

Landowner _____

Planting Trees



WHAT IS CRITICAL AREA PLANTING WITH TREES?

Establishing trees is an effective, cost-efficient, method of stabilizing areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion. Additional benefits include improving wildlife habitat and beautifying an eroded area.

HOW IT HELPS THE LAND

Trees have extensive root systems that bind the soil together and provide an erosion resistant cover to protect the soil from water erosion. When appropriate tree species are selected, they can also provide a food source to attract wildlife.

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

Planting trees for erosion control, beautification and wildlife can be used on gullied areas to make them productive, hide an unsightly area, and stabilize gully erosion.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For assistance and additional information on planning your tree planting project and selecting adapted species of trees and shrubs, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or your local Conservation District office.

APPLYING THE PRACTICE

Plant adapted species

Due to the soil binding properties of the root system and fast growth, black locust is the most desirable species outside the shortleaf pine native range.

Due to the fast growth and heavy needle litter blanketing the soil under the stand, loblolly pine is the most desirable species within the shortleaf pine native range.

A mix of other adapted species may be used to add species diversity. The other species should be planted on the least erosive area of the gully.

Spacing

Plantings may be as close as 6'x6' (1,210 trees/acre) on steep slopes and as wide as 8'x8' (681 trees/acre) on more stable portions of the area, such as gully bottoms.

A minimum of three rows should be planted around the rim of the gully with the first row no closer than five feet from the edge.

Care of planting stock

Inspect packaged seedlings immediately upon receipt to assure that they are alive and healthy. If packing medium has started to dry, apply just enough water to moisten the medium. Excess water shall be drained to avoid mold problems.

Packaged seedlings can be stored for two weeks in a cool, shady, or protected location. **DO NOT** store packages where they will freeze or where the temperature will exceed 70° F.

Planting

Plant seedlings after December 1 and prior to bud break of native trees and shrub vegetation; usually from around March 15 to April 1.

Plant only high quality dormant stock.

Trees shall be hand planted with a spade, tree planting bar, or post hole diggers as long as the seedlings are planted properly.

Planting should be done under optimum moisture conditions, when soil is neither too dry nor too wet. Do not plant when the ground is frozen or during periods of freezing weather. Avoid planting under dry, windy or very warm conditions.

Exercise extreme caution while planting bare root seedlings, to keep the roots from being exposed to open air. Only open one bag at a time and close it immediately after taking only one handful of seedlings

or the amount that will be planted in a short period of time. Transfer seedlings from shipping bags to planting containers quickly. Do not tap tree roots to remove excess peat moss or soil. Carry seedlings in a suitable container under cover of moist burlap, moist sphagnum moss, moist straw, polyacrylamide slurry or mud. Withdraw only one seedling at a time when planting. When removing trees from shipping bundle, be sure to restore moisture to trees that remain.

Seedlings shall be planted at the same depth or slightly deeper than they grew in the nursery. Roots must be planted straight down, not twisted, balled, 'J' or 'L' shaped. Do not force roots into too shallow a hole or furrow.

Soil around the planted roots must be gently but firmly packed to remove air pockets. With hand planting, use your shoe to pack the soil firmly around the roots. If planting with a machine, make sure the packer wheels have the proper tension and are in the proper alignment in relation to the tree. Properly planted seedlings should be tight enough to resist gentle tugging pressure.

MAINTAINING THE PRACTICE

Livestock grazing should be excluded until newly planted trees are tall enough that the lowest limbs are above grazing height.

If needed, competing vegetation will be controlled until the woody plants are established.

The trees and shrubs will be inspected periodically and protected from adverse impacts including insects, diseases or competing vegetation, fire and damage from wildlife.

Critical Area Planting (TREES) – Job Sheet

Landowner _____ Acres _____ Field number _____

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilize stream and channel banks, and shorelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitate and revegetate degraded sites that cannot be stabilized using normal established techniques
<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water	<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilize coastal areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas

Species to be Planted	Planting Material*	Trees/Ac	Spacing (ft)	Planting Method

*Bare root seedlings, containerized seedlings, cuttings or seed.

Timing of Planting: _____

Temporary Storage Instructions
<i>Planting stock that is dormant may be stored temporarily in a cooler or protected area. Additional requirements:</i>
Site Preparation
<i>Remove debris and control competing vegetation to allow enough spots or sites for planting and planting equipment. Prepare supplemental moisture materials for installation if required by trees and/or shrubs. Additional requirements:</i>
Planting Methods
<i>For container and bareroot stock, plant stock to a depth even with the root collar in holes deep and wide enough to fully extend the roots. Pack the soil firmly around each plant.</i>
Operation and Maintenance
<i>Inspect periodically and protect from damage so proper function is maintained. Replace dead or dying tree/shrub stock and continue control of competing vegetation to allow proper establishment. Install and begin supplemental irrigation if required. Additional requirements:</i>

