



GENERAL TREE PLANTING

Michigan CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CRP – CP3

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

October 2006



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

WHAT IS A GENERAL TREE PLANTING?

A General Tree Planting is a planting of Conifer Trees beneficial to wildlife.

Conifer Tree Plantings provide wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, and protection of the soil from erosion. Some trees established or managed in a Conifer Tree Planting can also provide timber and/or wood fiber products **after** the CRP contract expires.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this practice with the General or Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, the land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 1996-2001). Further, for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, the land must be within 2000 feet of an approved public wellhead.

CRP POLICY

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

For General CRP, if 50 points were awarded for the National Ranking cover type factor, a combination of at least 2 native conifer trees beneficial to wildlife (such red pine, jack pine, white pine, white spruce, etc.) will be planted at a density of 750 – 850 trees/acre (7X8 spacing), plus 10% - 20% openings established to a native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs. If 10 points were awarded for the National Ranking cover type

factor, a solid stand of pines will be planted at greater than 850 trees/acre.

Tree species selected for the planting will be adapted to the site conditions (see Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Groups in Sect. II of FOTG) and meet the standards in the local FOTG. Only viable, high quality planting stock will be used.

PLANTING

It is very important to plant trees into a weed-free, firm seedbed. If the field is currently in cropland, weed control efforts should begin prior to planting. Use herbicide or tillage to eliminate competing vegetation. If necessary for erosion control, seed a temporary cover. Eliminate the temporary vegetation at planting time with tillage or herbicides.

If the field is currently in sod, begin weed control efforts using broad-spectrum herbicides in the fall. Apply herbicides again after the spring green-up prior to planting (if possible, a prescribed burn prior to spring green up to remove the dead litter from the fall treatment will provide best results).

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

Plant trees according to the attached design sheet. 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.

Weed Control is also important to ensure survival and maximum growth of the trees after they are planted. Cost-share is authorized for one weed control application within 24 months after the trees are planted. A 2 ft radius around each tree should remain weed-free to maximize tree growth. **Mowing is not allowed for weed control for trees.**

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

For the openings if applicable, consult the CRP Program Sheet for Tree Openings for guidance on seeding the 10 – 20% openings. All non-native or invasive plants must be controlled without cost-share.

For additional information on establishment and maintenance, 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”, “Establishing Prairie Grass Buffer Strips”, “Prescribed Burning”, &/or others.

CONSIDERATIONS

For optimum wildlife habitat, plant a diversity of conifers, grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs. This mixture will provide winter and nesting cover, flowers for pollinating insects, as well as a good seed, berry, and insect source for food.

Following is a list of trees that are eligible for CP3. Consult the local FOTG for more information and other species that may be used.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cedar, Northern White	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Fir, Balsam	<i>Abies balsamea</i>
Hemlock, Eastern	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Larch, Eastern (Tamarack)	<i>Larix laricina</i>
Larch, European*	<i>Larix sp.*</i>
Pine, Eastern White	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Pine, Jack	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Pine, Red	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Spruce, Black	<i>Picea mariana</i>
Spruce, Norway*	<i>Picea abies*</i>
Spruce, White	<i>Picea glauca</i>

*** Not Native = not eligible for 50 Point Mixes**

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid detrimental effects to the surrounding land. Some of the most common pests that need controlled on CRP acreage include Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, Spotted Knapweed, Quackgrass, etc.

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. Maintenance activities are

only allowed between August 1 – May 1 (i.e. - outside of the Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing season). If maintenance activities are needed at times other than these, the FSA County Committee **must** approve the maintenance activity **prior to** the activity occurring.

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 Conifer Tree 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.

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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CONIFER TREE PLANTING DESIGN WORKSHEET CRP CP3

Landowner:			County:	
Farm:	Tract:	Field(s):	Conifer Acres:	Date:
			Opening Acres:	

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 =	FEET BETWEEN TREES
SPACING BETWEEN THE ROWS =	FEET BETWEEN ROWS

RECOMMENDED TREES

NEEDED

BEFORE PLANTING in Year : _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide ₁ (per label):	Dates =
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide ₂ (per label):	Dates =
<input type="checkbox"/> Tillage:	Dates =
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Seeding:	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

TREE POST-PLANTING MAINTENANCE for Pest Control

Maintain a 9 ft² weed & grass-free area around each tree for up to 3 years for optimal growth**

Tree Herbicide** (per label): _____ Dates** = _____

Other:** _____

****NOTE: after the Final Status Review has been issued, other maintenance activities will be conducted between August 1 & May 1, and weeds will be treated on a "spot" basis only, unless prior approval is granted by the County Committee.**

OPENINGS (for 50 Point CP3 only)

See the attached map for locations of the openings:

See the attached CRP Tree Openings Program Sheet for specific seeding and management information:

LOCATION AND LAYOUT SKETCH & Additional Information

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Practice Details for the CP3 Practice identified above meets the Technical Specifications required for CRP Policy, NRCS Standards and Specifications, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Service Forester

Date

I(we) agree to implement the CP3 practice according to the technical requirements contained in this sheet, the CRP Conservation Plan, and all other attached information. Any changes to the technical requirements will be approved by the MI DNR, FSA County Committee, and NRCS.

CRP Participant(s)

Date