

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Tree/shrub site preparation involves the treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

Practice Information

Apply tree/shrub site preparation conservation practice to control undesirable vegetation, remove slash and debris, or alter site conditions in order to provide optimum site conditions for planting or seeding of woody species, or to encourage natural regeneration of desirable trees and shrubs.

This practice applies to under-stocked areas, areas planned for tree planting following harvest, areas where a land-cover change to woody plants is desired, or areas having undesirable vegetation that inhibits or competes with the establishment of preferred woody species.

Application of this practice requires consideration of:

- protection of existing desirable vegetation;
- treatment of remaining slash and debris so it does not harbor harmful levels of pests, hinder needed equipment operation, or create undue fire hazard;
- control of erosion and/or runoff;



- cost-effectiveness of chosen method;
- protection of cultural resources, springs, seeps, wetlands, and other unique areas;
- impacts on wildlife habitat.

Common Associated Practices

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) commonly precedes Tree/Shrub Establishment (612); and is applied with conservation practices such as Woody Residue Treatment (384), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.