



Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Forage and Biomass Planting

Alabama Job Sheet No. AL512B



Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT IS FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

Forage and biomass planting is the establishment of adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

## PURPOSE

- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health
- Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production
- Reduce soil erosion and improve soil and water quality
- Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production

## WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to all lands suitable to the establishment of annual, biennial or perennial species for forage or biomass production.

## ESTABLISHMENT

Follow recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths and dates found in the Forage and Biomass Planting Guide Sheet No. AL512 or those specified by the conservation planner and noted in this job sheet.

Prepare the site to minimize compaction problems.

Apply soil amendments according to current (collected within three years of intended use) soil manure, or organic by-products test results and recommendations developed in accordance with Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) guidance and meet the Nutrient Management conservation practice standard.

Minimize weed pressure prior to planting.

Plant by conventional or conservation tillage methods into a firm seedbed when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.

All seed and planting materials will meet state quality standards and are not on state or federal noxious plant lists.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Monitor growing conditions after planting. Mowing or flash grazing may be needed to control competing grasses and weeds. Only graze after desirable plants have established adequate root systems and soil is firm. Flash grazing will not be used when the soil is wet to avoid damage to young plants from hoof action. Consider primary nesting season for birds (April 1 – July 15) when managing competition. Use approved herbicides, as needed, according to their labels to control competing weeds.

For additional guidance refer to the NRCS conservation practice standard Forage and Biomass Planting (512) and related guide sheets.

<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/AL/tg512.pdf>

## FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING— JOBSHEET

Landowner/Cooperator \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)	
	Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
	Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.
	Improve soil and water quality.
	Reduce soil erosion.
	Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

### Seedbed Preparation Methods (Check all that apply). Document the Field Number and the Number of Times the Practice is to be Conducted in the Field.

Mark Methods Needed	Method	Field Number(S)	Instructions, Check boxes as appropriate.
	Chisel/Subsoil		Chisel/subsoil to fracture hardpan and uproot deep rooted vegetation prior to planting.
	Disk (Harrow)		<input type="checkbox"/> Disk/harrow to break up large clods, control existing vegetation, smooth soil surface, incorporate lime and fertilizer and firm seedbed.
			<input type="checkbox"/> Disk after moldboard plowing to break up large clods, smooth soil surface, incorporate lime and fertilizer and firm seedbed
	Plow		Moldboard plow to turn under existing sod remnants and surface cover.
	Herbicide		<input type="checkbox"/> Apply recommended herbicide(s) to kill existing vegetation for native grass plantings. Refer to <b><i>Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL512A. Planting Native Grasses for Grazing Systems</i></b>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Apply recommended herbicides to kill existing vegetation immediately before planting.
	Prescribed Burn		Prescribe burn to remove excess cover or litter and to control existing small, living vegetation prior to planting.
	Cultipacker		<input type="checkbox"/> Cultipack to firm soil prior to planting. This aids in controlling seeding depth.
			<input type="checkbox"/> Cultipack soil to press seed into soil.

### Seeding Method (Document the Method Used in Each Field)

Field No.	Select Method	Method	Instructions for Planting Within Designated Planting Dates and Under Proper soil Moisture Conditions.
		1)Broadcast	Calibrate and broadcast seed onto the surface of a prepared seedbed, followed by cultipacking.
		2)Conventional	Calibrate and plant into a prepared seedbed at recommended rates and depths.
		3)No-till Drill	Calibrate and plant into existing cover at recommended rates and depths.
		4)Planter	Calibrate and plant using row planters at recommended rates and depths.
		5)Sprigger	Calibrate and plant on properly prepared seedbed at recommended rates and depths.
		6)Native Grass Drill	Calibrate and plant on well prepared seedbed at recommended rates and depths. .

**Site Information - The fields planned for forage and biomass planting are indicated below.**

Field No.	Field Acres	Species	Instructions

**Commonly Planted Perennial Forages**  
**[refer to the Forage and Biomass Planting (512) Conservation Practice Guide sheet]**

Mark Selection(s)	Species*	Method	Seeding Rate Lbs./ac*	Planting Depth (in)	Planting Dates**	Notes
	Bahiagrass	Drill, Broadcast	15 - 20	¼ - ½	<input type="checkbox"/> C - 3/1 – 6/15 <input type="checkbox"/> S - 2/1 – 11/1	Include 45 lb./ac small grain nurse crop for fall plantings. Lower seeding rates for Tift9 and Tifquick varieties. Pensacola, Tift 9, Tifquick and Riata recommended by ACES.
	Common Bermudagrass (hulled)	Drill, Broadcast	5	¼ - ½	<input type="checkbox"/> N - 4/1 – 7/15 <input type="checkbox"/> C - 3/15 – 7/15 <input type="checkbox"/> S - 3/1 – 7/15	
	Dallisgrass	Drill, Broadcast	10 lbs. PLS	¼ - ½	<input type="checkbox"/> N - 3/15 – 7/1 <input type="checkbox"/> C - 3/1 – 7/1 <input type="checkbox"/> S - 2/1 – 7/1	Best adapted to moist sties and Blackbelt soils.
	Hybrid Bermudagrass	Rows Broadcast	30 Bu. 45 Bu.	3 - 6 2 - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> N - 4/1 – 7/15 <input type="checkbox"/> C - 3/15 – 7/15 <input type="checkbox"/> S - 3/1 – 8/15	Use broadcast rates ≤ 24 in. rows.
	Orchardgrass	Drill Broadcast	15	¼ - ½	<input type="checkbox"/> N - 8/1 – 11/15	
	Tall Fescue (fungus friendly)	Drilled Broadcast	20 25	¼ - ½	<input type="checkbox"/> N - 9/1 – 11/1 <input type="checkbox"/> C - 9/1 – 10/15 <input type="checkbox"/> S - 9/15 - 11/15	S: W soils only or MLRA 135 soils
	Alfalfa	Drilled Broadcast	25	¼	<input type="checkbox"/> N - 8/15 – 10/1 <input type="checkbox"/> C - 9/1 – 10/1 <input type="checkbox"/> S - 10/1 - 11/1	
	White Clover	Drill Broadcast	3	¼	<input type="checkbox"/> N or C 9/1 – 10/31 2/1 - 4/1 <input type="checkbox"/> S - 9/15 - 11/15	Regal, Ladino, Intermediates, Must include inoculum
	Other-Identify					

\*Coated Seed: Increase the seeding rate accordingly to account for the added weight from the coating on the seed.

Per Cent PLS = Pure Live Seed (% Purity X % Germination). Divide this number into the recommended seeding rate to determine actual seeding rate. Ex: 98% Purity X 75% = 73.5% PLS. Dallisgrass recommendation is 10 Lbs. PLS recommendation. Based on actual PLS plant 13.6 lbs./ac (10 lbs. PLS / .735 = 13.6 lbs).

\*N= North Area, C= Central Area, S= South Area. Reduce seeding rate by 1/3 for each grass in a mixture.

**Practice Design Certification (To be completed after job sheet is complete and before practice installation)**

The site specific requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice on the client's treatment unit, as recorded in this job sheet, have been prepared in accordance with the 512 Forage and Biomass Planting standard and related guide sheet and in accordance with this job sheet.

**Planner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Landowner/Cooperator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

