



# BOTTOMLAND TIMBER ESTABLISHMENT ON WETLANDS

## Michigan CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CRP – CP31

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

October 2006



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

### WHAT IS A BOTTOMLAND TIMBER ESTABLISHMENT ON WETLANDS?

A Bottomland Timber Establishment is a planting of Bottomland Hardwoods beneficial to wildlife in floodplains.

Bottomland Timber Plantings minimize scour, sheet, rill, and other soil erosion, and provide wildlife habitat, promote carbon sequestration, and enhance wetland functions and values. Some trees established or managed in a Bottomland Timber Planting can also provide timber and/or wood fiber products after the CRP contract expires.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this practice with the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, the land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 1996-2001). Further, the site must be within the 100-year floodplain of a permanent river or stream as determined by USDA in consultation with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and contain at least 51% hydric (wetland) soils.

### CRP POLICY

CRP Bottomland Timber Plantings will be installed according to the Tree/Shrub Planting (612) Standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

For CRP, a minimum of 3 mast (fruit/nut) producing trees and/or shrubs must represent at least 75% of the planting. If needed to enhance the wetland

development or wildlife habitat, a maximum of 25% of the planting may be softwood species.

Tree species selected for the planting will be adapted to the site conditions and meet the standards in the local FOTG. Only viable, high quality planting stock will be used.

### INSTALLATION

It is essential to prepare a weed-free and firm seedbed before planting the trees, and cost-share is authorized for this component. It may be necessary to prepare the site the fall before planting the trees in the spring using tillage, herbicides, etc. Contact your local Michigan State University Extension Agent for specific herbicide recommendations. **All herbicides will be applied according to the label.**

Plantings using bare-rooted stock and non-rooted cuttings should be completed in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1; or planted in the fall after October 1 until the ground freezes when soil moisture is adequate. Containerized and balled and burlap stock may be planted between October 1 and June 1 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit. Direct seeding will be completed from October 1 through April 30 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit.

All planting must be completed within 12 months of contract approval to remain in compliance. If circumstances beyond the landowner's control prohibit completion within the first 12 months, the local FSA County Committee may approve an extension to the next construction and planting season.

Until a ***Final*** Status Review is issued, a 3-foot radius around each tree should remain weed-free to maximize tree growth. Fabric weed barriers are very effective at minimizing weed competition, but are not eligible for CRP cost-share. **Mowing is not allowed for weed control for trees.**

For additional information on establishment and maintenance of trees, see the following NRCS – Michigan Conservation Sheets (available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/> in Section IV):

"Tree/Shrub Planting for: Reforestation, Windbreaks, and Wildlife", "Weed Control for Tree and Shrub Establishment", &/or others.

For additional information on herbicide controls, contact your local MSU Extension Agent. **Always apply herbicides according to labeled directions.**

## CONSIDERATIONS

For optimum wildlife habitat, plant a variety of trees and shrubs including those likely to produce den cavities and provide food.

Following is a list of Native trees and shrubs referenced in the 612 Standard in the FOTG that produce wildlife food/habitat, and are suited for wet sites. Consult the FOTG for more information and other species that may be used.

Tree/Shrub Species (S) = Shrub; (T) Tree	Used By: (B) Birds; (M) Mammals	Site: (W) Wet; (M) Moderate (A) All Sites
Buffaloberry (S)	B,M	A
Buttonbush (S)	B	W
Black – haw (S)	B,M	W,M
Cedar, White (T – softwood)	B,M	W,M
Chokeberry (S)	B,M	W,M
Cranberry, High-Bush (S)	B,M	W,M
Dogwood, Alt.-leafed (T)	B,M	W,M
Dogwood, Gray (S)	B,M	A
Dogwood, Red-Osier (S)	B,M	A
Dogwood, Silky (S)	B,M	W,M
Elderberry, Common (S)	B,M	W,M
Hawthorn (T)	B,M	W,M
Hemlock, Eastern (T – softwood)	B,M	A
Maple, Red (T)	B,M	W,M
Maple, Silver (T)	B,M	W,M
Mountain Ash, American (T)	B,M	A
Nannyberry (S)	B,M	W,M
Oak, Bur (T)	B,M	A
Oak, Pin (T)	B,M	W,M
Oak, Swamp White (T)	B,M	W,M
Pine, White (T – softwood)	B,M	A
Spruce, White (T – softwood)	B,M	A
Tamarack (T – softwood)	B	W,M
Winterberry (S)	B,M	W,M

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests need to be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid detrimental effects to the Bottomland Timber Planting and surrounding land.

Damaging pests need to be monitored and controlled. Repellents, poisons, tubing, netting and cages of various kinds may be needed to control rodents, deer, and other pests. **Limited cost-share may be authorized for these components.**

The Bottomland Timber Planting should be inspected on a seasonal basis and following major storm and runoff events. Any damages or sediment accumulation that would adversely impair the function of the planting

must be corrected immediately, at the landowner's expense.

Replacement of dead trees will be needed until the planting is functional. The landowner is responsible for replacement costs. Re-planting will be required when less than 80% of all plants are living, or they are not evenly distributed over the planting.

Competing vegetation will be controlled for a minimum of 3 growing seasons after planting or until the woody plants are established. Weed control may be done mechanically, with herbicides, or using an approved fabric weed barrier (cost-share is not available for fabric weed barriers in CRP however).

**After** the Final Status Review, maintain the planting according to your CRP conservation plan. Maintenance activities are allowed only on a spot basis and only if necessary to maintain stand health, maintain stand diversity, or control pests that will damage the CRP cover or adjacent lands. **MOWING** is only authorized between Aug 1<sup>st</sup> and Aug 20<sup>th</sup> to protect ground-nesting wildlife and to allow re-growth for winter cover. Other maintenance activities or Mid-Contract Management will only be allowed outside the designated dates to protect ground-nesting wildlife. Designated dates are from May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>. If management or maintenance activities are needed within these dates, the FSA County Committee **must** approve the management activity **prior to** the activity occurring.

Trees and shrubs will be protected from fire, insects, disease, and animals until established.

Supplemental watering may be desirable to ensure adequate survival.

Pruning may be required to remove damaged, diseased or unwanted limbs to improve health and quality. Refer to Michigan NRCS Std. # 660-Tree/Shrub Pruning for further details.

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**BOTTOMLAND TIMBER PLANTING DESIGN WORKSHEET CRP CP31****Landowner:****County:**

Farm:

Tract:

Field(s):

Acres:

Date:

**REQUIREMENTS****DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:**

(Soils information is based on the FOTG, Section II-Forestry Interpretations)

Predominant Soil Type(s):

= Site Index (with planned species):

**REQUIRED SPACING**SPACING WITHIN THE ROWS =  
SPACING BETWEEN THE ROWS =FEET BETWEEN TREES  
FEET BETWEEN ROWS**RECOMMENDED TREES****# NEEDED****NOTES =****BEFORE PLANTING:**

- ☐ Herbicide<sub>1</sub> (per label):                      Dates =
- ☐ Herbicide<sub>2</sub> (per label):                      Dates =
- ☐ Tillage:                                              Dates =
- ☐ Temporary Seeding:
- ☐ Other:

**PLANTING METHOD in Year**☐ **Tree Planting Method:**                      :

(If unforeseen circumstances prohibit the planting of the trees/shrubs by this date, please contact our office as soon as possible)

☐ Other:**POST-PLANTING MAINTENANCE**

- ☐ **Maintain a 3-ft. weed & grass-free radius for up to 3 years around each tree for optimal growth\***
- ☐ Herbicide (per label):\*                      Date =
- ☐ Other:\*

**\*\*NOTE:** after the Final Status Review has been issued, other maintenance activities will be conducted outside the primary nesting season (May 1<sup>st</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>), and weeds will be treated on a “spot” basis only, unless prior approval is granted by the County Committee.

**LOCATION AND LAYOUT SKETCH & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**