

# CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

*Conservation Practice Job Sheet*

*PA342*



## DEFINITION

Planting vegetation on critically eroding areas that require extraordinary treatment.

## PURPOSE

This practice is used on highly erodible areas that cannot be stabilized by ordinary planting techniques and if left untreated may cause severe erosion or sediment damage.

## WHERE USED

Critical area planting includes the following:

1. Dams, dikes, levees, and other construction sites with very steep slopes.
2. Mine spoil and surface mined land with poor quality soil and possibly chemical problems.
3. Agriculture land with severe gullies requiring specialized planting techniques and management.

4. Other 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 or could cause significant off-site damage.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Critical area planting is established as a part of a resource management system for a conservation management unit. They are concurrently applied with other practices such as mulching, diversions, waterways, and structures for water control. Critical area plantings installation take into consideration what the function or use of the site will be following establishment.

**WILDLIFE**

When planning for wildlife, plant species to meet the need of the target wildlife species. Avoid mowing during nesting periods.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Use of the area shall be managed as long as necessary to stabilize the site and achieve the intended purpose.

Control or exclude pests that will interfere with the timely establishment of vegetation.

Inspections, reseeding or replanting, fertilization, and pest control may be needed

to insure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

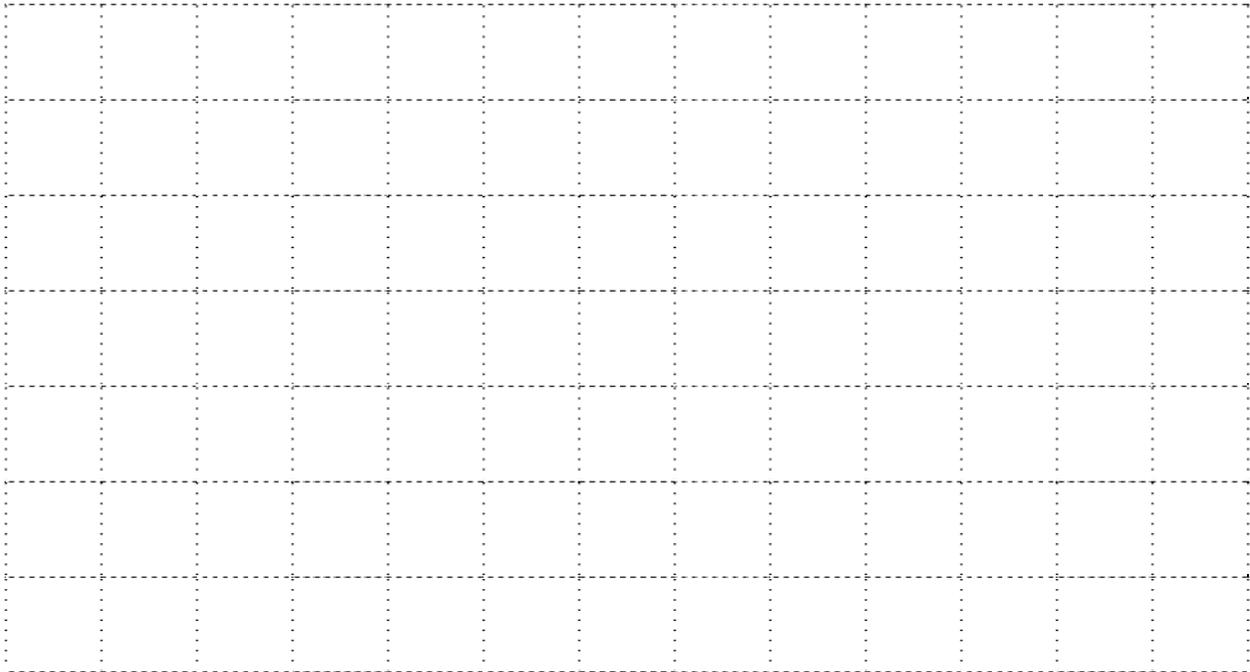
Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet.

Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard Critical Area Planting, code 342.

**CRITICAL AREA PLANTING JOB SHEET**

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: