

Tree and Shrub Establishment...establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration



Tree establishment, photo courtesy USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Purposes

This practice is applicable for the following purposes:

- To establish woody plants for forest products
- To establish wildlife habitat
- To provide long-term erosion control and improve water quality
- To treat waste
- To reduce air pollution
- To sequester carbon
- To conserve energy
- To enhance aesthetics

Benefits

Tree and shrub establishment can help stabilize soil and provide long-term erosion control, provide cover and other benefits for wildlife, and reduce air pollution. In addition, this practice can be designed for the uptake of specific nutrients, and it can improve landscape aesthetics.

Applications

This practice is applicable on any area of land where woody plants are suited.

Design and Installation

Site adaptation is a major factor for success in establishing trees and shrubs. When choosing tree or shrub species, consider the suitability of the selected species for the planned purpose, soil type, and available space for growth. Necessary site preparation and equipment for tree and shrub establishment will depend on the type of seeding method chosen. Consult an NRCS conservationist for assistance.

Maintenance

Some considerations for tree and shrub establishment include careful monitoring to ensure survivability of established plants.

In addition, weed competition should be managed during plant establishment. Once established, trees or shrubs may need to be pruned or shaped as needed, depending on the species. Also, care should be taken to protect trees and shrubs from fire damage and livestock grazing.

Relative Cost

Installation low ●●○○○ high

Maintenance low ●●○○○ high

For Additional Information...

Visit the Indiana NRCS office online at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>, see the Indiana Job Sheet or the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standard for (612) Tree and Shrub Establishment, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office

Local USDA-NRCS contact information