

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE
STANDARD
TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION
(Acre)
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 [is desired and practical](#).

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 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 standard [Forest 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 standard [Prescribed Burning](#), 338, for slash and debris that will be burned.

Measures, including the use of equipment, will be implemented to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. If pesticides are used, refer to the standard [Pest Management](#), 595.

[Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice including "Vermont's Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont." \(AMP's\) and "Wetlands Rules and Regulations: What they mean to your logging operation in Vermont."](#)

CONSIDERATIONS

Impacts on wildlife species, habitat and aesthetics should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

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

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

Establish species that are suitable for specific site conditions.

Consider establishing species that help restore natural community structure and function for the given site.

Establish species that meet management objectives and have a perceived long-term value.

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 statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation. [Separate specifications are provided for natural and artificial regeneration.](#)

The following practices may be used in conjunction with this standard: [Tree and Shrub Establishment \(612\)](#), [Riparian Forest Buffer \(391\)](#), [Critical Area Planting \(342\)](#), [Field Borders \(386\)](#), [Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment \(380\)](#) and [Renovation \(650\)](#), [Wildlife Wetland \(644\)](#) and [Upland \(645\) Habitat Management](#), [Stream Habitat Improvement and Management \(395\)](#), [Wetland Restoration \(657\)](#), [Early Successional Habitat Development/Management \(647\)](#), [Brush Management \(314\)](#) and [Mulching \(484\)](#).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Maintain erosion control measures as necessary.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to the standard [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 standard [Use Exclusion, 472](#).

REFERENCES

[Vermont's Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont. \[http://www.vtfor.org/watershed/documents/Am_p2006.pdf\]\(http://www.vtfor.org/watershed/documents/Am_p2006.pdf\)](#)

[Yuriy Bihun, University of Vermont Extension Service. "Wetland Rules and Regulations: What they mean to your logging operation in Vermont." December 1990, p. 5](#)