



Hedgerow Planting - 422

Massachusetts Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Client:	Farm #:	Tract #:
Planned By:	Date:	



DEFINITION

Establishment of dense vegetation in a linear design to achieve a natural resource conservation purpose.

PURPOSE

Hedgerows are established for a variety of purposes, including: habitat for wildlife, pollinators and other beneficial insects; interception of dust, chemical drift and odor; to increase carbon storage; living fences and boundary delineation; and to improve the appearance of the landscape.

WHERE USED

Hedgerow plantings are used on a variety of settings such as cropland, pasture, along roads and boundaries, adjacent to farmsteads and feedlots, and in urban areas.

HEDGEROW CRITERIA

Hedgerows shall be established using woody plants. Species selected shall be appropriate for the plant hardiness zone and the soil and site conditions. Species on the [Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List](#) shall not be planted.

HEDGEROW CONSIDERATIONS

Hedgerows containing a mixture of native shrubs and small trees provide the greatest environmental benefits. Consider the amount of shading a hedgerow will provide at maturity, as shading may impact microclimate, aesthetics, and the growth of adjacent plants. Plant species that spread by root suckers may expand beyond the desired treatment area and could require more operation and maintenance.

Hedgerows established for wildlife purposes should include at least two compatible species of native vegetation in order to increase food and habitat diversity. Additionally, they should be wide enough to provide good travel corridors and to reduce the effectiveness of predators. Hedgerows for wildlife should have a minimum width of 15 feet; however, wider corridors accommodate more wildlife use.

Hedgerows established for pollinator habitat should include multiple species with differing bloom periods (i.e., early spring through fall), and the plantings should be protected from pesticide drift.

SPECIFICATIONS

Site specific requirements designed to meet your objectives and resource concerns are shown on the following pages. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard for Hedgerow Planting (422).

Permits - The client is responsible for obtaining and complying with all applicable Federal, State, and local permits or approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of this conservation practice.

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Planting Methods (check appropriate method to be used)

Bare Root Seedlings and Small Containerized Stock:

- Bare-root seedlings and small containerized stock shall be planted in the spring after the ground thaws and before their buds open.
- Tree and shrub seedlings may be planted by hand using a planting bar, mattock, shovel or spade.
- Plant seedlings vertically with the root collars equal to or up to one inch below the soil surface.
- When planting bare root seedlings, the planting hole should be deep and wide enough to spread the roots out in a natural, uncurled position.
- Firmly pack the soil around the seedlings to eliminate air pockets. Water thoroughly immediately after planting and during dry periods during the first growing season.
- Additional Requirements:

Balled and Burlapped and Large Containerized Stock:

- Ideally, B&B and large containerized stock should be planted in early spring; however, if irrigation is available, and mulch will be applied, they can be planted up until early summer. Deciduous species can also be planted in early fall. (Note: Fall planting of conifers is often unsuccessful thus should be avoided).
- Dig a hole 2 -3 times as wide as the root spread and at the depth of or slightly shallower than the root ball. Roughen the sides and bottom of the hole to allow the roots to more easily penetrate the soil.
- Remove all twine and/or wires, and open or pull back the top of the burlap. Completely remove plastic liners or synthetic burlap, if present.
- Plant the stock vertically with the top of the root ball ½ to 1 inch above the surrounding soil.
- Firm soil when backfilling the hole in order to eliminate air pockets, but do not over compact. Form a temporary water basin around the base to encourage water penetration to the root ball.
- Water thoroughly immediately after planting and during dry periods during the first growing season. For very large trees, water whenever weekly precipitation is less than 1 inch during the first growing season.
- Additional Requirements:

Additional requirements:

Operation and Maintenance (check all that apply):

Weed Control – Control competing vegetation until planting is well established and able to out-perform competing vegetation. Vegetation shall be controlled in an 18 inch band along each side of a row or in a minimum 2 foot diameter circle around each plant. Weed control will be accomplished through: *(check applicable method)*

- *Mulching* – Refer to conservation practice standard 612 – Mulching – for specific requirements.
- *Cultivation* – Mechanical or hand cultivation should be kept at least 6 inches from the young plant and should be no deeper than 3 inches to avoid damaging the plant. Hand weeding can be done to control weeds within 6 inches of the young plant, if needed.
- *Herbicide* – herbicide can be utilized but care should be taken to ensure that spray is kept well away from the planted stock.

Replanting will be required when survival is inadequate.

Supplemental water will be provided as needed.

Pest Control- The trees/shrubs will be inspected periodically and protected from adverse impacts including insects, diseases, fire, and damage from livestock or wildlife.

Thin or prune the hedgerow to maintain its function. When renovation is needed, cutback a maximum of 1/3rd of the hedgerow at a time, allowing regrowth before doing the next section.

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___ *Additional O & M Requirements:*

Provide a map (may be attached) showing the location of the proposed practice and practice components.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Salon P.R and C.F. Miller, 2012. [A Guide to Conservation Plantings on Critical Areas for the Northeast](#), USDA, NRCS, Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Corning, NY

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

- 1) Complete the 'applied' sections of the Hedgerow Layout and Plant Material Information tables.
- 2) Modify the practice location map if applicable.
- 3) Complete the following certification statement:

*I certify that the installation ___meets___ **does not meet** NRCS standards and specifications and is ___in compliance___ **not in compliance** with any permits as applicable.*

Inspector

Date Inspected

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