



**Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT24 – Crop tree release in young hardwood stands**

**State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)**

A copy of a forest management plan that contains a management objective and outlines specific management actions pertaining to this enhancement must be provided to NRCS to support this enhancement. The plan must include a plan map which delineates areas to be treated. Consultation with a Nebraska Forest Service forester or NRCS staff with adequate job approval authority in Forest Stand Improvement is recommended to develop or review the forest management plan.

**Additional Criteria for Nebraska**

Spacing criteria are outlined in 666-DP Forest Stand Improvement Design Procedures for Nebraska. Basic criteria for hardwood stands is noted below.

- For stands under a 6-inch diameter, thin to 12 feet. One general rule-of-thumb for hardwood stands is to leave 5 feet to 8 feet of open space in at least two sides of the crown of the remaining trees. For black walnut stands, allow 10 feet growing space between crowns.
- Another method if the stand is uniform in diameter is the “diameter-times-two” rule. With this method, the average diameter in inches is multiplied by two; this is the number of feet to leave between the stems of the remaining trees.

Methods used to kill undesired trees and leave standing to create snags is acceptable to meet overall stocking density. This may include girdling, frilling with herbicide or basal herbicide treatments.

Treatments involving tree removal should not occur during the primary nesting period for migratory birds (April 1 to July 15) with consideration for early or late nesting species (i.e. raptors).

**Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)**

**Additional State Documentation Requirements**

Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning			To be completed by Producer during certification		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Tract	Field	Acres Planned	Acres Applied	Management Activities Applied	Date Completed
<i>EX. T1001</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Thinning (no harvest) Identify snags to be retained Evaluate mast-producing trees</i>	<i>11/15/2015 04/15/2016 04/30/2016</i>

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-3 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 4-6 PRODUCER COMPLETES



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-PLT24 2015 Ranking Period 1

**I certify that the enhancement criteria have been met and the required documentation provided to NRCS for review.**

1. A copy of the forest management plan or similar document that identifies required elements.
2. Map showing where treatments were applied (highlighted, outlined, etc.).
3. Documentation of completed management activity, as required. – (COMPLETE TABLE ABOVE)
4. Representative digital images of the area showing before and after photos of the area that was treated.

**Certified by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_