

# Forage and Biomass Planting

## Vermont Conservation Practice Job Sheet

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### SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following page(s) of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the Forage and Biomass Planting practice standard and the Forage and Biomass Planting Specification Sheet found in the Vermont NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Information contained in this document is considered part of the conservation plan.

Client Name:		Town:	
Farm:		Tract:	
Assisted By:		Date:	
Total Acres of Forage and Biomass Planting Planned:			
<b>Purpose:</b> <i>Check all that apply</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	1- Establish adapted and compatible species, varieties, or cultivars for forage production.	<input type="checkbox"/>	4- Reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.	<input type="checkbox"/>	5- Increase carbon sequestration
<input type="checkbox"/>	3- Balance forage supply and demand during periods of low forage production.	<input type="checkbox"/>	6-Other (Specify):

If you have questions about this planned **Forage and Biomass Planting** practice contact:

Name:		Telephone:	
Email:			

### GENERAL CRITERIA:

Plant species and their cultivars shall be selected based upon:

- Climatic conditions, such as annual rainfall, seasonal rainfall patterns, growing season length, humidity levels, temperature extremes and the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones.
- Soil condition and position attributes such as pH, available water holding capacity, aspect, slope, drainage class, fertility level, salinity, depth, flooding and ponding, and levels of toxic elements that may be present.
- Resistance to disease and insects common to the site or location.

#### And:

- Specified seeding/plant material rates, methods of planting and date of planting shall be consistent with documented guidance cited by plant materials program, research institutions or agency demonstration trials for achieving satisfactory establishment, such as "Cornell Recommends" or the UVM Extension 'Vermont Crops and Soils' web page (see references).
- Seeding rates will be calculated on a state approved method such as pure live seed (PLS) or percent germination.
- Plant to proper depth ensuring seed or planting material will contact soil moisture uniformly. Prepare site to provide a medium that does not restrict plant emergence.
- Planting dates shall be scheduled during periods when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.
- All seed and planting materials shall meet state quality standards.
- Select plants that according to federal, state, or local regulations are not considered noxious species.
- Fertilizer and soil amendment recommendations shall be based on results from a current soil test. Application shall be appropriately placed and timed to be effective.
- If needed, legume seed shall be inoculated with the proper species of viable Rhizobia before planting.
- If using coated seed, recalibrate the planting equipment to deliver the same number of seed per area as would be applied with non-coated seed.
- Livestock shall be excluded until the plants are well established.

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**Forage and Biomass Planting Specifications:**

*(PLS = Pure Live Seed)*

Field	Acres	Species	Full Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	% of Mixture	Actual PLS lbs/ac of Mixture	Scheduled Planting Date

**Total Material Needed For The Job:**

Nutrient Application Rate Per Acre According To Current Soil Test *						
Field	Acres	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) lbs	Potassium (K <sub>2</sub> O) lbs	Lime (Tons)	Lab Number

\* Fertilization will be accomplished according to current soil test recommendations

**Notes:**

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<b>Site Preparation</b>
<p>Prepare a firm seedbed. Ephemeral gullies and rills present in the planned seeding/planting area will be smoothed. Apply lime and fertilizer as indicated by soil testing.</p> <p>Additional requirements:</p>
<b>Planting Method</b>
<p>Plant grass and legume seed uniformly over the area using a _____ seeder or _____ drill. Establish vegetation according to the specified seeding rate. If necessary, mulch the newly seeded area with _____ tons per acre of mulch material. A small grain crop may be needed as a companion crop at the rate of _____ pounds per acre (clip or harvest before it heads out).</p> <p>Additional requirements:</p>

**OPERATION / MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE:**

The following O&M activities will be planned and applied as needed:

- The operator will inspect and calibrate equipment prior to use to insure proper rate, distribution and depth of planting material.
- Growth of seedlings or sprigs shall be monitored for water stress. Depending on the severity of drought, water stress may require reducing weeds, early harvest of any companion crops, irrigating when possible, or replanting failed stands.
- Invasion by undesirable plants shall be controlled by cutting, using a selective herbicide, or by grazing management by manipulating livestock type, stocking rates, density, and duration of stay.
- Insects and diseases shall be controlled when an infestation threatens stand survival.
- Evaluate forage stands each season or as needed to determine management inputs needed to achieve the desired purpose(s).

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING PASTURE AND HAYLAND PLANTING:**

- In areas frequented by high density of animals, establish persistent species that can tolerate close grazing and trampling.
- Where wildlife management is an objective, use an approved habitat evaluation procedure to aid in selecting plant species and providing for other habitat requirements.
- Where air quality concerns exist, site preparation techniques should be utilized that will minimize airborne particulate matter generation and transport.

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

**Recommendation:** Import digital photographs to indicate practice before and after effects. For instructions regarding graphics to importing this document go to: [ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/VT/Technical/Help/Adobe\\_PDF\\_Help\\_1.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/VT/Technical/Help/Adobe_PDF_Help_1.pdf)

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### ADDITIONAL NOTES OR INSTRUCTIONS:



For more specific forage plant information, go to the NRCS Plants database at <http://plants.usda.gov/>