

# Critical Area Planting

## Washington Conservation Practice Job Sheet 342

### Definition

Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

### Purpose

Critical area planting may be applied as part of a resource management system to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Stabilize areas with existing or potential high rates of soil erosion by water.
- Stabilize areas with existing or potential high rates of soil erosion by wind.
- Restore degraded sites that cannot be stabilized through normal methods.
- Stabilize coastal areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas.

### Where used

Critical area planting may be used on cuts, fills, dams, dikes, mine spoil, surfaced mined areas, temporary or abandon access roads and other denuded or gullied areas where vegetation is difficult to establish by usual planting methods.



Photo courtesy of NRCS

### Resource management system

Critical area planting is normally established concurrently with other conservation practices as part of a resource management system. These practices may include mulching, grass waterways, filter strips, diversions and grade stabilization

### Specifications

Site-specific requirements for critical area planting are listed on the 342 WA Specification Sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and are designed to meet the resource needs and the producer's objectives.

### Operation and maintenance

Use of the planted area shall be managed as long as necessary to stabilize the site. Inspections, reseeding or replanting, fertilization, and pest control may be needed to insure the planting functions as intended through out its expected life.

**Washington  
Critical Area Planting (342)  
Plan/Specification Sheet**

Landowner:	Farm #:	Total Acres:		
	Tract #:	S.	T.	R.
Written By:	NRCS Job Approval Authority Approval By:			
	Signature:			
Date:				Date:

Field:		Acres:	
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**Field Description:**

**Critical Area Planting Purpose/Objectives:** (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilize area and reduce water erosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Restore degraded areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilize coastal areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilize area and reduce wind erosion	

**Site Data** (enter the information below for the area to be treated)

Soil Type:  Slope:  Percent  
 Effective Rainfall:  inches Slope Aspect:

**Plant Materials Cultivar & Species** (For woody species see attached Tree/Shrub Establishment Specification 612)

Cultivar and Species	Full Seeding Rate (Pounds per Acre of Pure Live Seed)	Percent of Mix Desired	Rate per Acre (Pounds)	Pounds of Actual Seed Needed
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Location 1	Acres:				
<b>Total:</b>	0	0%	0	0.00	



**Weed and Pest Control Requirements**

Site Preparation

Establishment

Maintenance

**Operation and Maintenance:**

**Cooperator Agreement:**

I have reviewed this plan and agree to install as designed.

Cooperator Signature

Cooperator Name

Date

**Practice Completion:**

I have made an on site inspection of the site (or I am accepting owner/contractor documentation), and have determined that the job as installed does conform to the drawings and practice specifications.

Planner Signature

Planner Name

Date

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