

# Conservation Cover (Non-CRP)

*Conservation Practice Job Sheet*

(Code 327)



<b>For:</b>	<b>Farm #:</b>
<b>Field(s):</b>	<b>Tract #:</b>

**Definition**

Establishing and maintaining perennial vegetative cover to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production.

**Purpose** (Check all Planned Purposes)

- Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation.
- Enhance wildlife habitat.
- Improve water quality

**Where Used**

This practice applies on land to be retired from agricultural production requiring permanent protective cover, and on other lands needing permanent protective cover. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings.



**Sketch or Map of Area Planned for Conservation Cover**

**Conservation Cover (Non-CRP)****Conservation Practice Job Sheet****(Code 327)****Establishment**

Planning the establishment requires a determination of the field's capabilities and limitations, how the seeding will be made, when the seeding will be made, what species will be seeded, and the purpose of the cover. Consider the field's past history when planning the seeding/cover (prior crops, herbicide treatments, etc.). A temporary cover may be needed if herbicide carryover is a concern.

Accurate seeding rates are critical to a good seeding establishment. The following procedure can be used to calibrate your drill:

**Drill Calibration - Bulk Weight of Seed Method.**

- a) Jack up the drive wheel end of the drill and measure the circumference (C) of the drive wheel in feet. Make a mark on the side of the tire as a reference point.
- b) Measure or record the spacing in "inches" between the drill row/openers.
- c) Use the following chart to determine the number of "Revolutions (R)" to turn the drive wheel based on the row/opener spacing and the number of openers to collect seed.

Row Spacing (Inches)	No. Of Openers To Collect	Drive Wheel Revolutions (R)
6	4	$96/C = R$
7	4	$82/C = R$
8	3	$96/C = R$
10	3	$77/C = R$
12	2	$96/C = R$

- d) Put enough seed in the seed box to cover the number of openers required (2, 3, or 4) and turn the drive wheel until the seed is feeding uniformly. Put a tarp or container under each opener to catch the seed.
- e) Collect the seed from the appropriate number of openers by placing a container under each spout and turn the drive wheel the number of revolutions "R" already determined.
- f) Combine the collected seed and weigh it in grams. Multiply the weight in grams by 0.5 to determine the pounds per acre being delivered at that drill setting.
- g) Adjust the drill setting and repeat the measurements until the desired seeding rate is obtained. Insure the bulk rate delivers the desired pounds of "Pure Live Seed" (PLS). To determine the desired bulk rate use the following procedure:
  - (1) Determine the Bulk Rate Conversion Factor (CF):  $(CF) = 100/PLS\%$
  - (2) Multiply  $CF \times PLS \text{ Pounds/Acre} = \text{Bulk Pounds/Acre}$

Example: The drill has a 7 inch row spacing and a drive wheel (C) = 6.8 feet. The desired seeding rate is 15.1 pounds per acre. From the table we determine 4 spouts are required and the number of "R" =  $82/6.8 = 12$ . The seed collected from 4 spouts with 12 revolutions was 30 grams.  $30 \text{ grams} \times 0.5 = 15 \text{ pounds}$  of seed per acre.

# Conservation Cover (Non-CRP)

## Conservation Practice Job Sheet

(Code 327)

### **For Warm Season Grass Establishment:**

**Overview:** Seeding warm season grasses (Switchgrass, Bluestems, Indiangrass, Eastern Gamagrass, Sideoats Grama, & Forbs) is not as simple as the traditional seeding of our cool season grasses and legumes (timothy, orchardgrass, alfalfa, fescue, etc.). Seeding warm season grasses requires some different management practices and PATIENCE to successfully get established.

Some warm season grass seed (Bluestems, Indiangrass) have seed appendages (awns) that restricts the movement of seed through conventional drills. Alternatives to deal with this problem include: (1) use a specially designed native grass drill; (2) have the seed "debearded" (awns removed); or (3) broadcast the seed/fertilizer mix with an "air flow" fertilizer spreader.

**Management the Seeding Year.** The goal the seeding year is to reduce the shade pressure that weeds can exert on the warm season grass seedlings. Using a sickle bar mower or a rotary type mower clip the vegetation no shorter than 6 inches.

Archived  
Valid September 2012 - August 2015

**Conservation Cover (Non-CRP)****Conservation Practice Job Sheet****(Code 327)****Specifications**

See the attached specifications sheet prepared for your field(s). The specifications are prepared in accordance with NJ Field Office Technical Guide practice standard 327.

Establish a Temporary Cover using @ Lbs/Ac Seeded (Specify Dates)

**Permanent Seeding:**

Seeding Mixture #1	Field(s)	Acres	Seeding Mixture #2	Field(s)	Acres
Species (Include Nurse Crop if Needed)			Species (Include Nurse Crop if Needed)		
#1		Lbs/Ac PLS	#1		Lbs/Ac PLS
#2		Lbs/Ac PLS	#2		Lbs/Ac PLS
#3		Lbs/Ac PLS	#3		Lbs/Ac PLS
#4		Lbs/Ac PLS	#4		Lbs/Ac PLS
Lime		Tons/Ac	Lime		Tons/Ac
Nitrogen		Lbs/Ac	Nitrogen		Lbs/Ac
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>		Lbs/AC	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>		Lbs/AC
K <sub>2</sub> O		Lbs/Ac	K <sub>2</sub> O		Lbs/Ac
Seeding Dates			Seeding Dates		
Seeding Mixture #3	Field(s)	Acres	Seeding Mixture #4	Field(s)	Acres
Species (Include Nurse Crop if Needed)			Species (Include Nurse Crop if Needed)		
#1		Lbs/Ac PLS	#1		Lbs/Ac PLS
#2		Lbs/Ac PLS	#2		Lbs/Ac PLS
#3		Lbs/Ac PLS	#3		Lbs/Ac PLS
#4		Lbs/Ac PLS	#4		Lbs/Ac PLS
Lime		Tons/Ac	Lime		Tons/Ac
Nitrogen		Lbs/Ac	Nitrogen		Lbs/Ac
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>		Lbs/AC	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>		Lbs/AC
K <sub>2</sub> O		Lbs/Ac	K <sub>2</sub> O		Lbs/Ac
Seeding Dates			Seeding Dates		

**Site Preparation and Planting**

No Till Method is Planned:

**Preparing No Till Seedbeds. (Assumes a smooth soil surface)**

- Previous Crop was a Row Crop.** Use a nonselective burndown herbicide according to Rutgers Cooperative Extension recommendations to control existing vegetation. Plant using a drill designed for no till seeding.
- Previous Crop Existing Sod.** Burndown existing sod according to Rutgers Cooperative Extension recommendations in September or early October the Fall prior to the planned establishment. Apply a second application of burndown herbicide just before seeding. Follow all label directions when applying herbicides.
- Calibrate drill and seed ¼ inch deep (warm season grasses) and ¼ to ½ inch deep for cool season grasses and legumes with a drill designed for no till seeding.**

# Conservation Cover (Non-CRP)

## Conservation Practice Job Sheet

(Code 327)

### The Following Conventional Seeding Method is Planned:

**Preparing Conventionally Tilled Seedbeds.** A firm seedbed is important when seeding grasses and legumes. Initial tillage (plow, chisel, disc) should begin at least a month prior to seeding. About 2 weeks should be planned between initial tillage and final seedbed preparation to allow the weeds to germinate and be killed by the final seedbed preparation. A nonselective herbicide can be used prior to seeding to control weeds, especially the perennial weeds. The final seedbed should be cultipacked until firm enough to leave footprints only 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep.

**Drill Seeding: Calibrate drill and seed ¼ inch deep (warm season grasses) and ¼ to ½ inch deep for cool season grasses and legumes.**

(Or)

**Broadcast Seeding Procedure.** Employ the use of an "air-flow distribution" fertilizer applicator. This has been the only broadcast method found to deliver a uniform seeding distribution. Mix the grass and/or legume seed with a fertilizer of a P2O5 and K2O to be applied at a rate according to soil test. Apply the seed and fertilizer the same day that it is mixed. Drag/harrow and cultipack once or twice after broadcast seeding to achieve seed coverage and seed-to-soil contact.

### Conservation Cover Operation and Maintenance:

#### Stand Evaluation.

**The Second Evaluation** should be made in late summer of the seeding year to evaluate stand adequacy based on density of established plants. An average of at least 2-4 strong seedlings per square foot should be the minimum acceptable stand.

**The Final Evaluation** should be made during the early summer of the second year. If an average of 2 healthy plants are found per square foot, a successful stand and cover should be accomplished.

### Operation and Maintenance Seeding Year:

#### Spring Seedings:

- (1) Mow, clip, or spray (using labeled materials) anytime during the growing season to control weeds, insects, and other undesirable species.
- (2) Do not mow shorter than 4 inches for cool season grasses and legumes and no shorter than 6-8 for warm season grasses.
- (3) Do not mow more than once per month

#### Summer Seeding:

Do not mow seedings made in August/September until the following year.

### Operation and Maintenance after Seeding Year.

Mow or clip as needed to maintain the desired cover. If this cover will revert back to cropland or pasture/hayland within 2 years it is best to mow once or twice per year to maintain a more even growth. Mow or clip no shorter than 4 inches for cool season grasses and legumes and no shorter than 6-8 inches for warm season grasses. Do not mow

# Conservation Cover (Non-CRP)

## Conservation Practice Job Sheet

(Code 327)

cool season grasses and legumes after September 1<sup>st</sup> and warm season grasses after August 15th to allow sufficient time to build root reserves and wildlife cover prior to frost.

Fertilize as required by soil test to maintain the planned cover.

Repair areas that are eroding and/or have poor cover through reseeding.

**Operation:**

1. Brush management operations will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances.
2. Evaluating regrowth or reoccurrence of target species after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data to determine success and/or need for additional treatment.
3. Other:

**Maintenance:**

1. Following initial application, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush should be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be done as needed.
2. Other:

**Other Notes:**

Any questions should be directed to the local NRCS/SWCD office. Phone \_\_\_\_\_.

**Practice Checkout (for NRCS use):**

Amount completed: \_\_\_\_\_ units  
photos.

Mark as-built location on plan map and attach

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications  Yes  No

Check out completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Sept 2012

# Conservation Cover (Non-CRP)

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

(Code 227)

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

Valid September 2012 - August 2015  
Archived

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer