

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING

(Acre)
CODE 512

SPECIFICATIONS APPLICABLE TO PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING 512:

Application of "Pasture and Hay Planting" 512, shall adhere to the Wyoming NRCS Conservation Practice Standard in the Field Office Technical Guide.

- A treatment plan shall include the following information:
 1. Location - Field Numbers, and Map or Sketch of areas planted and areas excluded.
 2. Extent in Acres.
 3. Date practice applied.
 4. Seedbed preparation used.
 5. Seeding method and depth of seeding.
 6. Soil map unit information.
 7. Erosion predictions if primary purpose was erosion control.
 8. Pest (weed, disease, insect) management.
 9. Mixture and seeding rates (PLS).
 10. Protection provided during establishment period.
 11. Other useful comments.
 12. Date and signature.

Job Sheet WY-ECS-25 is applicable to this practice with attached seed tag(s).

- I. **SEEDBED PREPARATION:** A suitable seedbed will be prepared using one of the following methods:
 - A. **Conventional method:** A seedbed will be prepared that is free, or very nearly free, of all competing vegetation and is not subject to erosion. A firm seedbed will be provided in all cases. A seedbed is firm enough when the boot heel imprint of an average person leaves a maximum impression in the soil of one-half inch.
 - B. **Prepared cover:** (1) Follow the "Cover Crop" portion of the Conservation Practice Standard for "Cover and Green Manure Crop" (340), Section IV, Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). In addition, crops shall be mowed or harvested as needed to prevent them from producing seed. (2) If cover is needed to provide erosion control and a preparatory crop cannot be established, follow the Conservation Practice Standard for "Mulching" (484), Section IV, FOTG.
 - C. **Mulch-till fallow -** If free from weeds and volunteer grain, the seeding can be made directly into the stubble. Refer to the "Residue Management" (329, 344, 345 or 346) Conservation Practice Standard in Section IV, FOTG. Herbicides may be applied to control weeds and/or volunteer grain. Refer to "Pest Management" (595) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG
- II. **FERTILIZER:** On dryland fields, fertilizer shall not be applied unless the land user's experience and soil test results support it. If so, or if the field is irrigated, follow the "Nutrient Management" (590) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG.

III. ADAPTED SPECIES - The selection of species will meet the following requirements:

- A. Meet producer objectives and site characteristics. These include (1) regrowth characteristics; (2) stand longevity; (3) water needs; (4) forage quality; (5) bloat hazard.
- B. The previous two years of herbicide application will be documented for the area to be seeded. Any potential carryover problems will be addressed by delaying seeding, seeding a cover crop, or altering the seeding mix species composition.
- C. When seeded together as a mixture, species will be compatible with other forage species and their selected cultivar(s) in rate of establishment, maturity, and growth habit. Refer to Forage Suitability Groups (FSG's), Section II, Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).
- D. Seed will be labeled and will meet all state seed laws. **All** seed shall have germination/purity test completed by a certified tester no more than twelve (12) months prior to planting. A copy of a current analysis of germination and purity must be furnished regardless of who grows or sells the seed.
- E. Adapted improved varieties of grasses, forbs, and shrubs have been developed and should be used when available. Certified seed should be used when available. If certified seed is not available, named varieties will be used. In rare instances where named varieties are not available, utilize seed from as near the area to be seeded as possible. Seed with a variety not stated (VNS) shall be from Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, or Utah. See Plant Materials Technical Note #3 for adapted species, seeding rates, recommended varieties/cultivars and seeding dates.
- F. Legume seed shall be inoculated with the proper, viable rhizobia before planting. See Agronomy Technical Note #3 for information on the use of inoculants.

IV. SEEDING RATES & MIXTURES:

- A. Seeding rates shall be 100% plus or minus 10% of that specified in Plant Materials Technical Note #3.
- B. Seeding depth for loam, silty clay loam and silty clay soils is one-quarter to one-half inch. Seeding depths for sands, loamy sands, and sandy loams is one-half to one inch.
- C. All seeding rates are for pure plantings of the individual species. When seeding mixtures, use a percentage of the seeding rate of each species equal to the percentage of that species in the mixture.

V. TIME OF PLANTING: Refer to Plant Materials Technical Note # 3 for planting dates.

VI. SEED TREATMENT: Treat seed with fungicide if past history of the field indicates disease to be a problem. Refer to "Pest Management" (595), Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG.

VII. COMPANION CROP: Companion crops may only be used on irrigated fields or dryland fields that receive at least sixteen inches of annual precipitation. For irrigated fields, small grains may be used at a full or a reduced rate and harvested for grain or cut for hay. Small

grain residue will be removed from the field if the companion crop is harvested for grain. For dryland fields that receive at least sixteen inches of precipitation, a spring grain companion crop may be seeded at a rate not to exceed one-third of the full seeding rate.

VIII. SEEDING METHODS:

- A. A. Seeding equipment will be a drill capable of placing the seed at the proper depth, provide a uniform flow of seed at the proper rate, and have a packer wheel to press the soil firmly over the seed. In lieu of packer wheels, a cultipacker may be used after seeding.
- B. Seeding depth for loam, silty clay loam and silty clay soils is one-quarter to one-half inch. Seeding depth for sands, loamy sands and sandy-loams is one-half to one inch.

IV. MANAGEMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS:

- A. Do not graze until the stand is beyond the seedling stage and has become established. Refer to the "Prescribed Grazing" (528) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG.
- B. Clip weeds or apply herbicides, as necessary, to control competing or undesirable vegetation. Refer to "Pest Management" (595) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG.