

# Critical Area Planting

## Conservation Practice Job Sheet

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Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Conditions Where Practice Applies

This jobsheet applies to constructed earth fills, spillways, borrow areas or any other highly disturbed area. These areas often have soil material, slope, and other conditions that are unfavorable for plant growth. If left untreated, these sites may experience severe erosion and produce sedimentation issues down slope/ down stream. In addition, the intended use of structures may be jeopardized.

### Establishment Specifications

1. Species, seeding rates, and seeding dates will be according to Table 1.
2. Seed will conform to minimum state standards for purity, germination and other features. Seed tags and other information may be requested by NRCS representatives to verify contract compliance.
3. Fertilizer and lime applications, when planned, shall be made according to University of Kentucky recommendations based on a soil test analysis performed consistent with University of Kentucky laboratory soil test procedures.
4. Seedbed preparation and seeding shall be done according to the following information.

### Seeding and Seedbed Preparation

**Important: Regardless of the seeding method used, the seeding depth for most species should never exceed 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Native seeds should not exceed 1/4 inch depth. Avoid no-till planting or cultipacking planted seedbeds in wet soil since it may result in placing the seed too deep.**



No-till establishment is the preferred method but any of the methods described below can be used.

Conventional Tillage

A seedbed may be prepared with a plow, disk or other similar implements two or more times to make a clean, firm seedbed. As a general guide, a seedbed is considered firm when footprints leave no more than a half-inch deep depression. Roll or culti-pack immediately prior to and after seeding to ensure good soil-to-seed contact. Seeds are usually broadcast.

Reduced Tillage

A seedbed may be prepared with a chisel, disk or other similar implement that leaves a significant amount of residue on the surface of the soil. Herbicides are normally used to kill existing vegetation prior to tillage. If using a broadcast seeder, roll or culti-pack immediately prior to and after seeding to ensure good soil-to-seed contact. If using a seed drill, rolling and culti-packing are not necessary. Make sure that the depth of seeding is set correctly for the species being planted.

Construction Equipment

A seedbed is usually prepared by earthmoving equipment. Seeds are broadcast and mulch is applied over the

seeds. Then, the earthmoving equipment will press the seed and mulch into the soil with its tracks. This ensures good seed/soil contact and aids in crimping the straw in place.

No Tillage

In no-tillage planting, a seed drill is used to place seed at a prescribed depth (usually between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch below the soil surface) with minimal soil disturbance. Some conventional no-till drills have been retro fitted with a fluffy grass seed box. Two common mistakes when no-till planting cool season grasses include pulling the drill too fast and not stopping to check seeding

depth often enough.

***Operation and Maintenance***

Maintain vegetative cover by excluding livestock, mowing and topdressing with fertilizer when and if necessary. Promptly repair any damaged area before it becomes extensive. **If this conservation practice is being established under a program, follow management requirements as outlined on the program specific operation and maintenance job sheets or as outlined in the Addition Information Section located at the end of this document.**

**Table 1. Species and seeding rates will be according to the information provided in the table below. If planned, the application of fertilizers and soil amendments shall be made according to University of Kentucky fertilizer and lime recommendations (AGR-1). The recommendations must be made from a soil test that is performed according to University of Kentucky laboratory soil test procedures. If no soil test is available follow instruction in “Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky” document located in FOTG. If additional room is needed, make copies of this table and attach it to the back of the job sheet.**

Field No.	Acres	Species	Lbs./Ac Seed (PLS)	Total Lbs. Seed (PLS)	Seeding Method (Conventional or No-Till)	Mulch Lbs/Ac	Seeding Date/s	Lime Ton/Ac	N Lbs/Ac	P205 Lbs/Ac	K2O Lbs/Ac

**Additional Information:**

*Program specific requirements or additional technical recommendations that may apply are as follows:*

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