

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Arkansas Conservation Practice Job Sheet
Forage and Biomass Planting (512) – Bermudagrass Establishment

Participant Name:	Date:
Program Name:	Contract/Plan:



Forage and Biomass Planting: Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

- Forage and Biomass Planting may be applied for the following purposes:
 - Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
 - Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.
 - Reduce soil erosion.
 - Improve soil and water quality.
 - Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

General Specifications

Tract	Field	Acres	Planting Method ¹	Planting Dates	Seeding Rate ² (PLS per acre)	Planting Depth

¹Broadcast on a Conventional Tilled Seedbed is preferred unless the site has rocky soils or steep terrain;

²Higher rate for broadcast method. Note: The bulk lbs of seed required will be higher if coated seed will be used.

General Guidance:

- ✓ All receipts and a copy of the seed tag must be kept and delivered to the NRCS field office. The receipts and seed tag(s) are required to verify that the planting was completed to specifications.
- ✓ The soil test results must be turned into the NRCS field office. It is encouraged that participants work cooperatively with NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on interpreting the soils test recommendations.

Broadcast on a Conventional-Tilled Seedbed

- 9-12 Months prior to Planting** – Obtain soil samples from the designated field(s). Deliver soil samples to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for processing. Request crop code 131 – Warm-Season Grasses (EST) for Hay Production or crop code 206 Warm Season Grasses (EST) for Pasture.
- 6 Months prior to Planting** – Review soil test results. Apply lime according to soil test recommendations. Make preparations to apply nutrients according to soil test recommendations. Nutrients and soil amendments will be applied according to soil test recommendations. Contact the local NRCS office if you have questions about the application of nutrients.
- 3 Months Prior to Planting** – Review the job sheet to determine how much seed is required to plant to meet specifications. Receive guidance from NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on the variety. Locate dealers who will provide the varieties and make any necessary arrangements. The seeding rate will be on a Pure Live Seed basis. Coated seed will require more bulk seed to meet Pure Live Seed rates. Request technical guidance from NRCS for any clarification.
- 1 Month Prior to Planting** – Remove excessive weeds or vegetative growth. Removal of excessive weeds or vegetative growth can be accomplished by intensive grazing, herbicides, clipping, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods. Use of a non-selective herbicide (e.g. glyphosate) is highly recommended for sod control. Apply 1 month prior to seeding and make a second application the week prior to plowing/disking.
- 1 Week to the Day of Planting** – Plow the designated area 4-6 inches deep. Disk the area 3-4 times to pulverize the soil. It is a general recommendation that phosphorus and potassium is incorporated into the soil during tillage according to soil test. Drag, roll or cultipack the designated area to smooth and firm the soil prior to planting. The ideal seedbed firmness is when an adult's foot-print is approximately one-fourth inch deep into the soil. Contact the local NRCS office to notify the staff that the seedbed preparation is completed.
- Day of Planting** – Calibrate the broadcast spreader according to Cooperative Extension Services FSA-3111, *Calibrating Drills and Broadcast Planters for Small-Seeded Forages*. Broadcast the recommended rate of seed on the tilled area. The designated area should be rolled before and after the seed is broadcasted. Do not broadcast into a loose, soft seedbed. Do not allow livestock to graze this area until the forage is well established.
- Day after Planting** – Notify the local NRCS field office to let them know that the seed has been planted. Make sure the NRCS field office has copies of soils test results, fertilizer/lime receipts, seed receipts, seed tags, and any other relevant documentation.
- 1 Month after Planting** – Evaluate the weed population of the planting. Weeds can be controlled with flash grazing, mowing, or herbicides. Do not allow other vegetative competition to over-shade the bermudagrass seedlings. Be cautious on applying any herbicide to newly planted areas until the bermudagrass begins forming stolons.

No-till Drilling

- 9-12 Months prior to Planting** – Obtain soil samples from the designated field(s). Deliver soil samples to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for processing. Request crop code 131 – Warm-Season Grasses (EST) for Hay Production or crop code 206 Warm Season Grasses (EST) for Pasture.
- 6 Months prior to Planting** – Review soil test results. Apply lime according to soil test recommendations. Make preparations to apply nutrients according to soil test recommendations. Nutrients and soil amendments will be applied according to soils test recommendations. Contact the local NRCS office if you have questions about the application of nutrients.
- 3 Months Prior to Planting** – Review the job sheet to determine how much seed is required to plant to meet specifications. Receive guidance from NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on the variety. Locate dealers who will provide the varieties and make any necessary arrangements. The seeding rate will be on a Pure Live Seed basis. Coated seed will require more bulk seed to meet Pure Live Seed rates. Request technical guidance from NRCS for any clarification.
- 2 Months Prior to Planting** - Since phosphorus and potassium will be surfaced applied and will require longer time leach into the soil, apply these nutrients in advanced time.
- 1 Month Prior to Planting** – Remove excessive weeds or vegetative growth by intensive grazing, clipping, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods. Graze or clip vegetation to a 2-3 inch stubble.
- 2 Weeks Prior to Planting** – Apply non-selective herbicide (e.g. glyphosate) to the designated site for vegetation control. Chemical recommendations and rates can be provided from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.
- 1 Week to the Day of Planting** – Evaluate the effectiveness of the herbicide on the targeted plants. Apply herbicide a second time the week prior to planting. Multiple applications of non-selective herbicide may be needed.
- Day of Planting** – Calibrate the no-till drill according to Cooperative Extension Services FSA-3111, *Calibrating Drills and Broadcast Planters for Small-Seeded Forages*. No-till drill the recommended rate of seed on the prepared site. Do not drill the seed too deep. Do not allow livestock to graze this area until the forage is well established.
- Day after Planting** – Notify the local NRCS field office to let them know that the seed has been planted. Make sure the NRCS field office has copies of soils test results, fertilizer/lime receipts, seed receipts, seed tags, and any other relevant documentation.
- 1 Month after Planting** – Evaluate the weed population of the planting. Weeds can be controlled with flash grazing, mowing, or herbicides. Do not allow other vegetative competition to over-shade the bermudagrass seedlings. Be cautious on applying any herbicide to newly planted areas until the bermudagrass begins forming stolons.