

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**NEVADA CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

**CONSERVATION COVER**

**CODE 327**

**Water Quantity**

The practice may increase infiltration and the amount of soil water by reducing evaporation and runoff. The plants will utilize soil moisture and deep percolation will diminish. The increased vegetation may more efficiently trap snow with an improved distribution, where available, and snow may increase soil water when it melts. Seasonally frozen ground may not permit infiltration and the meltwater may increase runoff.

**Water Quality**

Agricultural chemicals are usually not applied to this cover in large quantities and surface and ground water quality may improve where these materials are not used. Ground cover and crop residue will be increased with this practice. Erosion and yields of sediment and sediment related stream pollutants could decrease. Temperatures of the soil surface runoff and receiving water may be reduced. Effects will vary during the establishment period and include increases in runoff, erosion, and sediment yield. Due to the reduction of deep percolation, the leaching of soluble materials will be reduced, as will be the potential for causing saline seeps. Long-term effects of the practice would reduce agricultural nonpoint sources pollution to all water resources.

**PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

ADAPTED SPECIES	SEEDING RATES	(# AC.PL)
<b>Introduced Grasses</b>	Drill	Broadcast
Crested wheatgrass (Ephraim)	6-8	12-16
Crested wheatgrass (Fairway)	6-8	12-16
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	6-8	12-16
Siberian wheatgrass	6-8	12-16
<b>Native Grasses</b>		
Thickspike wheatgrass	6-8	12-16
Streambank wheatgrass	6-8	12-16
Western wheatgrass	6-8	12-16
Indian ricegrass (sandy soils)	4-6	8-12
<b>Basin Wildrye</b>		
<b>Native Shrubs</b>		
Four-wing saltbush	.5-1	1-2

**Methods of Seedbed Preparation**

A good seedbed is one, which will give the best possible moisture condition for germination and good root development. The seedbed is firm under the seed, with not over one-half inch of loose topsoil. This topsoil mulch generally gives the best conditions for moisture retention and seed placement. The seedbed should be free of competitive vegetation.

**Conditions At Time of Seeding**

When irrigation water is available, a pre-plant irrigation should be applied to bring soil moisture to field capacity. Seeding should be done as soon as possible after soil has dried sufficiently to allow use of planting equipment. Planting seed in dry soil and "watering up" often results in soil crusting, salt accumulation, and may delay or reduce germination. During

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service

**NRCS NV, NHCP**  
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the period of the contract, NRCS will assist in determination for need of additional irrigation.

If irrigation is not available, planting will be delayed until water is available or soil moisture is at field capacity.

### **Alfalfa Stubble**

**No-till Method.** Spray alfalfa with herbicide early enough to provide kill before seeding. Drill into residue.

**Reduced-till Method.** Light discing to loosen surface.

### **Small Grain Stubble**

Drill into residue. If residue is too heavy for drill penetration, disc lightly prior to planting.

### **Seeding Method**

#### **Drilling. Preferred Method of Seed Placement.**

Where available, drills equipped with furrow openers, depth control devices, rate control mechanisms, seed agitators (where light, fluffy seed is used), and press wheels or crags will be used.

Regular grain drills may be used, but press wheels or other packing devices must follow them.

### **Broadcast Seeding**

Broadcast uniformly and cover seed by drag, harrow, or cultipacker.

### **Depth of Seeding**

Species	Seeding Depth
<b>Introduced Grasses</b>	
Crested wheatgrass (Ephraim)	1/2-1 in
Crested wheatgrass (Fairway)	1/2-1 in.
Siberian wheatgrass	1/2-1 in.
<b>Native Grasses</b>	
Thickspike wheatgrass	1/2 in.
Streambank wheatgrass	1/2 in.
Western wheatgrass	1/2 in.
Indian ricegrass	4-6 in.
Basin wildrye	1/2-3/4 in.

### **Time of Seeding**

**Irrigated.** Grasses can be seeded as early as April 15. Plantings can be made anytime after

this date as long as water is available. However, summer plantings should not be made after July 15 at high elevations (4500-7500 ft.) and August 15 at low elevations.

**Non-Irrigated.** Late fall plantings will be seeded after October 15. Spring planting increases risk but early spring planting can be successful if adequate soil moisture is available and weed control is practiced.

### **Management after Establishment**

**Weed Control.** Weeds will be controlled to reduce competition with seeded species. Producer will determine need for control with assistance from NRCS if requested. Control with methods recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service.

**Pest and Disease Control.** Pests such as grasshoppers, gophers, and ground squirrels may become a problem. Contact the Cooperative Extension Service for recommended control methods. Diseases are best controlled by use of adapted varieties obtained from reputable sources.

**Irrigation water** will be applied if necessary to maintain the stand. Re-establishment will be done if necessary. Producer and NRCS will determine whether irrigation or re-establishment is necessary.

No harvesting, grazing or commercial use is allowed on fields which have this practice applied for the period of retirement.

Consideration will be given to wildlife habitat during the period of establishment and retirement. Weed, pest, and disease control shall be accomplished in a manner and time that will not be detrimental to wildlife present in the area.

Adapted plant species will be established to protect land retired from agricultural production.

Wildlife habitat considerations should be included during the selection of plant species.

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