

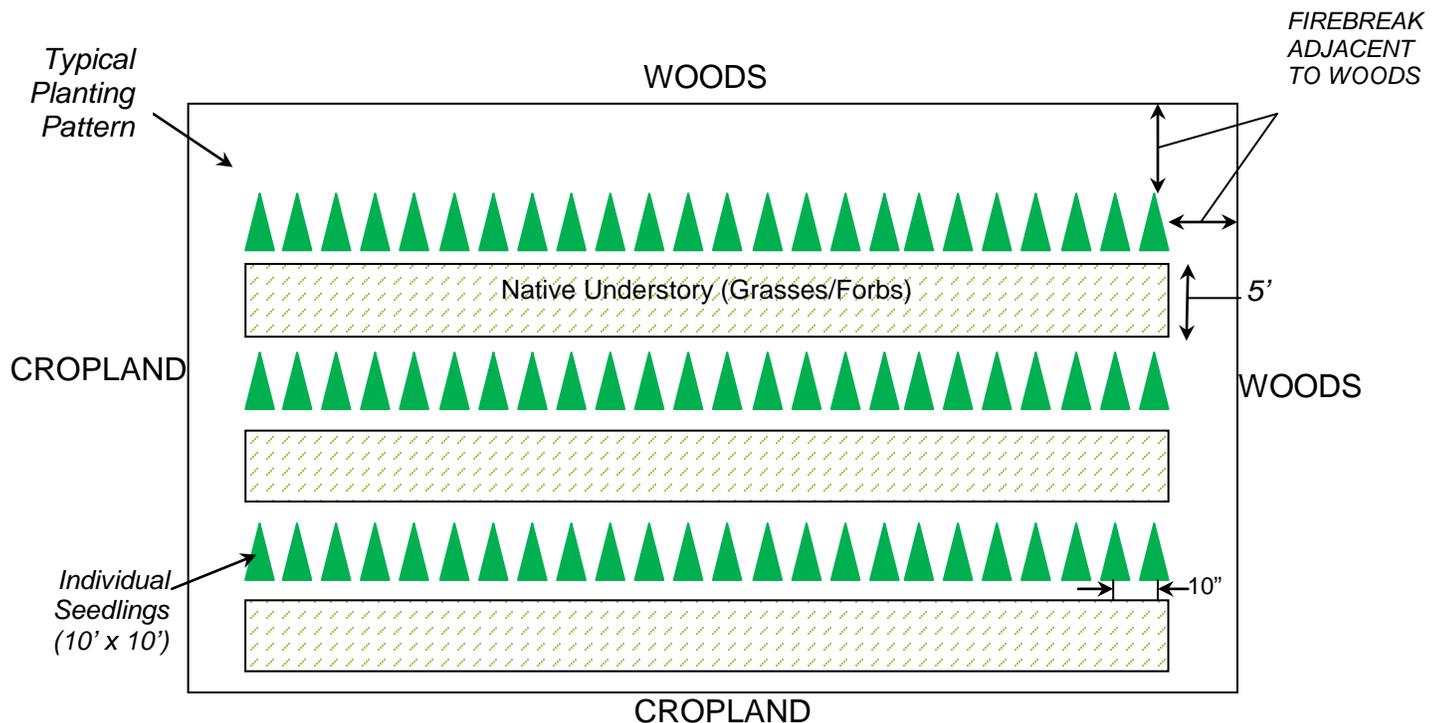
PLANTING GUIDANCE FOR FIELDS ENROLLED IN CRP CP-36 WHERE UNDERSTORY ESTABLISHMENT IS CONTRACTED

Correct use of the sample 10' x 10' planting spacing below will result in an average of 435 longleaf seedlings per acre. Site conditions and other factors may result in the need or desire to plant with alternate spacing. For example, utilizing furrowing for site preparation may deposit clods of soil within areas to be planted to native vegetation, or understory planting equipment may be too wide to pass through a longleaf stand planted on 10 foot row spacing. In instances such as these, consider 8' x 12' spacing. In addition to facilitating implementation, this will also reduce the number of passes made for site preparation when either ripping or furrowing is prescribed.

Disking and mowing within the planted area is not allowed other than to facilitate establishment of cover and would not typically be planned beyond year 3 of any contract.

Native warm season grasses and forbs will be planted within 2 years of CRP-1 effective date. Established understory must provide wildlife benefits and fuel for prescribed burns.

Firebreaks are required to facilitate prescribed burning and protect trees from catastrophic wildfire. Firebreaks should be disked as instructed in the CP36 Job Sheet.



Schedule of Operations:

For each acre of land enrolled in CP36, the Schedule of Operations should include 1 acre Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) and 0.5 acre Early Successional Habitat Development & Management (647). Site preparation (490) as well as Management practices including Prescribed Burning (338) will be included as described in the Conservation Plan. Maintenance practices, although non-cost share, will be included in both the Conservation Plan and Schedule of Operations.

Figure 1 (below, left): Drilling seed between established rows of LLP. This can be accomplished simultaneously with tree establishment or can be delayed to ensure competition control has been successful.



Figure 2 (below, right): Wiregrass and Indian grass established on harvested row following a third row thinning. This would be ideal for those areas that have existing LLP established under CP36 or CP3A that are being enrolled under a new CRP contract and understory vegetation is not sufficient.



Figure 3 (left): artificial regeneration of trees on existing cropland. Understory vegetation should be established between rows of trees with seed drill, broadcast seed spreader or hand planting of sprigs/seedlings.

Understory Species Selection:

Understory vegetation should consist of low growing, native warm season grasses and forbs such as wiregrass, little bluestem, broom sedge, etc as defined in 2-CRP and other state developed criteria. Tall growing species and varieties (i.e. – gamagrass, switchgrass & showy partridge pea) should be avoided due to their potential to generate high fuel loads that could cause seedlings and saplings to be destroyed during prescribed burning or outcompete and overtop longleaf seedlings while in the grass stage. Annual species are permitted early in the life of the contract to address soil erosion and to create fuel that will support prescribed fire when other fuel sources are not yet present.