NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Early Successional Habitat Development and Management

Native Forb and Legume Interseeding 647

Participant Name

Tract #: Field # Acres

INFORMATION ON THIS JOB SHEET IS CONSIDERED PART OF THE CONTRACT AND/OR CONSERVATION PLAN.

Purpose

This job sheet will be followed when interseeding native forbs or non-native legumes as part of a conservation plan. This practice will increase plant diversity and improve habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Interseeding not only provides wildlife with a food source, it can also create excellent brood habitat for upland wildlife during the summer.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Native forb and non-native legume interseeding is used to increase plant diversity in wildlife friendly warm- and cool-season grass stands or in old field habitats. Interseeding shall be completed following a strip disking or herbicide spraying or other management practice that creates a suitable seedbed where forbs or legumes can compete.

Establishment Specifications

1. See Table 1 below for species seeding rates.
2. Interseed following a management practice that creates a suitable seedbed. Strip disking or herbicide application are the best choices. Interseeding can follow prescribed burning but only when the grass stand is thin enough to allow good forb germination and competition.
3. When possible, conduct the management practice at a time of the year that sets back the dominant grasses and vegetation (ex. Late summer herbicide or fall strip disk a warm-season grass dominated field). Generally, management practices should be completed in the late summer or fall/winter period to prepare the site for interseeding during the dormant or spring season.

4. Seeding shall be completed from 3/1-5/15 or 8/1-10/15 for legumes or 12/10-2/28 or 4/15-6/30 for forbs. First year native forb germination will increase if seeded between from 12/10-2/28 due to cold stratification.
5. Seed shall be broadcasted or no-till drilled. If broadcasted, native forb seed shall be mixed with an inert carrier such as pelletized lime or rice hulls to evenly distribute the seed across the entire field. Use a 50:50 ratio of seed to carrier by volume.

Operations and Maintenance

1. Control invasive vegetation and noxious weeds as needed. If herbicides are used ensure proper timing and formulation to minimize effects to the interseeded plants.
2. Habitat can be improved and maintained by burning, disking or herbicide application on a two to five year rotation. Prescribed grazing may also be used to thin existing grass stands when completed according to a detailed prescribed grazing plan. These practices will set back grass growth and create diverse habitat. If possible, disturb no more than one-third to one-half of the field in any given year.
3. **If this practice is being implemented on land covered by a program contract, the participant must follow management requirements as outlined in the program specific Management and Maintenance Job Sheet attached to your contract. Program policies may restrict or limit grazing, haying and other activities.**

NRCS, KY

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Table 1. Species, seeding rates and methods will be according to this table.

Field	Acres	Species	Lbs./Ac Seed (PLS)*	Seeding Method (Broadcast /No-Till)	Seeding Dates	Carrier Type	Carrier Rate lbs/acre

Additional requirements from NRCS, KDFWR, or qualified TSP: