

FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 512



FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

Establish adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay or biomass production.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice may be applied on all lands suitable for the establishment of annual, biennial or perennial species for forage or biomass production.

This practice is used for on or more of the following purposes:

1. Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
2. Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.
3. Reduce soil erosion.
4. Improve soil and water quality.
5. Provide feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

Plant species recommendations for this practice are based on the following considerations:

1. Climatic conditions such as annual rainfall, growing season days, humidity, and temperature extremes.
2. Soil and landscape position attributes such as pH, available water holding capacity, aspect, slope, drainage class, etc.
3. Plant resistance to pests common to the site.
4. Period of growth (cool vs. warm season)

Recommended species, seeding dates, seeding rates, seedbed preparation requirements, planting methods, and other technical requirements are provided in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

The following page identifies the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

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