

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
VIRGINIA 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

Match the method, intensity and timing of site preparation to the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements for establishing the desired woody species.

Choose an appropriate site preparation method to achieve the intended purpose and to protect desirable vegetation, site and soil conditions. Use other complementary practices and measures as necessary to control erosion, runoff, compaction and displacement to acceptable levels.

Remove, treat or eliminate slash and debris as appropriate.

Do not create habitat for harmful levels of pests in the remaining slash and debris.

Do not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard with the remaining

slash and debris. Refer to the Virginia Practice Standard *Prescribed Burning, Code 338*, for slash and debris that will be burned.

Implement measures, including the use of equipment, to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. If chemical herbicides or pesticides are used, follow all instructions for the particular chemical as outlined in the Virginia Pest Management Guide (2009 edition and subsequent revisions) as maintained by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider impacts on wildlife species, habitat and aesthetics, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, water resources, wetlands, and identified unique areas, when selecting site preparation methods.

Follow all container label instructions when using pesticides or herbicides for site preparation treatment. Handle all chemicals with particular attention to their use in proximity to water resources and their storage.

Particulates, smoke, and other air pollutants generated by site preparation may have on-site and off-site effects on air quality.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using the approved forest management plan template, specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes and narrative 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.

Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Refer to the Virginia Conservation *Standard Access Control, Code 472*.

REFERENCES

Dissmeyer, George E. and George R. Foster. 1984. "A Guide for Predicting Sheet and Rill Erosion on Forest Land". USDA, Forest Service Southern Region. Technical Publication R8-TP-6.

Puckett, K. Marc; Keyser, Patrick D.; Haney, Harry L.; Godfrey, Cale L.; Warner, Stanley, and Stephen W. Capel. 1998.

"Managing Pines for Profit and Wildlife", Wildlife Information Publication No. 98-1. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

USDA, 1992, "Pest and Pesticide Management in Southern Forests", Forest Service Southern Region, Management Bulletin R8-MB-60.

Virginia Department of Forestry, 2002 Revised, Fourth Edition, "Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality" in the Virginia Field Office Technical Guide.

Willistorn, Hamlin L.; Balmer, William E.; and Daniel H. Sims, 1992, "Managing the Family Forest in the South", USDA, Forest Service Southern Region Management Bulletin R8-MB 1.

Virginia Cooperative Extension, "2009 Pest Management Guide" and subsequent revisions available at: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/pmg/>

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