

Conservation Cover

Introduced Grass Planting

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

327

Participant Name

CRP Practice If Applicable

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

This Conservation Cover job sheet will be used in establishing pure stands of introduced grasses and mixed stands of introduced grasses and compatible legumes and/or forbs as part of a conservation plan.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies on land that needs permanent protective cover. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings. (Check program rules to determine if harvesting such as for grazing or hay is allowed).

Establishment Specifications

1. Species, seeding rates, and seeding dates will be according Table 3.
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. Competition control, seedbed preparation and seeding shall be done according to the following information.

Competition Control Before Planting

Competition control is critical to ensuring a good stand of introduced grasses. In most situations this control should begin prior to the seeding and seedbed operations. Either



conventional seedbed preparation or herbicide application/s or both may be used to control competition prior to planting introduced grasses and legumes.

Several steps are required to get successful competition control when using a *herbicide* to eradicate existing vegetation. The first step in killing existing vegetation with herbicides is to remove excessive top growth that may be present. Removal can be accomplished by mowing or grazing the area immediately prior to beginning the recommended herbicide application program. If possible after mowing, remove the hay to allow for better herbicide contact (check program rules to determine if grazing/hay removal is allowed).

The recommended herbicide program may involve a fall application plus a spring application or one or two spring applications. The herbicide applications must be made while the target vegetation is rapidly growing (preferably at a 6 to 8 inch height).

Table 1 and 2 provide suggested herbicide options for controlling competition prior to planting. Two herbicide applications are normally recommended for dense stands of Fescue or other sod forming species and in other areas where competition may not be controlled by one application. Site specific herbicide application information is provided in Table 2.

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. 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 since soil disturbance is minimal, thus reducing weed competition and the risk of soil erosion. Conventional seeding may be used for establishment on areas where weedy competition will be lessened and where the risk of soil erosion is minimal.

Conventional Tillage

A seedbed may be prepared by disking 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.

No Tillage

In no-tillage planting, a seed drill is used to place seed at a prescribed depth (usually between 1/4 and 1/2 inch below the soil surface) with minimal soil disturbance. 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.

Wildlife

Conservation Cover can enhance wildlife objectives. Benefits depend on the vegetative species used and management practiced. Consider using adapted native vegetation that can provide food and cover for important wildlife. Increase width, if needed, to provide necessary protection for nesting animals from predators. Mowing is not allowed between May 15th and August 1st which is the primary nesting season for ground-nesting birds and animals. When managing conservation cover, never disturb (such as mowing or disking) more than 50 percent of the field in any one year.

Operation and Maintenance

After planting, competition control remains an important part of introduced grass establishment for up to two years after planting. To control competition and prevent weed seed formation, introduced grass stands may benefit from top clipping as needed from May through July especially during the establishment period. Post-emergent herbicides may also be used to control competition during the two-year establishment period when recommended by a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) or a Technical Service Provider (TSP). All planted species must be taken into consideration when implementing a herbicide treatment. For example, do **not** use a broad spectrum broadleaf weed herbicide to control ragweed only to kill all the forbs that were planted also!

See the additional information section on page 4 of this job sheet for program specific requirements or additional technical recommendations that may be applicable. Specific job sheets with additional operation and maintenance requirements may also be attached to this job sheet. **If conservation cover 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. This table contains several options for controlling competing grass and weed vegetation with burn down herbicides* prior to planting introduced grasses. Remove excess vegetation prior to application if needed. Apply herbicide after vegetation has re-growth of at least 6 to 8 inches. Two herbicide applications are required for dense stands of Fescue or other sod forming species and in other areas where competition may not be controlled by one application.

Applied	Option	Current Condition (circle one)	Timing	Method
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 (Single Application)	Cropland Or Grassland	Spring (April)	Apply just prior to planting. Herbicide Rate: 2.0 – 3.0 quarts of glyphosate per acre.*
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 (Single Application)	Cropland Or Grassland	Fall (Sept/Oct)	Apply just prior to planting. Herbicide Rate: 1.5 quarts of glyphosate per acre.*
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 (Two Applications)	Grassland	Spring (April)	Apply first application several weeks before planting and the second application should be applied just prior to planting and after 6-8 inches regrowth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Herbicide Application Rate: 2.0 – 3.0 quarts of glyphosate per acre.* • 2nd Herbicide Application Rate: 2.0 pints of glyphosate per acre.*
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 (Two Applications)	Grassland	Fall (Sept/Oct)	Apply first application several weeks before planting and the second application should be applied just prior to planting and after 6-8 inches regrowth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Herbicide Application Rate: 1.5 quarts of glyphosate per acre.* • 2nd Herbicide Application Rate: 2.0 pints of glyphosate per acre.*
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 (Two Applications)	Grassland	Spring (April) And Fall (Sept/Oct)	Spring Herbicide Application Rate: 2.0 – 3.0 quarts of glyphosate per acre.* Fall Herbicide Application Rate: 1.5 quarts of glyphosate per acre.*

* These rates are directly from the University of Kentucky publication "Weed Management In Grass Pastures, Hay Fields, and Other Farmstead Sites" (AGR-172) and based on a 41% a.i. formulation. Specifically, from the *Pasture Renovation or Replacement of Endophyte-Infected Tall Fescue* section. Additional information pertaining to vegetation control can be found in publication AGR-172. Note: Ammonium Sulfate or other additives may be used according to the label.

Table 2. The following table contains information about a planned herbicide application(s) to be carried out as part of the conservation plan for introduced grass/legume plantings. Some herbicide applications will be made prior to planting (pre-planting) to burn down existing vegetation. Other applications may be made after planting (post-planting) to help control competition during establishment. All herbicide products must be used according to label specifications.

Field No.	Option (from Table 1)	Pre-Planting Application (Tentative Date)	Post-Planting Application (Tentative Date)	Comments

Table 3. Species and seeding rates will be according to the information provided in the table below. Soil amendments shall be made according to University of Kentucky fertilizer and lime recommendations. All recommendations must be made from a soil test that is performed according to University of Kentucky laboratory soil test procedures. If additional room is needed on the tables below or above, make copies of this page and attach it to the back of the job sheet.

Field No.	Acres	Species	Lbs./Ac Seed (PLS)* or Seedlings/Ac	Total Lbs. (PLS)*	Seeding Method (Conv./No-Till)	Lime per Soil Test (tons/acre)	N Fertilizer per Soil Test (lbs/acre)	P ₂ O Fertilizer per Soil Test (lbs/acre)	K ₂ O Fertilizer per Soil Test (lbs/acre)	Seeding Date

* Native grass recommendations are made on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) basis.

Additional Information:

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

Certifications

Job Sheet	Prepared by:	Title:	Date:
	Approved by:	Title:	Date:
Installation	Meets NRCS standards and specifications.		
	Certification by:	Title:	Date:
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