

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Silvopasture Establishment (381)

Silvopasture establishment involves establishing a combination of trees or shrubs, and compatible forages on the same acreage.

Practice Information

Silvopasture systems are specifically designed and managed to produce trees, forage, and livestock on the same acreage. Silvopasture results when forage crops are deliberately introduced or enhanced in a timber production system, or timber crops are deliberately introduced or enhanced in a forage production system.

Silvopasture practices are designed to produce a high-value timber component while providing short-term cash flow from the livestock component. The interactions among timber, forage, and livestock are intensively managed to simultaneously produce useful timber products, quality forages, and profitable livestock operations.

Silvopastures can provide cost-effective economic returns while creating a sustainable system with many environmental benefits such as:

- increased carbon sequestration
- improved water quality
- reduced erosion
- enhanced wildlife habitat
- reduced wildfire hazard
- improved forage and shelter for livestock



Control of competing vegetation is necessary until the trees are fully established. Replanting trees or forage may be necessary to meet objectives. The trees or shrubs will also be protected from wildfire and damage from livestock and wildlife. Periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant vigor.

Common Associated Practices

Silvopasture Establishment (381) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Pasture and Hayland Planting (512), and Prescribed Grazing (528).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.