

# 10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



October 2022

## **TREE AND SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT**

- Tree/shrub establishment is the establishment of woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.
- Site conditions and the owner's purpose for the planting often determine the size, design, timing and method of planting.
- Tree/shrub plantings can provide forest products, streamside habitat, long-term erosion control, improved water quality, nutrient and pollutant filtering, cleaner air, carbon sequestration, alternative energy and enhance aesthetics.

Who would apply for this practice?

- Livestock owner/operators with an established animal waste storage facility or waste storage areas would install this practice to reduce or slow runoff of manure, protect water resources, control odors, establish shade for livestock away from sensitive areas and stabilize soil erosion issues.
- Wildlife enthusiasts looking to attract desirable wildlife species would use this practice to establish trees or shrubs that produce nuts, berries or fruits that provide an ample food source and produce protective cover. Participants would work with Ky. Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources for practice establishment and guidance.
- Forest landowners who want to improve or establish marketable timbers may plant tree species that will eventually produce profits from timber harvest. Participants would work with Ky. Division of Forestry to develop a forest stewardship plan identifying selective species cuttings, harvestable tree planting species and other methods of improving and establishing the profitable timber population.
- Landowners who want to maintain or improve desirable plant diversity, productivity, and environmental health by establishing woody plants that will protect water resources, creating wildlife habitats, establish pollinator species and native plant diversity on their property.
- Landowners who want to create an energy, biomass or carbon sequestration resource would utilize this practice to plant fast growing and natural regenerating species creating a successional progress that will maintain the resource.

## Environmental Benefits of Tree and Shrub Establishment

- Maintain or improve desirable plant diversity and productivity
- Develop or improve timber stand production
- Create or improve habitat for desired wildlife species compatible with ecological characteristics of the site
- Control erosion
- Improve water quality
- Reduce excess nutrients and other pollutants in runoff and groundwater
- Sequester and store carbon
- Restore or maintain native plant communities
- Develop renewable energy systems
- Conserve energy
- Provide habitat for beneficial organisms and pollinators

## Who Provides Oversight and Technical Guidance?

- The Soil & Water Conservation Commission administers the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program through the local conservation districts in cooperation with the Division of Conservation.
- Local conservation district offices accept and submit applications, keep all records and make payments to applicants.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership with Division of Conservation and local conservation district technicians provide site evaluations, planning, technical standards, designs and approval of practice completions.
- NRCS will also work in conjunction with Division of Forestry and Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife Resources for the establishment of wildlife establishment and tree plantings.

## Additional Resources:

- All BMPs the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Authority has approved: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Best-Management-Practices.aspx>
- NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Tree and Shrub Establishment Specification [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/612\\_specs.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/612_specs.pdf)
- NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Riparian Forest Buffer Specification [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/391\\_specs.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/391_specs.pdf)
- NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Conservation Tree and Shrub Characteristics [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/ND/Tree\\_and\\_Shrub\\_Characteristics.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/ND/Tree_and_Shrub_Characteristics.pdf)
- NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Expected 20 Year Tree Heights [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/ND/Expected\\_20-Year\\_Tree\\_Heights.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/ND/Expected_20-Year_Tree_Heights.pdf)