



Landowner\_

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**



**Definition**

Trees Already Established is maintaining an existing tree cover to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production.

**Purpose**

Trees Already Established is used to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality and create or enhance wildlife habitat

**Where used**

Trees Already Established is used on land retired from agricultural production that has already been established in trees, including land entered in retirement programs. This practice does not apply to plantings for timber production or to critical area plantings.

**Conservation Management System**

Trees Already Established is usually all that is required to meet the requirements of a

Conservation Management System. There may be other resource concerns present and could require other practices to also be installed to meet program requirements. In addition other wildlife practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit of the cover that will result from this practice.



**Wildlife**

This practice is well suited for wildlife food and habitat. The composition of the tree stand will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the tree planting with other wildlife practices or plantings will further enhance the cover.

## Planning Considerations

1. Consider the long term use objectives in enhancement of, or management of vegetative cover species.
2. Consider the needs of wildlife species.
3. Consider existing wildlife habitat on land areas surrounding the field being established permanent vegetation cover.

## Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (645) Wildlife Upland Habitat Management and (612) Tree Planting.

## Required Management Activities

### Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Plantings with narrow spacings will be required to be thinned to the ultimate spacing in years 1-5 of the CRP contract. Refer to NRCS MN Practice Standard Code 380 *Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment* for specifications and recommendations.

### Existing Forest Stands

Thinning or release activities will be required in years 1-5 of the CRP contract. Thinnings remove trees that are overcrowded, suppressed, damaged or diseased. Releases remove undesirable trees and shrubs that are competing with the crop trees. Refer to NRCS MN Practice Standard Code 666 *Forest Stand Improvement* for specifications and recommendations.

## Management Considerations

Manipulation of the tree stand to favor an individual timber species will impact the entire wildlife community. The effects on wildlife species may be beneficial or harmful, depending upon the nature of the prescribed management and the habitat requirements of the resident wildlife.

Preserve wildlife trees (snags). Wildlife trees serve many wildlife functions including: foraging sites for probers and gleaners, cavities for roosting and nesting of both primary and secondary users, hunting and song perches, and shelter.

Manipulation of habitat may impact more than the desired kinds of wildlife. These possible

effects should be evaluated and taken into consideration during the planning process. This practice will be used to promote the conservation of declining species, including threatened and endangered species.

Many wildlife species prosper at some stage of plant succession before climax. Others are dependent on climax communities. Knowledge

of the local plant communities, plant species successional stages, and associated animals is essential.

## Nutrients

Nutrients are not required for trees already established. However, if management goals provide that there are going to be openings in the tree stand established to herbaceous material some fertilizer or lime may be needed.

## Use of Pesticides

Only those pesticides which are labeled for the specific use will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.

## Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Prevent animal damage and browse by rodents, mice, rabbits, deer, gophers and other wildlife which adversely affect woody vegetative cover.
2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.
3. Control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: a) treating with chemicals per label directions, or b) spot mow before seed heads form. When possible delay use of control measures until after August 1st to protect nesting wildlife. Spot treatment on problem areas may be authorized by FSA during the primary nesting season.
4. Protect the areas from haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of each year.
5. Replace dead trees and shrubs as necessary, and control undesirable vegetative competition to promote a fully functional tree planting. Control weed and grass competition around trees and shrubs for a minimum of 2 to 4 feet using cultivation, mulch, or chemical

control measures. Mechanical cultivation needs to be kept shallow to avoid damaging tree and shrub root systems.

6. Periodically inspect for rilling, gullyng, and concentrated flow erosion. Repair disturbed areas and re-vegetate areas that may need to have permanent cover.

7. Avoid direct spray applications and spray drift when applying herbicides on adjacent cropland.

8. Control insects and diseases damaging the vegetation. If you use pesticide to treat a problem read and follow label directions carefully.

9. Do not apply animal/livestock waste or municipal and industrial waste.

10. Do not use the planted area for field roads, turn areas, or other uses that will damage or destroy the vegetation.

11. Prune trees, as necessary, to remove dead or damaged branches, maintain a single leader and upright form.

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_ FSA Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Planned Application \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tract Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Field Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Acres \_\_\_\_\_

Total Acres \_\_\_\_\_ x cost/acre \_\_\_\_\_ = Project Cost Estimate x Cost Share Rate \_\_\_\_\_ = Estimated  
Cost Share Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Operation and  
Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Required Mid-contract Management Activities**

Contract year of activity

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5

Purpose

- Windbreak/Shelterbelt
- Existing Forest Stands

Planned Management

Activity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_




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