

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION**

(Ac.)

**CODE 490**

**DEFINITION**

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

**PURPOSE**

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On all lands needing treatment to establish trees and/or shrubs.

**CRITERIA**

**General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes**

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements for establishing the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to achieve the intended purpose and to protect desirable vegetation, site, and soil conditions. Other complementary practices and measures will be used as necessary to control erosion, runoff, compaction, and displacement to acceptable levels.

Slash and debris shall be removed, treated or eliminated as appropriate and shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard.

Measures, including the use of equipment, will be implemented to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may

arise from site preparation activities. If pesticides are used, refer to the Conservation Practice Standard 595, Pest Management.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Impacts on wildlife species, habitat and aesthetics should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Particulates, smoke, and other air pollutants generated by site preparation may have on-site and off-site effects on air quality.

The site preparation method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, water resources, and identified unique areas.

Consider cultural resources when planning this practice. This practice may adversely affect cultural resources and should comply with General Manual Title 420, Part 401, during planning, prior to installation, and during maintenance.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

Refer to Kansas Forestry Technical Note KS-9, Tree/Shrub Establishment and Maintenance Guidelines, for information concerning planting site preparation

Planning decisions will be recorded on Form KS-ECS-5, Tree/Shrub Planting.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Maintain erosion control measures as necessary.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to the Conservation Practice Standard 595, Pest Management. All chemicals will be applied in accordance with label guidelines

Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction, and other site impacts. Refer to the Conservation Practice Standard 472, Use Exclusion.