



**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

**Landowner** \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition**

Establishment of permanent salt tolerant vegetation within a saline seep area that will improve the environmental benefits of a farm.



**Purpose**

Permanent Native Grasses is used to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality and create or enhance wildlife habitat

**Where used**

Permanent Native Grasses is used on land retired from agricultural production, including land entered in retirement programs. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings.

**Conservation Management System**

Permanent Native Grasses usually is 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. Selection of grass species will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the grass planting with other wildlife practices or plantings will further enhance the cover.

**Planning Considerations**

1. Select plant species and varieties best adapted to the climate and the soils in the field being established to permanent vegetative cover.
2. Consider the long-term use objectives in selection of vegetative cover species.
3. Consider the needs of wildlife species.
4. Consider existing wildlife habitat on land areas surrounding the field being established to 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 (327) Conservation Cover.

**Management Considerations**

On highly erodible sites it may be desirable to seed a companion crop with native grasses unless no tilling into a temporary cover crop, row crop residue cover providing at least 70% surface ground cover, or standing small grain stubble.

Companion crops shall be clipped after jointing but before heading out unless otherwise directed by NRCS. A second and subsequent clippings may be necessary when re-growth provides competition during the first year of establishment. Clipping height should be above developing seedlings. Where excessive growth has accumulated, the vegetation should be chopped rather than swathed.

Weed control is critical for the successful establishment of native grasses. Severe infestations of noxious or any competing weeds will usually require application of an appropriate herbicide. Weed control shall be accomplished by using mechanical and/or chemical control methods.

Weed control is critical for the successful establishment of native grasses. Severe infestations of noxious weeds will usually require application of an appropriate herbicide or management action.

### Seeding Dates

- May 15 - June 30
- Dormant Seeding after November 1

### Seed Mixture (PLS lb/ac)

Tall Wheatgrass	6.0
Western Wheatgrass	4.0
Canada Wildrye or Slender Wheatgrass	1.0
Switchgrass	0.5

### Nutrients

Lime and fertilizer are usually not required for native grass species.

### 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:** O&M will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.

2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.

3. After the seeding is established 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 acres from unauthorized haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of the year.

5. Re-seed any areas that do not have adequate permanent cover.

6. Do not use the contract area for field borders, field roads, or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.

7. Do not use the field for disposal of livestock or organic waste unless that use is authorized in the additional specifications and remarks.

8. Grassland management actions are beneficial during the contract to remove duff build up, control invading cool season grasses, or improve plant vigor. Management actions will only be done according to an approved CRP grassland management plan.

9. Control rodent infestations that adversely affect the perennial ground cover.

10. Use all chemicals according to label instructions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).