

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

ME-490



Definition

Treating areas to improve site conditions for establishing a forest.

Purpose

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

Where used

On all lands where establishment of woody plants is desired.

NOTE: The Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) Job Sheet should **always** be used in conjunction with this job sheet.

Considerations

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements of the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to protect any desirable vegetation and cultural resources.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard.

Erosion and/or runoff will be controlled by appropriate erosion control practices.

Soil compaction and displacement will be minimized.

All chemicals will be applied in accordance with label guidelines.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice. "Maine's Best Management Practices for Forestry" by the Maine Forest Service and Erosion Control on Logging Jobs by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) may assist with protecting water resources.

The site preparation method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, water resources, and identified unique areas.

Visual quality objectives should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Anticipate possible off-site effects and modify the site preparation design accordingly.

Consider personnel safety during site preparation activities.

Operation and maintenance

Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. Access by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e., before adequate tree and shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts.

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 ME NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and Specification Guide Sheets for Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, code 490 for specific requirements.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation – Job Sheet

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Name:</i> | <i>County:</i> | <i>Town:</i> |
| <i>Field(s):</i> | <i>Farm #:</i> | <i>Tract #:</i> |
| <i>Designed By:</i> | <i>Approved By:</i> | |
| | <i>Signature:</i> | |
| <i>Date:</i> | <i>Date:</i> | |

| Purpose (check all that apply) | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Permit artificial establishment of woody plants |
| Site Preparation for: (check all that apply) (Refer to ME Standard & Specification Guide Sheet for Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Regeneration after harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Regeneration in undesirable forest or brush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Regeneration for forested wetland restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Regeneration in field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Site Preparation Method (Refer to ME Standard & Specification Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements) | | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------|------|---------|
| Field | Acres | Method ¹ | Date | Remarks |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
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¹Specify method, - Options are:

Chemical - provide product name, strength and amount used, and purpose in remarks column (For recommendations refer to the most recent *New England Guide to Chemical Weed and Brush Control in Christmas Trees*)

Mechanical-hand (girdling or removing the outer bark of vegetation)

Mechanical-machine in Fields-mowing (used for abandoned pasture and cropland)/harrowing, disking or plowing (used for cleared areas, sodded areas and on areas lightly covered with brush)/subsoiling (mainly for white pine regeneration in fields with a plow-caused hardpan soil layer)/bedding (for high water tables, that are not wetlands)

Mechanical-machine in Brush and Woods-logging (disturbs soil)/chopping (used on brush and small tree diameter ≤ 5 inches)/shearing (used on vegetation diameter ≥ 8 inches)/blading (removal of all vegetation using a straight-blade dozer). Usually vegetation is pushed into contour windrows, especially if the area is to be planted by machine. Windrowing is usually an added expense and should be noted in the remarks column.

Prescribed burning – all burns must be conducted by personnel certified for prescribed burning and in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations. **(NRCS does not have this practice in Maine)**

Shelterwood, Seed-tree or Clearcut harvesting systems Refer to ME Standard and Specification 490 for specific requirements.

NEPA requirements met, including ESA & cultural resource assessment? _____ Permits required? _____ Permit No. _____ (if Yes)

COMPLETION/CHECKOUT CERTIFICATION

I have job approval authority and certify this practice has been applied and meets design specifications:

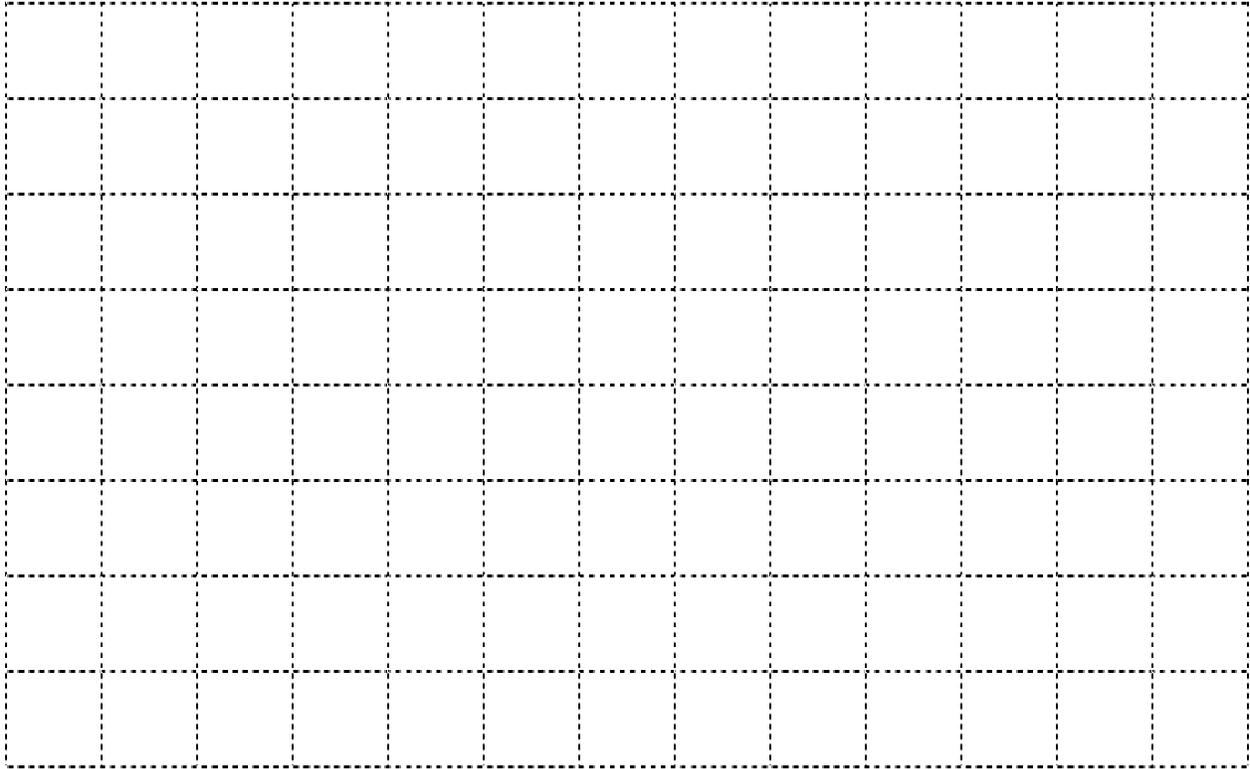
| | | |
|---|-------|--|
| NRCS Representative name and title (type or print): | | |
| NRCS Representative Signature: | Date: | |
| As-Built Notes (include date completed by client, treated acres and describe any changes to original design): | | |
| | | |

Questions regarding tree and shrub site preparation should be directed to [name of technical specialist], at [phone number]

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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: (Indicate from methods table field and acres corresponding to additional notes) |
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