

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (342)**

Landowner/user:

Date:

Address:

A properly developed and maintained **Critical Area Planting Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and to the environment. Implementation of Critical Area Planting consists of establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices. These sites may include construction sites with seeding areas specified on construction drawings. This practice may provide many benefits including: stabilizing stream and channel banks, pond and other shorelines; stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water; stabilize areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. Operation and maintenance is comprised of the following activities:

Operation and Maintenance

Lifespan 10 Years

- Control access to the area to ensure the site remains stable.
- Protect plantings shall be protected from pests (e.g., weeds, insects, diseases, livestock, or wildlife) as necessary to ensure long-term survival.
- Inspections, reseeding or replanting, and fertilization may be needed to ensure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life.
- Observe establishment progress and success at regular intervals until the practice has met the criteria for successful establishment and implementation.
- Description of successful establishment (e.g., minimum percent ground/canopy cover, percent survival, stand density).
- Mowing of vegetation shall be done only at specified times.
- If required to maintain the vegetative stand, remove trees, brush and other woody vegetation.
- Grazing in areas of Critical Area Planting shall not be permitted and livestock shall be excluded at all times.
- Inspect and repair water control practices as needed.
- Vegetation used on streambanks is subject to considerable damage. The site should be inspected annually in the spring and after heavy runoff to check for needed repairs. Gaps should be filled in by replanting, or laying down and covering the branches with soil of nearby plants. Any structural measures used to control the bank, such as stone riprap, must be kept in repair in order to maintain the effective plant cover.

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Additional operation and maintenance requirements may be required to be developed on a site-specific basis to assure performance of the practice as intended.

Specific Additional Requirements for Your Practice: