



May 6, 2016

## TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IL-315

**Purpose:** To provide notice of revisions to the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). The eFOTG can be accessed through the Illinois home page by clicking on "eFOTG" or at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>.

### Location

### Summary of Changes

#### Section IV.A. Index of Conservation Practices

Index of Conservation Practice Standards –  
Alphabetical

Updated to include new and revised practice standards.

Index of Conservation Practice Standards –  
Numerical

Updated to include new and revised practice standards.

#### Section IV. B. Conservation Practices

Conservation Cover (327) Practice Standard, Job  
Sheet, and Conservation Cover Calculator \_V2.5.

- Soil tests consisting of native grasses and forbs are no longer required.
- Oats may now be used as a companion crop for introduced cool-season grass and legume seedings planned for the late summer seeding period.
- Additional description of the conditions where frost-seeding would be successful and removed the requirement that the seeding rates be increased by 50%.
- Seed rate requirements are now only distinguished based on land slope to address concerns about soil erosion during the establishment period as all seedings are planned and managed to benefit wildlife species.
- Reduced the minimum seeds/ft.<sup>2</sup> for the grass component for native seed mixtures designed for 5 percent or greater land slopes.
- Clarified the minimum requirements for pollinator seed mixtures. For pollinators the revised standard stipulates the use of native forbs and bunch forming grasses.
- Provided additional guidance for managing the succession of existing stands that have become dominated by grasses. The guidance emphasizes the need for disturbance activities on mature native grass stands rather than relying on interseeding alone.

- Additional native forb species were added and in some cases number of seeds per ounce was amended in the practice standard and associated calculator.
- Corrected the moisture regime for several species. Correlated corresponding soil drainage classes to species moisture regime to facilitate proper site selection.
- Updated the job sheet including the functionality and instructions of the embedded spreadsheet.
- The calculator was updated to reflect the changes made to species in Table 3 of the practice standard. The color indicators were removed and a sortable column was added to reflect the bloom period. A sortable column was added to include moisture regime. The reference dates for bloom period was specified in both the practice standard and calculator.

Technical Guide Notice 315 is filed under Section I, "FOTG transmittals" at the FOTG site.



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Attachments

DIST: Illinois NRCS Employees  
Partner