

(612) Tree/Shrub Establishment

FY 2016 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Requirement Sheet

For wildlife, a site- and species-specific wildlife habitat management plan is preferred for all EQIP applications. If no such plan has been approved by the NRCS area biologist, the conservation planners must follow this requirement sheet to address limiting habitat factors identified in the TN NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG).

Eligible lands: Private agricultural lands needing habitat for targeted species. Applies to cropland and pastureland eligible for conversion to forestland. Also applies to forestland when it will be converted to pure shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*).

EQIP Tree/Shrub Establishment Practice Requirements:

1. Lime and fertilizer are not required for trees or shrubs.
2. Minimum of four (4) species from the approved list. At least three species must produce hard mast. From these three species, at least one must be from the white oak family and one from the red oak family. Pines and/or cedars are limited to no more than 25% of the mixture, or 25% of the acreage planted in monoculture for thermal protection. EXCEPTION: Pure (100%) plantings of shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) are acceptable.
3. For partial field reforestation, reforestation areas bordering open fields shall have at least 25% of the open edge length established to a shrub component under the Hedgerow EQIP practice, unless the reforested area consists of 33% or more shrubs.
4. Consider the use of Tree and Shrub Site Preparation (490) practice in conjunction with this practice.
5. Use herbicides in accordance with the label. Tame grasses are required to be chemically eradicated prior to tree planting. Tame grasses include any prostrate or sod forming grasses including such species as tall fescue and Bermudagrass. Full field treatment is required to remove tame grasses prior to tree planting.
6. Refer to appropriate practice standard (314) Brush Management or (315) Herbaceous weed control for all herbicide use and evaluate with WIN-PST.

Follow FY 2016 Approved Seeding Mixtures document for species selection, rates, and mixtures. NRCS area biologist may approve alternative species, rates, and mixtures.