

REFERENCES ON VEGETATIVE COVER FOR  
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM  
PRACTICES  
OF THE 45th SIGN-UP

May 2013

**MISSISSIPPI REFERENCES FOR  
NATIONAL RANKING FACTOR N1-Subfactor (a) - WILDLIFE HABITAT COVER MATRIX**

Only those covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer shall be allowed. Eligible species and planting rates and dates for cover by practice are listed in Table 1-CRP Eligible Plants and eligible species for tree planting are listed in Table 2-CRP Eligible Trees.

<b>Practice 1/</b>	<b>Assigned Point Score</b>
<b>CP1 Permanent introduced grasses and legumes.</b>	
<p><b>Existing stand of one to three species or planting new stand of two to three species of an introduced grass species. 2/</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to Table 1 – CRP Eligible Plants for species, planting rates and dates <u>and</u> job sheet MS-CRP-327-02(JS), “Establishing Perennial Introduced Grasses and Legumes for CP1”, for site preparation and planting methods guidelines. Complete specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE).</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to “Certification of Plant Species, CP1 and CP2 Grass Already Established.”</p>	10
<b>CP2 Establishment of permanent native grasses and legumes.</b>	
<p><b>Existing stand (minimum of one to three species) or planting a mixed stand of a minimum of three species (at least 2 native grasses and at least one legume or forb species beneficial to wildlife).</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to Table 1 – CRP Eligible Plants for species, planting rates and dates <u>and</u> job sheet MS-ECS-327-01(JS), “Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses and Mixtures” for site prep and planting methods. Complete specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE).</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to “Certification of Plant Species, CP1 and CP2 Grass Already Established.”</p>	20
<p><b>Existing stand or planting a mixed stand of a minimum of five species (at least 3 native grasses and at least one legume, forb, or shrub species best suited for wildlife in the area).</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to Table 1 – CRP Eligible Plants for species, planting rates and dates <u>and</u> job sheet MS-ECS-327-01(JS), “Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses and Mixtures” for site prep and planting methods. Complete specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE).</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to “Certification of Plant Species, CP1 and CP2 Grass Already Established.”</p>	50
<b>CP3 Tree planting. (general)</b>	
<p><b>Solid stand of pine/softwood (existing or planted at rates based on Site Specific Index recommended by a qualified forester).</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan for site preparation methods, species to be planted, and planting rates, methods and dates. Also refer to Table 2 – CRP Eligible Trees for eligible species.</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan.</p>	10
<p><b>Pines/softwoods (existing or planted at rates based on Site Specific Index recommended by a qualified forester) with 10 to 20 % openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover. 3/</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan for site preparation methods, species to be planted, and planting rates, methods and dates. Also refer to Table 2 – CRP Eligible Trees for eligible species.</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan. Creation of openings and tree thinning if required or recommended by a MFC Forester, must be completed within 3 years of the CRP-1 effective date. Trees must be removed from the site. <b>For “openings”, in either planted or existing trees</b> refer to job sheet, MS-CRP-03(JS), and “Certification of Plant Species, Natural Regeneration of Openings for CP3, Tree Planting and Trees Already Established”, as appropriate. Consult a wildlife biologist for planting openings. Complete specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE), for planted openings.</p> <p>Openings must be a minimum of 2 ac. up to a maximum of 5 ac. in size for fields of 20 acres and larger. For smaller fields, size will be based upon percentage. Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with NRCS technical standards.</p>	50

**MISSISSIPPI REFERENCES FOR  
NATIONAL RANKING FACTOR N1-Subfactor (a) - WILDLIFE HABITAT COVER MATRIX  
(continued)**

Practice <u>1/</u>	Assigned Point Score
<b>CP3A Hardwood, tree planting.</b>	
<p><b>Existing or planting solid stand of non-preferred mast producing species.</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan for site preparation methods, species to be planted, and planting rates, methods and dates. Also refer to Table 2 – CRP Eligible Trees for eligible species.</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan.</p>	10
<p><b>Existing or planting solid stand of a single <u>native</u> hard mast producing species.</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan for site preparation methods, species to be planted, and planting rates, methods and dates. Also refer to Table 2 – CRP Eligible Trees for eligible species.</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan.</p>	20
<p><b>Existing or planting mixed stand of preferred mast producing hardwoods (minimum of 2 species with at least 1 <u>native</u> hard mast producing species) best suited for wildlife.</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan for site preparation methods, species to be planted, and planting rates, methods and dates. Also refer to Table 2 – CRP Eligible Trees for eligible species.</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan.</p>	30
<p><b>Existing or planting mixed stand of preferred mast producing hardwood species (3 or more species, with at least 2 <u>native</u> hard mast producing species) best suited for wildlife.</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan for site preparation methods, species to be planted, and planting rates, methods and dates. Also refer to Table 2 – CRP Eligible Trees for eligible species.</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan.</p>	50
<p><b>Existing or planting stand of Longleaf pine planted at rates appropriate for the site index.</b></p> <p><b>Planting:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan for site preparation methods, species to be planted, and planting rates, methods and dates. Also refer to Table 2 – CRP Eligible Trees for eligible species.</p> <p><b>Existing:</b> Refer to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Forest Prescription Plan.</p>	50
<b>CP4B Permanent wildlife habitat (corridors), noneasement AND CP4D Permanent wildlife habitat, noneasement.</b>	
<p><b>Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of 4 species) of either grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area.</b> Only those covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer shall be allowed. Eligible species, planting rates and dates for cover are listed in Table 1- CRP Eligible Plants and eligible species for tree planting are listed in Table 2-CRP Eligible Trees. Complete specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE). A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant in consultation with a qualified wildlife biologist.</p>	40
<p><b>Existing stand or planting stand of predominately native species (minimum of 5 species) of either of these including: grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat for species in the area. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized for and shall not be included in cover mixes for 50-point N1a scores for CP4B or CP4D.</b> Only those covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer shall be allowed. Eligible species and planting rates and dates for cover are listed in Table 1-CRP Eligible Plants and eligible species for tree planting are listed in Table 2-CRP Eligible Trees. Complete specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE). A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant in consultation with a qualified wildlife biologist.</p>	50

**MISSISSIPPI REFERENCES FOR  
NATIONAL RANKING FACTOR N1-Subfactor (a) - WILDLIFE HABITAT COVER MATRIX  
(continued)**

Practice <u>1</u> /	Assigned Point Score
<b>CP12 Wildlife food plot.</b>	
<b>Wildlife food plots are small non-cost-shared plantings in a larger area. Wildlife food plots will never be the predominate cover.</b> Refer to the “CRP Wildlife Food Plots (CP12) Job Sheet, MS-CRP-CP12-01(JS).”	NA
<b>CP42 Pollinator Habitat</b>	
<b>Existing stand or Planting (minimum of 0.5 acres) of a diverse mix of multiple species suited for pollinators.</b> Plant to a <b>mixture of (as a minimum) nine pollinator friendly plant species of forbs, legumes, vines, and/or shrubs, including at least three early, three mid, and three late flowering species.</b> Refer to job sheet, MS-CRP-647-01(JS), “CRP Pollinator Habitat”. Also refer to attached specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE) for species mixtures, planting methods, and planting rates for seeds and/or seedlings per acre.	50

- 1/** Cover that is existing or will be established must accomplish the purpose of the practice. To receive credit for additional species, at least 10% of the mixed stand must be composed of each additional species in CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, openings of CP3, and CP42, (Mixtures – by planting rate or Area – by percentage of field).
- 2/** Bermudagrass and fescue are allowed only for the 10-point category of new or re-enrolled CP1. These species are not recommended cover for wildlife but do provide suitable soil protection.
- 3/** Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with NRCS technical standards, and has been concurred with by State FWS or USFWS. Cost share is not authorized for natural regeneration.

**TABLE 1  
CRP - ELIGIBLE PLANTS  
MISSISSIPPI**

**INTRODUCED GRASSES**

Species	Minimum Units Per Acre <u>1/</u>	Planting Dates
<b>(ONLY CP1-10 PTS. )</b>		
Tall Fescue	20 Lbs.	Sep-Nov
*Common Bermudagrass	5 Lbs.	Mar-May
<b>(CP1-10 PTS., CP4B-40 PTS., &amp; CP4D-40 PTS.)</b>		
*Bahagrass	15-25 Lbs.	Mar-May <u>2/</u>
Dallisgrass	15 Lbs. PLS <u>3/</u>	Feb-May <u>2/</u>

**NATIVE GRASSES**

Species	Minimum Units Per Acre <u>1/</u>	Planting Dates
<b>(CP2, CP4B, CP4D, OPENINGS OF CP3)</b>		
Big Bluestem	5.5 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Indiangrass	4.5 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Switchgrass	4.5 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Little Bluestem	5.0 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
**Other:		

**Note - The Mississippi Planting Guide, June 1999, recommends that minimum planting rates for native grass species should be doubled for critical area plantings.**

**LEGUMES**

Species <u>4/</u>	Minimum Units Per Acre <u>1/</u>	Planting Dates
<b>(CP1-10 PTS., CP2, CP4B, CP4D, OPENINGS OF CP3)</b>		
White Clover	3 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Red Clover	8-12 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Ball Clover	3 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Lespedeza, Common	30 Lbs.	Mar-Apr
Lespedeza, Kobe	30 Lbs.	Mar-Apr
Arrowleaf Clover	10-15 Lbs. <u>5/</u>	Sep-Oct 15
Crimson Clover	20 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Hairy or Woolly Pod Vetch	30 Lbs.	Sep-Oct
Wild Winter Peas (Rough Peas)	30 Lbs.	Sep-Oct
Partridge Pea	6 Lbs.	Feb-May 15
Beggarweed	10-15 Lbs.	Apr-May
Joint Vetch	20 Lbs.	Mar-June
**Other:		

**TABLE 1**  
**CRP - ELIGIBLE PLANTS**  
**MISSISSIPPI**  
**(Continued)**

**SHRUBS 6/  
(CP2, CP4B, CP4D, OPENINGS OF CP3)**

(Planting Dates for Plants: November 15 - March 15)

Species	Spacing***	Approximate Plants/Acre
American Beautyberry	6' x 6'	1200
Native Blueberries ( <i>Vaccinium</i> spp., ex.: highbush blueberry)	6' x 6'	1200
Chokeberry (black and red)	8' x 8'	700
Crabapple	10' x 10'	450
Deerberry	6' x 6'	1200
Native Dogwoods ( <i>Cornus</i> spp., ex.: Rough Leaf Dogwood)	8' x 8'	700
Eastern Red Cedar	10' x 10'	450
Elderberry	8' x 8'	700
Hawthorn spp.	6' x 6'	1200
Native Hollies ( <i>Ilex</i> spp., ex.: Deciduous Holly)	8' x 8'	700
Huckleberry	6' x 6'	1200
Pawpaw	8' x 8'	700
Sassafras	10' x 10'	450
Serviceberry	8' x 8'	700
Sumac	8' x 8'	700
Viburnum spp.	6' x 6'	1200
Native Plums ( <i>Prunus</i> spp., ex.: Chickasaw)	8' x 8'	700
**Other:		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**TABLE 1  
CRP - ELIGIBLE PLANTS  
MISSISSIPPI  
(Continued)**

**FORBS 6/ 7/  
(CP2, CP4B, CP4D, OPENINGS OF CP3)**

(Planting Dates for Plants: November 15 - March 15)

Species	Spacing***	Approximate Plants/Acre
Native Blackberries ( <i>Rubus</i> spp.)	6' x 6'	1200
Pokeweed	6' x 6'	1200
Wild Grapes	10' x 10'	450
Wildflowers: Black-eyed Susan Clasping Coneflower Plains Coreopsis Lyre-leaf Sage	2.0 LBS    6.0 LBS	Planting Dates: August to September   Planting Dates: August to September
**Other:		

**1/** Use 60% of recommended rate when planting a mixture of 2-3 species.  
Use 30% of recommended rate when planting a mixture of 4 or more species.  
Where seeding ranges are given, use the low seeding rate when drilled. Use higher rates when broadcast. Also low seeding rates or a small reduction in general agricultural seeding rates may be desirable for wildlife use.

**2/** If planted in a mixture with a legume, plant from September to October.

**3/** PLS - Pure Live Seed

**4/** Inoculate legumes with the appropriate inoculate for the species.

**5/** Seed should be scarified.

**6/** Shrubs/forbs to be planted in corridors/strips to comprise at least 10% of the area.

**7/** For additional aesthetic and wildlife benefits, 0.5 pounds of wildflower seeds may be added to native grass and wildlife mixtures.

**\*This plant may have an invasive nature. Caution should be exercised when using this plant.**

\*\*Due to the wide variety of geographical areas and plants species which might be suitable for wildlife this listing may be incomplete. However, other species added must be approved by qualified wildlife biologists before they can be used.

\*\*\*Spacing may vary slightly depending on intended wildlife uses (cover vs. food), consult with a qualified wildlife biologist.

**TABLE 1-A  
CRP - EXAMPLE NATIVE GRASS & WILDLIFE MIXTURES 1/**

<b>Species</b>	<b>PLS/Ac <u>2/</u></b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>PLS/Ac <u>2/</u></b>
<b>Example for Wildlife and Grassland Nesting Birds <u>1/</u></b>		<b>Example for Critical Area / Additional Erosion Control</b>	
Little Bluestem	1.5 – 3.0	Switchgrass	2.0
Big Bluestem	0.5 - 1.5	Indiangrass	1.0 - 2.0
Indiangrass	0.5 - 1.5	Big Bluestem	1.0 - 2.0
(Total NWSG's)	4.0 – 6.0	Little Bluestem	3.0 - 4.0
Partridge Pea	4.0*	(Total NWSG's)	8.0 – 10.0
Kobe Lespedeza	12.0*	Partridge Pea	4.0*
		Kobe Lespedeza	12.0*

1/ For additional aesthetic and wildlife benefits, 0.5 pounds of wildflower seeds may be added to the mixture.  
2/ Pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS) planted per acre.  
Note:  
\*Seeding Rates for Partridge Pea and Kobe Lespedeza are listed in pounds per acre not PLS.

*Note: Consult a qualified natural resources professional to select appropriate rates, species and cultivars/varieties of available NWSG seed and forbs that best fit objectives.*

**Recommended Native Warm Season Grass Varieties for Mississippi  
(bold varieties indicate proven performance at sites in Mississippi)**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Varieties or Cultivars</b>
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	<b>Kaw, Earl</b> , Pawnee, Rountree
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	<b>Aldous</b> , Cimmaron, Camper, Blaze
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	<b>Lometa, Osage</b> , Americus, Cheyenne, Rumsey
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	<b>Alamo</b> , Blackwell, Pathfinder

**Other Native Forbs and Legumes Recommended for Mississippi**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Soil adaptation**</b>
Wild bergamont	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	broadleaf forb	L, M, H
Oxeye	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	broadleaf forb	L, M, H
Blazing star	<i>Liatris spp.</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Purple cone flower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Coneflowers	<i>Radtibida spp.</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Compass plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i> and other <i>Silphium spp.</i>	broadleaf forb	H
Maximilian sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Common sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Narrow leaved sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	broadleaf forb	L, M
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	broadleaf forb	M, H
Blackeyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	broadleaf forb	L, M, H
Illinois bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	legume	H
Florida beggarweed	<i>Desmodium tortuosum</i>	legume	L, M, H
Smooth ticktrefoil	<i>Desmodium laevigatum</i>	legume	L, M, H
Stiff ticktrefoil	<i>Desmodium obtusum</i>	legume	L, M, H
Partridge pea (Lark)	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	legume	L, M, H
Roundhead lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	legume	L, M, H
Slender lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza virginica</i>	legume	L, M, H
White prairie clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	legume	H
Purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	legume	H
White indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	legume	L, M

\*\* L = Light soils include dry, sandy soils; M = Medium soils are well-drained loam and clay soils; H = Heavy soils are moderately- to poorly-drained, heavy clay soils (prairie or Delta soils)

**TABLE 2  
CRP - ELIGIBLE TREES  
MISSISSIPPI**

**Pine**

**(CP3, CP4B, CP4D)**

Loblolly  
Slash

**(CP3A, CP4B and CP4D)**

Longleaf

**Hardwood**

**(CP3A, CP4B, CP4D)**

Preferred Hard Mast Producing

Preferred Soft Mast Producing

Non Preferred

Cherrybark Oak  
Chinkapin Oak  
Northern Red Oak  
Nuttall Oak  
Overcup Oak  
Pin Oak  
Sawtooth Oak (non-native)  
Scarlet Oak  
Shumard Oak  
Southern Red Oak  
Swamp White Oak  
Swamp Chestnut Oak  
Water Oak  
White Oak  
Willow Oak  
Black Cherry  
Black Walnut  
Chinese Chestnut (non-native)  
Hickory  
Pecan <sup>1</sup>

Black Gum  
Dogwood  
Hackberry (Sugarberry)  
Mulberry  
Persimmon  
Plum  
Sassafras  
Native Crabapple

Basswood  
Cottonwood  
Bald Cypress  
Green Ash  
Sweet Gum  
Sycamore  
Yellow Poplar

1 - No commercial varieties of pecans planted in an orchard fashion are allowed under CRP.