

Tree/Shrub Establishment

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

612



Definition

Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.

Criteria

Refer to VA Forestry Technical Note #3 “Tree and Shrub Establishment Guidelines” for specific information on determining planting techniques and appropriate species.

Planting or seeding rates will be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose for the site according to the Virginia Plant Establishment Guide.

Species considered locally invasive or noxious shall not be used.

Planting dates and care in handling and planting of the seed, cuttings or seedlings will ensure that planted materials have an acceptable rate of survival.

Only viable, high-quality and adapted planting stock or seed will be used. All plant materials should comply with minimum standards such as those established by Forest Service or VA

Department of Forestry. All tree/seedlings for hardwood tree planting must be 18 inches tall or have a diameter of 1/4inch.

Adequate seed sources and suitable soil condition or advanced reproduction needs to be present or provided for when using natural regeneration to establish a stand.

Selection of planting technique and timing will be appropriate for the site and soil conditions.

Species used to treat waste shall have fast growth characteristics, extensive root systems, high nutrient uptake capacity and tolerance of the planned effluent. Species that may invade surrounding areas outside of treatment facility shall be avoided.

Composition of species selected for planting or those favored for natural regeneration will be native to the site and create a successional stage or state that can progress to the potential natural plant community.

The species and plant communities that attain biomass more quickly will sequester carbon faster. The rate of carbon sequestration is enhanced as trees and/or shrubs mature and soil organic matter increases. Select plants that have higher rates of growth and potential for carbon sequestration in biomass and are adapted to the site. Plant species at the appropriate stocking rate for the site.

Note: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Tree and Shrub Establishment, Conservation Practice Standard (VA-612). Consult the Conservation Practice Standard for further details.

Operation and Maintenance

- Ensure livestock cannot access the area.
- The site should be inspected twice a year for the first 3 years and once a year after that.
- Invasive species should be located and controlled. It is more economical and effective if they are treated with herbicide when they are first detected. Check with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service for the best herbicide to control your problem species.
- Mowing is allowed outside the nesting season to control invasive species or control natural seedlings but not encouraged. The nesting season is from April 15 to August 15. Controlling vegetation with glyphosate or other recommended herbicide, within 3' of the tree is desirable.
- Check to see if there is a live seedling. For future reference, it is helpful to mark shelters, which do not have a live tree. They may re-sprout the second year.
- Straighten any leaning tree shelters and ensure the shelter is still 2-3 inches in the ground (if present).
- Replace any broken or rotten stakes or missing ties. Landowners can expect to replace 10 percent or more of the stakes in the first three years.
- Remove wasp nest inside the tree shelter. Nest can get large enough to block the growing seedling.
- Grass or weeds inside the shelter should be removed during the first 3 years. Do not pull up the clump of grass, since that can pull up the tree or damage tree roots. Raise the shelter, leave the soil in place and cut off the weeds or grass at ground level, then replace the shelter and seat it 2 to 3 inches deep.
- When the tree is within six inches of the top of the shelter the bird net should be pulled down on the tree shelter so as not to impede the growth of the tree.
- Shelters should be cut off when the tree is 2 to 3 inches in diameter at the top of the shelter. Shelters must be rigid plastic with a perforated line that will split off with normal stem growth. Shelters should be checked to ensure no mold or fungus is growing on the bark inside the shelter.

Planner Certification

This Tree/Shrub Establishment practice planned in this job sheet fulfills the minimum requirements of Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 612.

Signature

Title

Date

Certification of Practice Completion

This Tree/Shrub Establishment practice planned in this job sheet has been completed and maintained according to Virginia NRCS specifications (Indicate Practice Specifications any change(s) to the planned activities and acreage.)

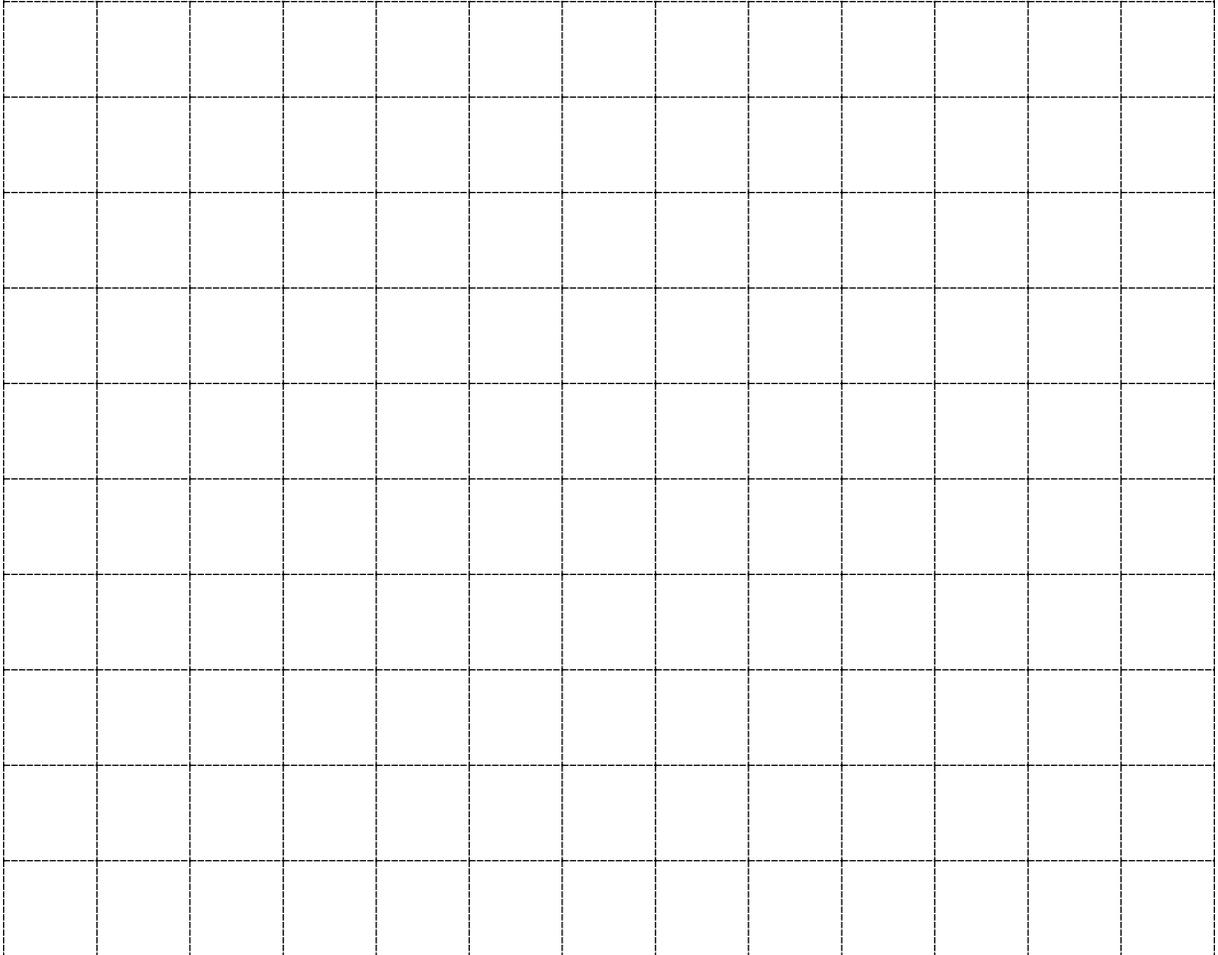
Signature

Title

Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= ____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2 " by 1/2")



Additional Specifications and Notes:

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