



# Critical Area Planting

Conservation Practice Job Sheet FL-342-JS

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida

May 2011



Critical areas are those areas where erosion or potential for erosion by wind or water is so high that they cannot be expected to be stabilized by normal conservation practices or management. If left untreated, the sites are or will become severely eroded and/or significant off-site damage is expected due to high sediment loads. Examples of critical areas are dams, dikes, diversions, grassed waterways, mine spoil, levees, cuts, fills, borrow areas, surface-mined areas, road banks, and denuded or gullied areas where vegetation is difficult to establish by usual planting methods.

Rarely does one conservation practice provide the treatment needed for all of our natural resources. Critical area planting is usually a component of a resource management system which is a combination of conservation practices and management that achieves a level of treatment for our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources while also meeting the objectives of the land user.

Specifications for applying this practice need to be prepared for each site and recorded and filed using the approved specification sheets or narrative statements in the conservation plan. The plan needs to include information about the location, construction sequence, vegetation, establishment, and management and maintenance requirements. Minimally, specifications need to include: a) site preparation specifics including type and amount of soil amendments; b) species selection and seeding or planting rates; c) planting dates, care and handling of seed and/or planting material; and d) statement that says only viable, high quality, and regionally adapted seed or planting material will be used.

Plantings need to be managed as long as necessary to stabilize the site and achieve the intended purpose. Sites seeded to suitable species may be grazed after established. See Florida NRCS Critical Area Conservation Practice 342 Guidance and Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Pest Management, Code 595; Nutrient Management, Code 590; Pasture and Hayland Planting, Code 512; Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645, and Tree/ Shrub Establishment, Code 612, for more information.

This practice can be certified by completing applied columns and the certification section on the last page of this document.

**FL- 342 - Site Specific Sheet - 2**

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<b>Land User:</b>		<b>County:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Farm #:</b>		<b>Tract#:</b>		<b>Field(s) #:</b>	
<b>Purpose</b> (check all that apply)					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by water.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore degraded sites that cannot be stabilized through normal methods.				

Layout and Site Preparation	Planned	Applied
<b>Total Area Planted</b> (acres) <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Site Slope</b> (actual or designed) <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Site/Seedbed Preparation Method</b> <sup>3</sup>		
<b>Site/Seedbed Preparation Treatment Date</b>		
<b>Supplemental Nutrients for Establishment</b> (N, P2O5 and K2O lbs/acre)		
<b>Lime</b> (tons/acre)		
<b>Livestock Exclusion is Required</b> <sup>4</sup>		
Additional notes:		

<sup>1</sup> Indicate in additional notes how acreage was determined. If needed, attach an aerial view or a sideview of the practice to this job sheet.

<sup>2</sup> Indicate the estimated or designed site slope. **NOTE:** Machinery should only be operated on slopes flatter than 3:1.

<sup>3</sup> List the site/seedbed preparation method to be used: **Farm Equipment, Heavy Equipment, Hand,** or **Other.** Refer to Florida NRCS Critical Planting Area Guidance for specific instructions

<sup>4</sup> Refer to Florida NRCS Use Exclusion (472) Statement of Work or associated job sheets for more information

**FL- 342 - Site Specific Sheet - 3**

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Planting Information	Planned	Applied
Species for Temporary Cover		
Rate (lbs/acre or plant spacing)		
Temporary Cover Method of Establishment <sup>1</sup>		
Temporary Planting Date		
Species for Permanent Cover		
Mulching <sup>2</sup>		
Rate (lbs/acre or plant spacing)		
Permanent Cover Method of Establishment <sup>1</sup>		
Permanent Planting Date		
Mulching <sup>2</sup>		
Additional notes:		

<sup>1</sup> Identify how the vegetation is to be established: **Hydroseed, No-Till Drill** or **Conventional** (Includes disked or hand established and broadcast methods).

<sup>2</sup> If **Yes**, indicate type of mulch, otherwise **No**.

