



CRP Required Management Practice: Herbicide Application

Landowner: _____

Tract: _____

CRP CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is responsible for administering the rules of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). All questions related to CRP contract requirements, payment, or modifications should be directed to the FSA office where your contract originated.

CRP policy requires participants to do some type of "disturbance" to certain CRP practices during specific years of the contract. Required Management Practices are designed to enhance the cover value. This job sheet describes Herbicide Application as a required management activity.

PURPOSE

Once established, grassland fields need to be managed so that the grasses do not crowd out the forbs and/or legumes over time. In the absence of disturbance, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure changes as annual forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial grasses, and eventually, woody plants. Structural changes also occur as litter accumulates and vegetation density increases. These changes may lead to a decline in diversity and reduced wildlife benefits.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

This CRP Required Management practice enhances wildlife habitat value by encouraging a diverse forb/legume community. Herbicide applications can suppress grasses, inhibit woody plant growth, reduce crowding, and increase sunlight penetration to the ground surface. A diverse mix of forbs and legumes in grasslands is beneficial to birds, pollinators, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Note: CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts in Wisconsin is **May 15 - August 1**. Whole field or spot spraying may be done during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local FSA County Committee.

SPECIFICATIONS

The following are specifications for herbicide use on CRP acreage. This required management practice can have an extremely negative impact on CRP cover if not implemented correctly.

- » Spraying shall be done according to label directions and meet all state and federal laws.
- » Herbicide recommendations shall be made by industry professionals to control targeted species.
- » Recommendations must include specific timing and rates of application for the identified grass and/or broadleaf to be controlled.
- » Spraying shall not be planned in the following areas:
 1. Areas where herbicide applications will have minimal effectiveness or would potentially cause a negative impact on existing cover or an environmentally sensitive area.
 2. Areas planted to trees and/or shrubs.

Guidelines for Spraying within Introduced Plantings:

1. Identify the plants targeted for suppression.
2. Determine which period the spraying will occur, either April 1 - May 14 OR September 1 - October 1.

Guidelines for Spraying within Native Plantings:

1. Identify the plants targeted for suppression.
2. Determine what date the spraying will occur, which is either April 15 - May 14 OR August 2 - August 15.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION - REQUIRED MANAGEMENT PLAN

CRP Field Number	Acres	Targeted Species	Time-frame of Planned Spray	Scheduled Years

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following when planning for herbicide application:

- » Evaluate the proposed site to determine what the intended objective of the herbicide application is.
- » Select herbicides that will minimize negative impacts to an existing high quality cover.
- » Use discretion when soil conditions are wet to reduce soil impaction and damage to existing cover.
- » If noxious weeds have gone to seed, control by spot spraying in addition to prior hand clipping and bagging of seed heads. This will reduce the potential spread of these species.
- » Clean equipment prior to moving out of field to prevent the spread of undesirable plants.
- » For the control of noxious, invasive, and nuisance weeds, review the NRCS Job Sheet 397, Conservation Cover Maintenance.

ACTUAL HERBICIDE APPLICATION INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LANDOWNER

CRP Field Number	Acres	Targeted Species	Herbicide Applied	Formulation/ Rate	Date Applied

Notes: