



# CRP Required Management Practice: Burning and Interseeding

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.

The CRP policy requires some type of required management to grassland CRP practices during the life of the contract. The goal of required management is to enhance CRP cover.



## PURPOSE

Once established, grassland fields need to be managed so grasses do not crowd out the forbs and 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 forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial grasses, and eventually woody plants.

The purpose of this required management practice is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by encouraging a diverse

forb/legume community. Forbs and legumes are beneficial to birds, pollinators, butterflies, and other wildlife.

## PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts in Wisconsin is **May 15 through August 1**. CRP participants are also required to control invasive and weed plant species before they produce viable seed. Spot clipping or spot spraying may be done during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.

## PRESCRIBED BURNING

When fire is properly applied it can improve grassland habitats by:

- » creating open ground for wildlife movement by reducing excess plant litter and dense sod formation.
- » allowing sunlight to reach the soil surface, encouraging the germination and growth of interseeded forbs and legumes.
- » suppressing woody plants and other non-native plant species.
- » reducing naturally occurring wildfire hazards while enhancing the aesthetic appearance of natural landscapes.
- » creating structural diversity that is especially helpful for maintaining habitat for grassland wildlife species.

## SPECIFICATIONS

The landowner is responsible for acquiring permits and following all local, state and federal laws. Landowners must adhere to the burn plan and are responsible for confining prescribed burns to the designated lands. Landowners are liable for damages and costs to others should the fire escape from the designated area. Landowners are also responsible for damages caused by smoke blowing into neighboring properties, across roads or airport runways.

A written prescribed burn plan must be completed and submitted to NRCS for review before any fires are ignited. Prescribed burning plans will follow the NRCS Prescribed Burning Practice Standard (338) found in the Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide.

NRCS staff shall not participate in igniting burns.

Prescribed burning shall not be performed during the primary nesting season of **May 15 through August 1**.

Prescribed burns shall not be planned in the following areas:

- » Areas where the soil surface contains high levels of organic matter (muck/peat).
- » Areas where burning will cause erosion to exceed tolerable limits.
- » Areas planted to trees and/or shrubs.

The planting rate shall be adjusted to reflect the actual amount of Pure Live Seed (PLS).

All seed shall be properly stored. Legume seed shall be inoculated prior to planting.

Seeding equipment shall be calibrated to ensure that seed placement and soil/seed contact are suitable for consistent germination.

The timing for interseeding should be planned to appropriately match the soil moisture conditions of each site and the growth characteristics of the species to be planted. The specific planting date that provides the best chance for success will vary from south to north and from year to year with prevailing moisture and temperature conditions. Utilize the planting periods in Table 1 to develop the planting plan.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Evaluate the proposed site to determine what the intended objective of the burn is, and what conditions are needed to meet the intended objective. See Table 1.

**Table 1.** Burn Objective and Timing

Burn Objective	Timing of Burn
Promote grasses within introduced cool season stands	August 2-August 10 or October 8-Freeze up or March 1-April 14
Promote forbs and legumes within introduced cool season stands	April 15-May 14 or August 20-September 30 Interseed from August 2-May 14
Promote early forbs within native warm season stands	August 2-August 10 or November 1-November 30 or March 1-April 15
Promote grasses and late forbs within native warm season stands	April 15-May 14 or August 20-September 30

Use discretion when soil conditions are extremely dry or drought conditions are predicted. Burning under these conditions may destroy perennial prairie plants.

It is highly recommended that prescribed burning be delayed until after August 15 to reduce the chance of harming fledgling birds and other young wildlife.

### Guidelines for Prescribed Burns on CRP:

1. Identify the need for prescribed burning and interseeding.
2. Determine the timing of the burn and the seeding based on burn objective.
3. Establish the seed mix to use.
4. Follow the specifications outlined above.

## INTERSEEDING PLS-BASED SEED MIX

**Mix A:** Introduced mix – dry site.

Alfalfa: 6 lbs.

Alsike Clover: 1.5 lbs.

For use with the following introduced cool season plantings:

- » CP1
- » CP21
- » CP23
- » CP23A
- » CP28
- » CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer
- » CP38E Central Wisconsin Introduced
- » CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Introduced

**Mix B:** Introduced mix – mesic or wet site.

Red Clover: 5 lbs.  
Ladino Clover: 1.5 lbs.

For use with the following introduced cool season plantings:

- » CP1
- » CP21
- » CP23
- » CP23A
- » CP28
- » CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer
- » CP38E Central Wisconsin Introduced
- » CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Introduced

**Mix C:** Native mix – dry site.

Purple Prairie Clover: 2 oz.  
Black-eyed Susan: 1 oz.  
Ox-eye Sunflower: 2 oz.  
Stiff Goldenrod: 2 oz.  
Round Headed Bush clover: 4 oz.

For use with the following introduced cool season or native warm season plantings:

- » CP1
- » CP2
- » CP21 (cool)
- » CP21 (warm)
- » CP23 (cool)
- » CP23 (warm)
- » CP23A (cool)
- » CP23A (warm)
- » CP28 (cool)
- » CP28 (warm)
- » CP29 (warm)
- » CP30 (warm)
- » CP38B Western Prairie Buffer (warm)
- » CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer (warm)
- » CP38E Western Prairie (warm)
- » CP38E Central Wisconsin Native (warm)
- » CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native (warm)
- » CP38E Glacial Habitat Native (warm)

**Mix D:** Native mix – mesic or wet site.

Canada Milk Vetch: 1 oz.  
Ox-eye Sunflower: 2 oz.  
Stiff Goldenrod: 2 oz.  
Round Headed Bush clover: 4 oz.

For use with the following introduced cool season or native warm season plantings:

- » CP1
- » CP2
- » CP21 (cool)
- » CP21 (warm)
- » CP23 (cool)
- » CP23 (warm)
- » CP23A (cool)
- » CP23A (warm)
- » CP28 (cool)
- » CP28 (warm)
- » CP29 (warm)
- » CP38B Western Prairie Buffer (warm)
- » CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer (warm)
- » CP38E Western Prairie (warm)
- » CP38E Central Wisconsin Native (warm)
- » CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native (warm)
- » CP38E Glacial Habitat Native (warm)

**Mix E:** Introduced Grass Component.

Orchardgrass: 5 lbs.  
Timothy: 4 lbs.

For use with the following introduced cool season plantings:

- » CP1
- » CP21
- » CP23
- » CP23A
- » CP28

**Mix F:** Native mix – dry site.

Purple Prairie Clover: 2 oz.  
Black-eyed Susan: 1 oz.  
Ox-eye Sunflower: 2 oz.  
Stiff Goldenrod: 2 oz.  
Round Headed Bushclover: 4 oz.  
Evening Primrose: .5 oz.  
Pale Purple Coneflower: 1 oz.

For use with the following warm season native plantings:

- » CP25 Tall Grass Prairie
- » CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native
- » CP38E Glacial Habitat Native

**Mix G:** Native mix – mesic or wet site.

- Canada Milk Vetch: 2 oz.
- Ox-eye Sunflower: 2 oz.
- Black-eyed Susan: 1 oz.
- Yellow Coneflower: 1 oz.
- Blue Vervain: .5 oz.
- Purple Coneflower: 1 oz.
- New England Aster: 1 oz.

For use with the following warm season native plantings:

- » CP25 Tall Grass Prairie
- » CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native
- » CP38E Glacial Habitat Native

**Mix H:** Dry

- Ox-eye Sunflower (early-late): 4 oz.
- Spotted Beebalm (late): 2 oz.
- Compass Plant (mid): 2 oz.
- Prairie Cinquefoil (early - mid): 1 oz.
- Round Headed Bush Clover (mid): 2 oz.

For use with the following practice only:

- » CP42 Pollinator Habitat

**Mix I:** Mesic or Wet Mesic

- Purple Coneflower (mid-late): 4 oz.
- Common Boneset (late): 1 oz.
- Ox-eye Sunflower (early-late): 4 oz.
- Mountain Mint (early-late): 1 oz.

For use with the following practice only:

- » CP42 Pollinator Habitat

**Note:** Use of mixes C and D will require additional management actions (burn/mow) following the year of establishment if seeded into an existing cool season cover

### PLS BASED SEED MIX CALCULATIONS

Species	Field:	
	Acres:	
	PLS Rate Per Acre	Seed Needed

Timing of burn and interseeding:

Year of burn and interseeding:

Date of burn plan reviewed by NRCS: