

Tree/Shrub Establishment – Natural Regeneration

WV Conservation Practice Job Sheet Code 612



Definition

Establishing woody plants by natural regeneration.

Purpose

To establish woody plants for forest products, wildlife habitat, erosion control and improvement of water quality, treating waste, reduction of air pollution, sequestration of carbon, energy conservation, enhancing aesthetics and/or improving or restoring natural diversity.

Considerations

The following should be considered for tree and shrub establishment:

Plans for landscape and beautification plantings should consider foliage color, season and color of flowering, and mature plant height.

Residual chemical carryover should be evaluated.

Comply with applicable federal, state, local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Trees and/or shrubs can eventually become crowded slowing their growth, survival and composition of understory species. As the plants mature, periodic harvesting of some of the overstory trees and shrubs becomes an important activity for maintaining plant health and productivity.

For natural regeneration, light seed-bearing trees must be located on or next to the area to be regenerated, preferably along the windward side. Some acceptable species for natural regeneration are eastern white pine, pitch pine,

shortleaf pine, Virginia pine, yellow-poplar, white ash and maple. See Table 1 for additional information on the above mentioned species.

Heavy seed-bearing trees must be adequately spaced within the treatment area to be regenerated. Some acceptable heavy seed-bearing trees are black cherry and oaks.



Site preparation should be sufficient for establishment and growth of selected species. Site preparation is needed if competition from grass, weeds, and/or woody materials will interfere with plant establishment and growth.

Mineral soil should be exposed so that seed to soil contact can be made.

See WV conservation practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, code 490, and/or Brush Management, code 314, and associated job sheets.



Operation and Maintenance

The practice area should be inspected in the first few months and at least annually including after storm/fire events.

The practice area must be protected from grazing as well as, fire, insects, diseases, competing vegetation and wildlife. Noxious weeds will be controlled.

Where practical, management activities will be performed outside the primary nesting season (March 15th - July 15th).

Supplemental water as well as periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant health and vigor.

Table 1. Seed-bearing information by species

SPECIES	SEED BEARING AGE MINIMUM (YEARS)	SEED DISPERSAL DATES	INTERVAL BETWEEN LARGE SEED CROPS (YEARS)
White Pine	5-10	Aug – Sept	3-10
Pitch Pine	3-4	Fall*	4-9
Shortleaf Pine	5-20	Oct-Nov	3-10
Virginia Pine	5	Oct-Nov	1
Yellow Poplar	15-20	Oct-Nov	1
White Ash	20	Sept-Dec	3-5
Sugar Maple	30	Oct-Dec	3-7
Red Maple	4	April-July	1

* Many cones remain closed for several months or years.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See the WV conservation practice standard for Tree/Shrub Establishment, code 612, for specific requirements. Clients should work closely with NRCS personnel and WV Division of Forestry personnel when utilizing this practice.

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Tree/Shrub Establishment - WV Job Sheet – Natural Regeneration

Client:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Designed By:	Date:
Location:	Total Acres:

Purpose of Tree/Shrub Establishment:

Site Conditions Prior to Natural Regeneration:
 A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Site preparation is needed if competition from grass, weeds, and/or woody materials will interfere with plant establishment and growth. Refer to practice standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 490 and/or Brush Management, 314, as applicable. **Additional Specifications:**

Is Tree/Shrub Site Preparation Needed Yes No

If yes, see WV conservation practice standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, code 490.

Field	Acres	Species ¹	Method
			Natural Regeneration

¹ **Species:** List those species present on site to provide seed for natural regeneration

Operation and Maintenance

The practice area should be inspected in the first few months and at least annually including after storm/fire events. The practice area must be protected from destructive grazing as well as, fire, insects, diseases, competing vegetation and wildlife. Noxious weeds will be controlled. Where practical, management activities will be performed outside the primary nesting season (March 15 - July 15). Supplemental water as well as periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant health and vigor. Protect from livestock, fire and other damage. See the WV conservation practice standards, Use Exclusion, code 472 and Firebreak, code 394, as appropriate.

Additional requirements:

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

Additional Specifications and Notes:

Questions regarding the planting or maintenance of the Tree/Shrub Establishment should be directed to:

_____ at _____

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