

# Tree/Shrub Establishment

## Conservation Practice Job Sheet

**ME-612**



Supplemental water as well as periodic applications of nutrients maybe needed to maintain plant health and vigor. Trees and/or shrubs can eventually become crowded slowing their growth and the growth, survival and composition of understory species. As the plants mature, periodic harvesting of some of the overstory trees and shrubs becomes an important activity for maintaining plant health and productivity.

## Considerations

When underplanting, trees should be planted sufficiently in advance of overstory removal to ensure full establishment.

Use locally adapted seed, seedlings or cuttings. Priority will be given to plant materials that have been selected and tested in tree/shrub improvement programs. All plant materials should comply with the minimum standards, established by the American Nursery and Landscape Association, 1250 I Street Northwest, Suite 500, Washington, DC.

Plans for landscape and beautification plantings should consider foliage color, season and color of flowering, and mature plant height and width. Where multiple species are available to accomplish the planned objective, consideration should be given to selecting species which best meet wildlife needs. Tree/shrub arrangement and spacing should allow for and anticipate the need for future access lanes for purposes of stand management.

Residual chemical carryover should be evaluated prior to planting. Species considered locally invasive or noxious should not be used. Species used to treat waste should have fast growth characteristics, extensive root systems, capable of high nutrient uptake, and may produce wood/fiber products in short rotations. For optimal carbon storage, select plant species that are adapted to the site to assure strong health and vigor and plant the full stocking rate for the site.

## Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the ME NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and Specification Guide Sheets for Tree/Shrub Establishment, code 612 and Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, code 490 for specific requirements.

## Definition

Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings, cuttings, direct seeding or natural regeneration.

## Purpose

To establish woody plants for forest products, wildlife habitat, long-term erosion control and improvement of water quality, treat waste, reduction of air pollution, sequestration of carbon, energy conservation, to maintain or restore natural genetic diversity and enhance aesthetics.

## Where used

Establish trees/shrubs on any area where woody plants can be grown.

**NOTE:** The Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490) Job Sheet should **always** be used in conjunction with this job sheet.

## Operation and maintenance

Replace dead and dying woody species in newly established plantings. To maintain a planting, excessive water flows and erosion must be controlled upslope of the planted area. New plantings must be protected from grazing during the establishment (prescribed grazing, use exclusion) period, as well as fire and pests, including insects, diseases, competing vegetation and animals (deer, beaver and mice).



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<b>Temporary Storage Instructions (Refer to ME Standard and Specification 612)</b>		
<p><i>Planting stock that is dormant may be stored temporarily in a cooler or cool, moist, darkened area up to 3 days. For more than 3 days or for stock that is expected to begin growth before planting, dig a V-shaped trench (healing-in-bed) sufficiently deep and bury seedlings so that all roots are covered by soil. Pack the soil firmly and water thoroughly. Additional requirements:</i></p>		
<p><b>Site Preparation: Complete ME Job Sheet 490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation</b></p>		
<b>Planting Method (Refer to ME Standard and Specification 612)</b>		
	<b>Hand</b>	<b>Machine (circle and indicate amount)</b>
<p><i>For container and bareroot stock, plant stock to a depth even with the root collar in holes deep and wide enough to fully extend the roots. Pack the soil firmly around each plant. Cuttings are inserted in moist soil with at least 2 to 3 buds showing above ground. Plants will be established prior to <b>May 30</b> unless containerized seedlings are used or plants will be watered. Additional requirements or special planting instructions:</i></p>		
<b>Cultural Practices (Refer to ME Standard and Specification 612 for specific requirements)</b>		
<p><i>Pest Management is required. Weed control is necessary, either by mechanical cutting, herbiciding or mulching for at least 2 years after planting.</i></p>		
<p><i>Vegetation Mat-Size _____ # _____      Tree Shelter-Size _____ # _____</i></p>		
<p><i>Mulch- coverage _____ # _____      Other _____</i></p>		
<p>Additional requirements:</p>		
<b>Operation and Maintenance</b>		
<p><i>The planted area must be inspected periodically and protected from damage so proper function is maintained. Replace dead or dying tree/shrub stock to provide adequate plant densities as described in the 612 standard and continue control of competing vegetation to allow proper establishment for at least 2 years. Periodic harvesting of trees and shrubs may be necessary to maintain the health and vigor of mature stands. Keep large dead and dying trees for cavity nesting birds and a source of large wood in aquatic habitats. Additional requirements:</i></p>		

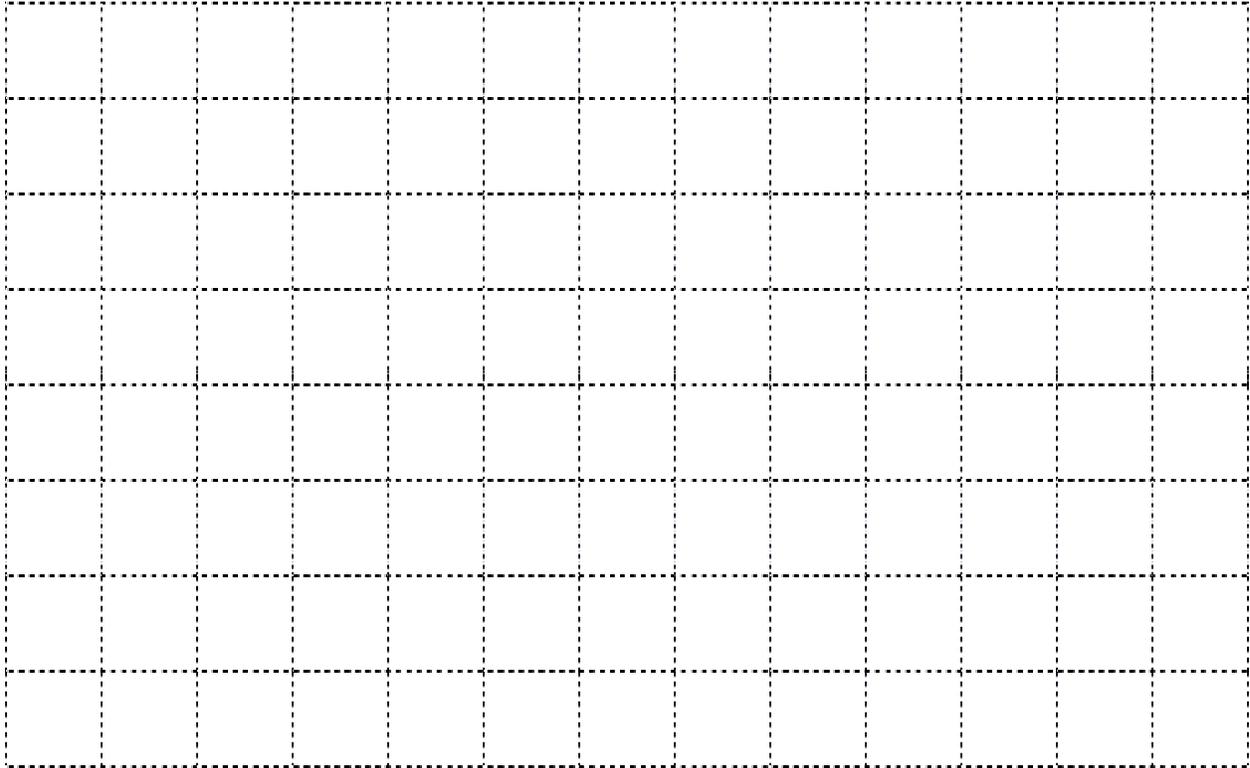
<b>COMPLETION/CHECKOUT CERTIFICATION</b>		
I have job approval authority and certify this practice as applied meets NRCS Standards and Specifications:		
NRCS Representative name and title (type or print):		
NRCS Representative Signature:		Date:
As-Built Notes (include date completed by client, treated acres and describe any changes to original design):		

Questions regarding the planting or maintenance of the tree/shrub establishment should be directed to [name of technical specialist], at [phone number].

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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.

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



### Additional Specifications and Notes:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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### LANDOWNER/OPERATOR ACKNOWLEDGES:

- a. They have received a copy of the specifications and understand the contents including the scope and location of the practice.
- b. They have obtained all necessary permits and/or rights in advance of practice application, and will comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- c. No changes will be made in the installation of the job without prior concurrence of the NRCS.
- d. Maintenance of the installed work is necessary for proper performance during the life of the practice. The practice life is \_\_\_\_\_.

I have reviewed all specifications and agree to install as specified:

Landowner/operator name and title (type or print):		
Landowner/operator Signature:		Date: