



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 1458  
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May 26, 2010

## TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE ND-122

This notice transmits revisions to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) as follows:

### Section I:

- *Guidelines for Cost Share on Engineering Practice Components – FY2010* has been posted to FOTG – Section I – Cost Data.

### Section I – Reference Subjects subfolders have been revised as follows:

- Biology - Added *WHC/NRCS Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflets* link, which contains information leaflets developed by NRCS and the Wildlife Habitat Council
- For easier access, the *Herbaceous Vegetation Establishment Guide* has been posted as a stand-alone document in Section I – Reference Subjects subfolder. The changes have been marked with a straight line in the left-hand column of the document on the attachment to this FOTG Notice. Listed below are the major changes.
  - Wyoming big sagebrush and false sunflower have been added to Table 1.
  - Guidance on cover and companion crops has been expanded and reference to the Cover Crop specification has been added.
  - Table 2 has been updated to reflect new varieties.
  - Links to reference web sites have been updated.
- *Technical Service Providers (TSP)* - This is a new section that contains information on the roles and responsibilities for engineering technical assistance to USDA program participants as follows:
  - NRCS-CPA-70, Permission To Access Program Participant NRCS National Conservation Planning (NCP) Database Information For Technical Service Providers (TSP) Form
  - Introduction to the Sources
  - Source 1 – NRCS Workforce
  - Source 2 – Architect-Engineer (A&E) Services Contractor
  - Source 3 – Technical Service Provider (TSP) Using Technical Assistant Funds in USDA Program Contract
  - Source 4 – USDA Program Participant Hires a Private Professional Engineer and Pays Them Using Their Own Funds
  - 102 CNMP Plan Approval – Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)
- Water Quality, Quantity, and Local Resources – links have been added or updated.
- Windbreaks and Woodland

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- *Planting Trees in North Dakota Prairies* has been added under USDA-NRCS Technical References section.
- The *Tree and Shrub Characteristics* document has been revised :
  - by adding a column listing the value of each tree and shrub species to pollinators.
  - web links have been added to access fact sheets or release notices for many of the varieties listed in the document.
  - Ohio Buckeye, Black Cherry, Black Currant, Gray Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, American Hazel, Pekin Lilac, and Aromatic Sumac have been added.
- Added *Additions, Deletions, and Modifications to Approved Species List in ND* which lists seven additional species (Black Cherry, American Black Currant, Gray Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, Ohio Buckeye, Pekin Lilac, American Hazel) in conservation plantings on a case-by-case basis, i.e., (after receipt and approval of a variance request).

## Section II:

- Climatic Data subfolder now has a Web-link to *AgACIS* which contains climatic data for various sites in ND from ca. 1970 to 1999; precipitation actual daily amounts, daily and monthly averages; temperature daily highs, lows, and averages.
- *Expected 20-Year Tree Heights and Windbreak Suitability Group Descriptions*, located in the Windbreaks and Forest subfolder, has been revised:
  - Aspen has been removed from WSG-3
  - Amur Honeysuckle, Manchurian Ash, Black Ash have been removed from the technical guide
  - Ohio Buckeye, Black Cherry, Black Currant, Gray Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, American Hazel, Pekin Lilac, and Aromatic Sumac have been added

## Section IV:

*North Dakota ecological and engineering staff made the decision to discontinue the use of "Design and Installation Guide" in describing North Dakota requirements to a specific conservation practice. The Field Office Technical Guide will revert back to the name "specification" when associated with a conservation practice. This will be implemented as conservation practices are updated; all conservation practices located in the Field Office Technical Guide that are not currently being updated will be globally renamed by August 2009. This decision was made to coincide with the terminology used in all codes of federal regulations applicable to this agency.*

### Section IV – Conservation Practices subsection

- *512 – Pasture and Hayland Planting Specification* has been revised as follows:
  - Smooth brome grass has been removed from the 512 specification. Pasture or hayland plantings **planned after the date of this technical guide notice** which contain smooth brome grass will no longer meet the 512 specification.
  - Smooth brome grass will still be allowable in Critical Area Plantings (342).
  - Species compatibility for switchgrass (Table 1) has been revised.
  - Guidance on seeding saline/sodic soils has been revised.

- *Prescribed Grazing Specification* - 528 regarding “changing season of use” has been revised for both rangeland and seeded special use pastures. Appendix B has been updated to include a link to, and background information on, the Drought Calculator.
- *Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment Specification* - 548 and job sheet *ND-CPA-548 Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment* have been posted to FOTG - Section IV – Conservation Practices subfolder.
- *Planting Trees in North Dakota Prairies* has added to Section IV – Conservation Practices – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – 645.
- *Seasonal High Tunnel Systems for Crops* – 798 (*Interim*) has been added per National Bulletin 190-10-12. The revised standard, fact sheet, conservation practice job sheet, and NRCS report for conservation practice 798 has been posted to FOTG - Section IV – Conservation Practices subfolder – Seasonal High Tunnel Systems for Crops – 798 (*Interim*).
- The following Engineering Construction Specifications have been added to the Conservation Practices subfolder:
  - Pipeline – ND-516
  - Pond (Excavated) ND-378
  - Spring Development – ND-574
  - Watering Facility – ND-614
  - ND-1 – Grassed Waterway (412)
  - ND-2 – Terrace (600)
  - ND-3 – Diversion (362)
  - ND-4 – Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
  - ND-9 – Pond (Embankment) (378)

#### **Section IV – Forms**

- A new form, *ND-ENG-003 - 5% Engineering Spot Check Record And Report*, is located in Section IV – Forms
- *ND-CPA-9, Planning or Data Sheet for Grass and/or Legume Seeding* formatting has been revised, and big sage and false sunflower have been added to the species list.
- Due to the update of the Microsoft Office products on the range tool is no longer operating correctly. The linkage between ToolKit/ArcGIS and the GRASS Bundle range tool has been broken and needs to be re-established. This tool was created by South Dakota NRCS and the linkage issue is being addressed by them. When the tool is fixed, it will be re-issued to each field office. The stand-alone version of the GRASS Bundle has been posted to the FOTG – Section IV – Forms subfolder.

#### **Section IV – Fact Sheets**

- *Damaging Our Trees Fact Sheet* has been added to FOTG – Section IV – Fact Sheets and is also linked in Section IV – Conservation Practices – for Riparian Forest Buffer – 391, Tree and Shrub Establishment – 612, Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment – 380, and Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation – 650. The fact sheet is linked in Section I – Reference Subjects – Windbreaks and Woodland file under NRCS – Fact Sheets. This fact sheet spotlights forms of human-induced damage to trees and

suggested preventative or corrective actions. It was developed as a handout for landowners, especially those with ranchettes or smaller suburban plantings.

Questions concerning engineering practice components may be directed to Jill Helmuth, Agricultural Engineer, at (701) 530-2086 or [jill.helmuth@nd.usda.gov](mailto:jill.helmuth@nd.usda.gov). Questions regarding the Seasonal High Tunnel Systems may be directed to Ted Alme, Agronomist, at (701) 530-2079 or [ted.alme@nd.usda.gov](mailto:ted.alme@nd.usda.gov). Question regarding the Herbaceous Vegetative Establishment Guide, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Prescribed Grazing, or Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment may be directed to Jeff Printz, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (701) 530/2080 or [jeff.printz@nd.usda.gov](mailto:jeff.printz@nd.usda.gov). Questions regarding the Expected 20-Year Tree Heights and Windbreak Suitability Group Descriptions may be directed to Craig Stange, State Forester, at (701) 530-2082 or [craig.stange@nd.usda.gov](mailto:craig.stange@nd.usda.gov).

/s/

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Distribution: All FOTG Holders