**alliance practice worksheet**

VIRGINIA

TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT (612)

*The conditions and specifications below are adapted from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Producers who are installing these practices under the Alliance will use the conditions and implementation guides below but are exempt from NRCS verification and certification. Completing the Purposes and Practice Specifications on this document is sufficient to self-verify practice installation and completion.*

# Farm Info

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Producer Name |  |
| County (Farm Location) |  |
| FSA Farm Number |  |
| FSA Field Number(s) |  |
| FSA Tract Number(s) |  |
| Practice Status:*If a practice has not yet been implemented, select Planned**If a practice has been implemented, select Applied* | [ ]  Planned | [ ]  Applied |
| Planned Date of IMPLEMENTATION: | Date Practice was APPLIED: |

# PRACTICE: tree/shrub establishment (612)

**DEFINITION**: Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TREE AND SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT (612):**

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/512/612_VA_CPS_Tree-Shrub_Establishment_2016>

# GENERAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL PURPOSES

* Use the [Virginia Technical Note Forestry #3, Tree and Shrub Establishment Guidelines](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/VA/VA_TN3_Forestry_2021.pdf) and the [Virginia Plant Establishment Guide](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/Agency/VA/Archived_VA_TN3_Forestry_140911.pdf) for all recommendations for planting rates, species selection, planting methods and techniques and establishment dates.
* Composition of species will be adapted to site conditions and suitable for the planned purpose(s).
* Species considered locally invasive or noxious shall not be planted.
* Planting or seeding rates will be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose for the site.
* Planting dates, and care in handling and planting of the seed, cuttings or seedlings will ensure that planted materials have an acceptable rate of survival.
* Only viable, high-quality and adapted planting stock or seed will be used. All plants materials should comply with minimum standards such as those established by the Virginia Department of Forestry. All tree/seedlings for hardwood tree planting must be 18 inches tall or Forestry. All tree/seedlings for hardwood tree planting must be 18 inches tall or have a diameter of 1/4inch. If using tree whips, these species must have a root collar diameter of 3/8 inch and be approximately 3 feet in height.
* Selection of planting technique and timing will be appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
* Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water or other cultural treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, brush mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth. (Refer to the Virginia Plant Establishment Guide for specifications).
* Adequate seed sources and suitable soil condition or advanced reproduction needs to be present or provided for when using natural regeneration to establish a stand.
* The acceptability and timing of coppice regeneration shall be based on species, age and diameter.

*Note: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Tree and Shrub Establishment Conservation Practice Standard (VA-612). Consult the Conservation Practice Standard for further details.*

# PRODUCER PURPOSE(s)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  Forest products | [ ]  Provide wildlife habitat, restoring diversity |
| [ ]  Erosion control and improvement | [ ]  Increase carbon storage |
| [ ]  Enhancing aesthetics | [ ]  Treating waste |

# PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  **Forestry plan** attached | [ ]  **Forestry map** attached |

# SITE PREPARATION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [ ]  Chemical application | [ ]  Mechanical | [ ]  Prescribed burning |

|  |
| --- |
| Description of Treatment: |
|  |

# PLANTING STOCK

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  Natural Regeneration*If yes, show seed source on sketch below* | [ ]  Direct Seeding |
| [ ]  Bare Rooted Seedling | [ ]  Cuttings*Usually for bioengineering projects* |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FIELD NUMBER** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Acres** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Plantable Acres** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Planting Spacing** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **# Trees per acre** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Planned Species** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Existing Land Use** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Competing Vegetation** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Invasive Species** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Natural Regen. + 25 Trees/whips** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Soils Type** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Soil Drainage** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Aspect & Slope** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Potential Damage** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Tree size***(18” tall or ¼” diameter for hardwoods)* |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Planting Dates** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Are tubes required?** [ ]  Yes (if Yes, please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[ ]  No |

# OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

* Ensure livestock cannot access the area.
* The site should be inspected twice a year for the first 3 years and once a year after that.
* Invasive species should be located and controlled. It is more economical and effective if they are treated with herbicide when they are first detected. Check with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service for the best herbicide to control your problem species.
* Mowing is allowed outside the nesting season to control invasive species or control natural seedlings but not encouraged. The nesting season is from April 15 to August 15. Controlling vegetation with glyphosate or another recommended herbicide, within 3’ of the tree is desirable.
* Check to see if there is a live seedling. For future reference, it is helpful to mark shelters which do not have a live tree. They may re-sprout the second year.
* Straighten any leaning tree shelters and ensure the shelter is still 2-3 inches in the ground (if present).
* Replace any broken or rotten stakes or missing ties. Landowners can expect to replace 10 percent or more of the stakes in the first three years.
* Remove wasp nest inside the tree shelter. Nests can get large enough to block the growing seedling.
* Grass or weeds inside the shelter should be removed during the first 3 years. Do not pull up the clump of grass, since that can pull up the tree or damage tree roots. Raise the shelter, leave the soil in place and cut off the weeds or grass at ground level, then replace the shelter and seat it 2 to 3 inches deep.
* When the tree is within six inches of the top of the shelter, the bird net should be on it so as not to impede its growth.
* Shelters may be cut off when the tree is 2 to 3 inches in diameter at the top of the shelter, if necessary. Shelters must be rigid plastic with a perforated line that will split off with normal stem growth. Shelters should be checked to ensure no mold or fungus is growing on the bark inside the shelter, especially with yellow poplar seedlings.

|  |
| --- |
| Notes: |

# PRODUCER SELF-CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that I have reviewed all required documentation, and the information outlined above meet all criteria and requirements as defined in the Natural Resources Conservation Service **TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT (612)** standard and specifications for the identified acres or animal units.

Further, I agree that:

[ ]  I have not received a payment for this conservation practice on these fields and acres from another USDA Conservation Program or another USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities grant partner.

[ ]  I will retain all practice documentation to support this certification for up to 12 months following practice adoption and will provide this documentation to the Alliance if selected for a spot check. *(Up to 10% of enrolled Alliance participants will be randomly selected for spot checks).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Producer Name:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |