

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

NJ-490



Definition

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and shrubs.

Purpose

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

Where

Used on all lands where establishment of woody plants is desired and practical.

NOTE: The Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) Job Sheet should **always** be used in conjunction with this job sheet.

Considerations

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements of the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to achieve the intended purpose and to protect any desirable vegetation, site and soil conditions. Other complementary practices and measures will be used as necessary to control erosion, runoff, compaction and displacement to acceptable levels.

Slash and debris shall be removed, treated or eliminated as appropriate.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard. Refer to the standard Prescribed Burning, 338, for slash and debris that will be burned.

Measures, including the use of equipment, will be implemented to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. If pesticides are used, refer to the standards Brush Management 314 and Herbaceous Weed Control 315. Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice including New Jersey Forestry and Wetland Best Management Practices Manual.

Impacts on wildlife species, habitat and aesthetics should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Particulates, smoke, and other air pollutants generated by site preparation may have on-site and off-site effects on air quality.

Operation and maintenance

Maintain erosion control measures as necessary.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to the standards Brush Management 314 and Herbaceous Weed Control 315.

Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Refer to the standard Access Control, 472.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NJ NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and Supplemental Specifications for Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, code 490 for specific requirements.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation – Job Sheet

<i>For:</i>	<i>Farm #:</i>
<i>Field(s):</i>	<i>Tract #:</i>
<i>Designed By:</i>	<i>Approved By:</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>Signature:</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>Date:</i>

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit artificial establishment of woody plants
Site Preparation for: (check all that apply) (Refer to NJ Standard & Specification Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Regeneration after harvest	<input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Regeneration in undesirable forest or brush
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Regeneration for forested wetland restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Regeneration in field
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Site Preparation Method (Refer to NJ Standard & Specification Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements)				
Field	Acres	Method ¹	Date	Remarks

¹Specify method, - Options are:

Chemical - provide product name, strength and amount used, and purpose in remarks column (For recommendations refer to the most recent Rutgers or Penn State Cooperative Extension guidance.

Mechanical-hand (girdling or removing the outer bark of vegetation)

Mechanical-machine in Fields-mowing (used for abandoned pasture and cropland)/harrowing, disking or plowing (used for cleared areas, sodded areas and on areas lightly covered with brush)/subsoiling (mainly for white pine regeneration in fields with a plow-caused hardpan soil layer)/bedding (for high water tables, that are not wetlands)

Mechanical-machine in Brush and Woods-logging (disturbs soil)/chopping (used on brush and small tree diameter ≤ 5 inches)/shearing (used on vegetation diameter ≥ 8 inches)/blading (removal of all vegetation using a straight-blade dozer). Usually vegetation is pushed into contour windrows, especially if the area is to be planted by machine. Windrowing is usually an added expense and should be noted in the remarks column.

Prescribed burning – all burns must be conducted by personnel certified for prescribed burning and in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations.

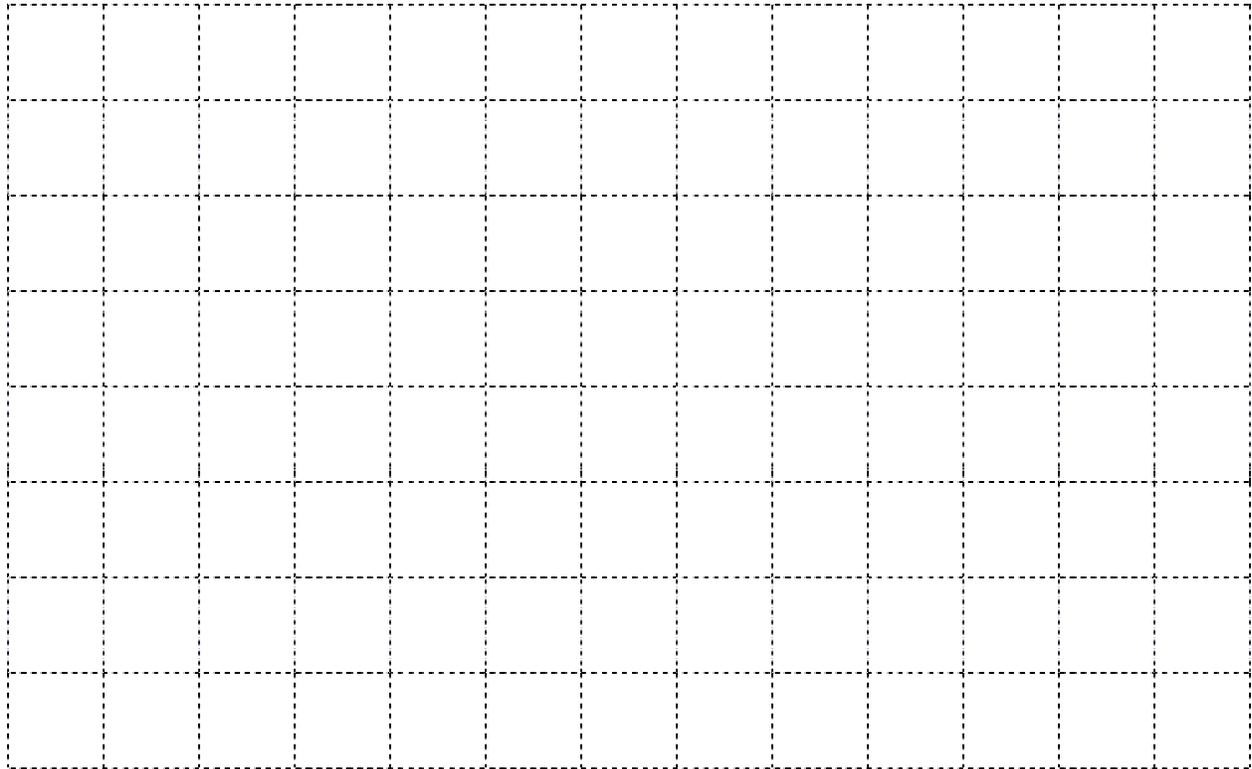
Shelterwood, Seed-tree or Clearcut harvesting systems Refer to NJ Standard and Specification 490 for specific requirements.

NEPA requirements met, including cultural resource assessment? _____	Permits required? _____	Permit No. _____ (if Yes)
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If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



Additional Specifications and Notes: (Indicate from methods table field and acres corresponding to additional notes)

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Practice Checkout:

Amount completed: _____ units

Mark as-built location on plan map and attach photos.

Remarks _____

This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications

Yes

No

Check out completed by: _____ Date: _____

Certified by: _____ Date: _____