



# Silvopasture Establishment

Georgia Job Sheet - Code 381



## Definition

An agroforestry application establishing a combination of trees or shrubs and compatible forages on the same acreage.

## Establishment

Situations where silvopasture establishment applies includes: 1) pasture where trees or shrubs can be added; 2) forest where forages can be added; 3) land on which neither the desired trees nor forages exist in sufficient quantity to meet the land user's objectives.

Where trees will be added to existing pasture, site preparation should be based on existing vegetation and soil conditions. Refer to the Forest Site Preparation and Tree Planting job sheets for more specific information. Trees should be planted at the recommended spacing and density shown in the table at the end of this document.

For existing forests being converted to silvopasture, thin and/or prune existing trees to reduce canopy cover sufficient for forage establishment and adequate growth. Generally, canopy cover of about 35 percent for warm season grasses, and about 50 percent for cool season grasses, is acceptable. *However, forage and tree species can cause this recommendation to vary.* Consult with NRCS, Georgia Forestry Commission foresters, or private consulting foresters for further assistance. Refer to the Forage and Biomass Planting (512) job sheet for more specific information on forage establishment.

Tree/shrub spacing needs to exceed width of equipment to be used in management.

Use only viable, high quality, and adapted seedlings, and plant at a time and manner to insure survival and growth. Select the forage species best suited for the targeted livestock.

Livestock grazing should be deferred until the average height of the tree's terminal bud exceeds the browsing height of the livestock or of sufficient size to resist breakage. Stored forage can be harvested during this period.

Place tree rows on or near the contour when water erosion is a concern, and use other supporting practices as needed for erosion control.

Locate facilities for water, minerals, or supplemental feed so that livestock are not encouraged to over-utilize areas of silvopasture.

Rows should be oriented in an east-west orientation where feasible and practical to allow maximum sunlight onto grass strips.

Wildlife should be considered when selecting tree or shrub species. Species diversity, including use of native species, should be considered to avoid loss of function due to species-specific pests.

**Operation and Maintenance**

The following are required to ensure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance):

- Follow Prescribed Grazing 528 and Forest Stand Improvement 666 Standards for guidelines of forage and tree management respectively.
- Replanting is required when plant survival is inadequate to meet practice and client objectives.
- Control competing vegetation until the trees and forage are established.
- Plant nutrient application may be needed for establishment and periodically to maintain plant vigor. Refer to Nutrient Management Standard 590 for further guidance.
- Inspect trees and forage periodically and manage any insect pests, diseases or competing vegetation.

**PRACTICE CERTIFICATION**

**Planned by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION**

**Was this practice applied according to NRCS-GA standards and specifications? Y N**

**Acres established:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Forage species and variety:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tree species:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Trees per acre (for pasture to silvopasture):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Percent canopy cover (for forest to silvopasture):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tree arrangement:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information**

The table below can be used to estimate the number of tree seedlings needed when converting pasture to silvopasture,

*(double click on form, then fill in yellow sections as appropriate for specific site recommendations)*

<b>Acres</b>					
<b>Tree Species</b>					
<b>Tree Planting Spacing</b>	<b>In-row Spacing</b>	<b>Tree Row Width</b>	<b>Number of Tree Rows per Set</b>	<b>Grass Strip Width</b>	<b>Trees per acre</b>
					0
<b>Total Tree seedlings needed (Planting)</b>	0				
<b>OR</b>					
<b>Average Tree Spacing - enter a single number (established or to be thinned)</b>			<b>Trees per Acre</b>		
			0		
<b>Comments</b>					

*(when completed, click outside of form area)*

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