



## Hedgerow Planting (ACRE) Code 422

### Montana Conservation Practice Specification Sheet

#### GENERAL SPECIFICATION

Hedgerow Planting shall be planned and installed in accordance with the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, Practice Standard. This document provides additional parameters, references, recommendations, and requirements for developing site-specific plans for this practice.

#### PURPOSE

This practice Standard, Hedgerow Planting (Code 422) is a buffer and boundary practice using any combination of trees, shrubs, and/or tall, stiff-stemmed grasses to achieve the intended purpose(s).



See Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380), Range Planting (Code 550), and Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512), specifications and job sheets, as appropriate, to implement this practice.

#### WILDLIFE FOOD, COVER, and TRAVEL CORRIDORS

**A minimum of two native tree, shrub, and/or grass species are required for this practice.** In addition to the two required native species, introduced plants may also be used if appropriate for the intended purpose. **Minimum hedgerow width**—measured from the outside edge of the mature vegetation on the left side of the hedgerow to the outside edge of the mature vegetation on the right—is **15 feet**. When winter cover is required for the target wildlife species, at least one of the trees or shrubs will be an evergreen such as Rocky Mountain juniper, ponderosa pine, or limber pine—Colorado blue spruce could be used if at least two native species are also included in the planting.

The tree, shrub, or grass species planted, and the planting configuration should be based on a NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (or other approved equivalent) assessment which identifies the limiting habitat element(s) for the target wildlife species.

In cases where a woody hedgerow planting will likely cause excessive nest parasitism and/or predation on ground-nesting birds—based on communication with a wildlife biologist—use only tall, stiff-stemmed grasses such as basin wildrye or tall wheatgrass in the design (use tall wheatgrass only if two other native plant species also are used). This scenario may frequently occur in expansive grassland landscapes that lack woody vegetation.

**WILDLIFE FOOD, COVER, and TRAVEL CORRIDORS CONTINUED**

When wildlife habitat is a purpose, attempt to establish the widest hedgerow possible under the circumstances and which meets the purposes of the Hedgerow Planting practice—linear, buffer/border configurations. See FOTG, Section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications, Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380) for general spacing guidelines for tree and shrub plantings. In appropriate settings, a twin-row, high-density configuration may be used as an alternative design. Long-term control of herbaceous competition will comply with the practice specification for Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380), when the hedgerow planting involves trees and shrubs.

**WATER QUALITY**

When sediment trapping is an objective of the hedgerow design, at least part of the planting shall include tall grasses in order to provide an optimum interruption of overland water flow.

**OPERATION and MAINTENANCE**

The Hedgerow Planting plan shall include written documentation of the operation and maintenance plan, which addresses the concerns listed in the practice standard. **The primary nesting season for birds is April 15 through August 1 for this practice.**

**ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS AND NOTES**

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