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**SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE 227**

File Code: TCH 450

SUBJECT: South Carolina Practice Standard

Purpose: To transmit the recently approved South Carolina Practice Standard Brush Management (Code 314) for the treatment of invasive woody species in natural areas, Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315) for the treatment of invasive herbaceous species in natural areas, Cover Crop (Code 340) for reducing erosion, capturing residual Nitrogen, improving soil quality and wildlife habitat on crop land and Addendum Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391B) for CRP re-enrollments and the requirements for management thinning basal on riparian forest buffers, changed in April 2010.

Effective Date: Begin using the new standard immediately.

Background: Conservation practice standards establish the minimum acceptable level of quality in planning, designing, installing, operating, and maintaining conservation practices. SC Standard Brush Management (314), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Cover Crop (340), and Addendum Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391B) have been modified for use in South Carolina.

Brush Management (Code 314): This standard addresses the manipulation, removal and control of woody invasive species in old fields, naturalized pastures, pasture and hayland and natural areas for the improvement of wildlife habitat. The standard references natural communities found in South Carolina with the intention of removing listed invasive woody species and re-establishing treated areas with native trees or shrubs. This practice replaces the use of Pest Management (595) for the treatment of invasive woody species for wildlife habitat improvement. The list of woody invasive species that can be treated can be found on the SC EFOTG, Section I, Invasive Species, **Major Invasive Species of Concern in South Carolina**. Modifications to the standard for use in South Carolina include specification for documenting the wildlife habitat condition and the application of Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) on the treated acres after removal of the undesirable woody invasive species.



Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315): This standard addresses the removal of invasive herbaceous species on all land except cropland, for the improvement of wildlife habitat. The standard references natural communities found in South Carolina with the intention of removing listed invasive herbaceous species and re-establishing treated areas with native grasses and forbs. This is a new practice that replaces the use of Pest Management (595) for the treatment of invasive herbaceous species for wildlife habitat improvement. The list of herbaceous invasive species that can be treated can be found on the SC EFOTG, Section I, Invasive Species, **Major Invasive Species of Concern in South Carolina**. Modifications to the standard for use in South Carolina include specification for documenting the wildlife habitat condition and the application of Conservation Cover (327) native warm season grasses and forbs on the treated acres after removal of the undesirable invasive species.

Cover Crop (Code 340): This practice standard addresses soil erosion caused by water or wind, the capturing of residual Nitrogen from the soil profile, improving soil quality and wildlife habitat on crop land.

The major changes made to this practice standard are:

- General Criteria added: “At least two different species shall be planted and one is being a legume.”
- Species added to the seeding list: American Joint Vetch and Partridge Pea

Addendum Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391B): This addendum has been adjusted to reflect the CRP changes issued by the Farm Service Agency in April 2010 for the basal area requirements for thinned pines as part of the management of riparian forest buffers. The original addendum called for re-enrolled pines to be thinned to less than 300 trees per acre within 5 years of the new contract. This revised addendum reflects the change in the requirement that trees be thinned to a basal area not to exceed 75 square feet per acre, within 5 years of the new contract.

Filing Instructions: The updated standard has been loaded into Section IV of the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). A copy of this notice can be found in Section I under the folder “FOTG Notices and Updates” of the eFOTG.

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Attachments

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