

# Tree/Shrub Establishment

## Conservation Practice Job Sheet FL-612-JS

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida

May 2011

In addition to providing timber, pulpwood, and biomass, planting trees and shrubs can help the environment by providing long term erosion control, improving water quality, sequester carbon, provide wildlife habitat, improving or restoring natural diversity, and enhancing the aesthetics. Woody plants can be established on given tracts of land by variety of methods including planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or allowing natural regeneration to occur.

Any area that woody plants would naturally exist could be a site for planting trees and shrubs. Examples would be: woodland, wildlife land, wetlands, coastal areas, rangeland, pastureland, agricultural land, and suburban and urban landscapes.



**Longleaf Pine (photo courtesy of the Longleaf Alliance)**

Tree and shrub establishment is used in conjunction with other conservation management practices to promote and maintain a dynamic and healthy environment. All activities under this practice need to comply with NRCS standards and specifications, which include Florida Division of Forestry BMPs as described in the Florida Division of Forestry's *Silviculture Best Management Practices* ([http://www.fl-dof.com/forest\\_management/bmp/](http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/bmp/)).

Plans and specifications for tree/shrub establishment need to include: (1) Proper selection of vegetation is essential. See Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment 612 Guidance for information regarding suitable tree and shrub species; (2) Follow recommended planting rates, planting dates, and planting depths; (3) Plants will be selected on the basis of species characteristics, site and soil conditions, planned use, maintenance of the treated area, method of planting, time of the year to be planted, and the needs and desires of the land user; (4) Plants that benefit wildlife species are recommended; and (5) Mechanical or hand planting is permitted.

After planting, trees and shrubs, particularly those used in in the windbreak or shelterbelts, will need periodic maintenance and, later on, possible renovation (see Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612, and Tree/Shrub Pruning, Code 660). Supplemental water for successful establishment may be necessary (see Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Irrigation System, Sprinkler, Code 442, and Irrigation System, Microirrigation, Code 441)

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

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_ Field number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Purpose (check all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> forest products such as timber, pulpwood, and energy biomass	<input type="checkbox"/> energy conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> long-term erosion control and improvement of water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> treating waste	<input type="checkbox"/> improving or restoring natural diversity
<input type="checkbox"/> storing carbon in biomass	<input type="checkbox"/> enhancing aesthetics

<b>Planting Recommendations</b>		
	Planned Stand <sup>b,c</sup>	Applied Stand <sup>b,c</sup>
<b>Field Number(s)<sup>a</sup></b>		
<b>Acres</b>		
<b>Species to Plant</b>		
<b>Planting Stock</b> (Seed, Burlapped, Cuttings, Bareroot or Containerized)		
<b>Planting Method</b> (Hand, Machine, or Natural Regeneration)		
<b>Planting Depth</b>		
<b>Stocking Rate or Quantity to Plant</b>		
<b>Planting Date</b>		

<sup>a</sup> Field numbers as designated by the Farm Service Agency, where in effect.

<sup>b</sup> A stand refers to the exact location where trees are to be planted. A stand may cover an entire field, several fields, or a portion of one of more fields.

<sup>c</sup> See the conservation plan map for field and stand locations.

***Temporary Storage Instructions***

Planting stock that is dormant may be stored temporarily in a cooler or protected area. Additional requirements:

***Site Preparation***

Remove debris and control competing vegetation to allow enough spots or sites for planting and planting equipment. Prepare supplemental moisture materials for installation if required by trees and/or shrubs. Additional requirements:

***Planting Methods***

For container and bareroot stock, plant stock to a depth even with the root collar in holes deep and wide enough to fully extend the roots. Pack the soil firmly around each plant. Additional requirements:

