notes, Specifications, Operation and Maintenance Requirements, etc.

Follow the procedures and methods for Operation and Maintenance as outlined in this job sheet. Livestock will be excluded from the stand until well established. Evaluate the site within three months of initial seeding. If the stand is uniform but too thin (<80% ground cover or transplant survival), apply additional seed or plants during the next optimum seeding/planting period. For seeded plantings when establishment rates of less than 50%, reseed the site in accordance with original planting plan. Regular application of lime and fertilizer according to soil test may be required after stand is established. Refer to Florida NRCS Critical Area Conservation Practice 342 Guidance and Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Pest Management, Code 595; Nutrient Management, Code 590; Pasture and Hayland Planting, Code 512; Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645; Tree/ Shrub Establishment, Code 612; and Mulching, Code 484, for more information. **Additional Notes:**

As applied, does this practice meet NRCS specifications? Yes No

Certified By:

Date: