

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION

(Ac.)

CODE 490

DEFINITION

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

PURPOSE

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

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all lands needing treatment to establish trees and/or shrubs.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

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

An appropriate site preparation method (mechanical, chemical, prescribed burning) will be chosen to achieve the intended purpose and to protect 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. Refer to the Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Slash Treatment (384).

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 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) CPS Prescribed Burning (338) for slash and debris that will be burned and South Dakota (SD) Codified Laws (SDCL) 21-10-26 and 21-10-27 and SD Administrative Rule (SDAR) 1212:12.

Measures will be implemented to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. Get noxious weeds under control before planting trees or shrubs on the site. Be aware of carryover concerns when using certain herbicides. If pesticides are used, refer to the NRCS CPS Pest Management (595).

Refer to the section on the planting site preparation in Woodland Technical Note No. 38 for site preparation alternatives based on site conditions.

CONSIDERATIONS

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 onsite and offsite effects on air quality.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [State Office](#), or visit the [electronic Field Office Technical Guide](#).

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statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Maintain erosion control measures as necessary.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to the CPS Pest Management (595).

Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Refer to the CPS Use Exclusion (472).