

# Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

## Conservation Practice Job Sheet

**Code 490**



### DEFINITION

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

### PURPOSE

Permit establishment of woody plants.

### CRITERIA

Site preparation is needed if competition from grass, weeds, and/or woody materials will interfere with plant establishment and growth.

Site preparation for tree planting may include mowing, disking, and/or herbicide application. Most often these methods work best when combined (i.e. mechanical and chemical).

Mowing heights should be 8 inches or shorter. Mowing or disking must be done in late summer or fall prior to planting and before any planned herbicide application.

If program rules permit, remove existing vegetative growth prior to herbicide application. If herbicide application is planned, allow at least 4-6 inches of regrowth after mowing prior to applying herbicide to ensure adequate uptake. Herbicide application for burn down purposes should be done when vegetation is actively growing.

If pesticides are used, apply only when needed and handle and dispose of properly. Use within federal, state and local regulations. Follow all label directions and precautions listed on the container.

**NOTE:** *NRCS does not make pesticide recommendations. Landowners should be instructed to read product labels and follow product specifications. Landowners must contact the*

*Kentucky Division of Forestry, KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or the UK Cooperative Extension Service for pesticide recommendations. In addition, NRCS pesticide screening information entitled Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (Win-PST) may be provided if chemical application is planned. This document assesses the environmental risks associated with pesticides. In certain instances additional practices may be planned to mitigate for high risk pesticides.*

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

The area must be protected from fire and destructive grazing.

For riparian sites, leave a minimum 3-foot untreated strip at the edge of the bank or shoreline.

Avoid sites that have had recent application of pesticides harmful to woody species to be planted.

### CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

Visual quality objectives should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Anticipate possible off-site effects and modify the site preparation design accordingly.

Consider planting in prepared ridges in wet areas.

### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Practice areas should be checked periodically, but especially in the first three to six months to see if additional control of competition is needed to ensure survival of desired vegetation.

Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. Access by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e., before adequate tree and shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts.

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### SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See the conservation practice standard for Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, code 490 for specific requirements. Information in this job sheet is considered part of the conservation plan.

Client:		Date:	
Field(s):	Farm #:	Tract #:	Acres:
Designed By:	CRP Practice (If applicable)		Other Program (If applicable)

Purpose	
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct seeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Planting
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree and Shrub Establishment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Site Preparation Method				
Field	Acres	Method <sup>1</sup>	Planned Date	WinPST Report Attached

Specify method <sup>1</sup> - Options are:

<b>Chemical</b>	<b>NRCS does not make pesticide recommendations. Contact the local office of the Kentucky Division of Forestry or the UK Cooperative Extension Service for assistance.</b> Clients should request the product name, strength and amount used. All chemicals must be applied in accordance with label guidelines. If product name is known identify in the Additional Notes section of this document.
<b>Hand</b>	<b>Cutting</b> - may be needed for sites with undesirable brush, see Brush Management, 340, if applicable. <b>Scalping</b> - used in areas of heavy sod, especially fescue, or weed cover. An area 36 inches in diameter should be cleared with subsequent plant placement in the center of the scalped area.
<b>Mechanical</b>	<b>Mowing</b> - used for abandoned pasture and cropland <b>Harrowing, Disking, Tilling or Plowing</b> - used for cleared areas, sodded areas and on areas lightly covered with brush. These operations must expose at least 60% of the soil surface. <b>Furrowing</b> - used in areas too rocky for planting machines, not to be used in areas with heavy clay soils and high water tables. <b>Bedding</b> - used in areas with high water tables, that are not wetlands. <b>Bush Hogging or Blading</b> - removal of all vegetation using a brushhog or straight-blade dozer.

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If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

### Operation and Maintenance

Maintain erosion control measures as necessary. Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation must be controlled to minimize erosion and compaction. Practice areas should be checked periodically, but especially in the first three to six months after planting to see if additional control of competition is needed to insure the survival of desired vegetation. Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. **Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements:**

### Additional Specifications and Notes (if any):

### Certifications

<b>Job Sheet</b>	Prepared by:	Title:	Date:
	Approved by:	Title:	Date:
<b>Installation</b>	<b>Meets NRCS Standards and Specifications</b>		
	Certification by:	Title:	Date:

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