



Maintenance and Mowing of Native Warm Season Grass Prairie Plantings

These guidelines are to assist landowners in management of land enrolled in a conservation program that includes a practice with a Native Warm Season Grass (NWSG) prairie planting. These plantings normally require very little maintenance, but if you feel some is necessary, please follow these guidelines.

- Programs and Practices:** - **CRP-CP 2, 21, 25, 28, 29, 33, 38, or buffers for CP9, 23, 23A, 30**
- **WHIP** plantings
 - **EQIP and/or CSP** plantings
 - **USFWS and Pheasants Forever** plantings

Required

- Always check with your local Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil and Water office, or administering organization before attempting management practices. They will conduct an assessment of problem areas before any maintenance activities are attempted. Guidelines and recommendations will be provided once problem is confirmed and maintenance activities are approved.

- Maintain the planting according to the conservation / management plan, contract, and / or job sheets.

- Maintain project to provide adequate erosion control and wildlife cover.

- Typically mowing can be used during the establishment period to control competition from other plants, but must be done with approval and professional guidance.

- Monitor or scout fields periodically to identify problems such as noxious / invasive plants or trees (especially May thru August).

- Comply with Ohio noxious weed laws and control noxious plant species. See these sites for info: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b866/index.html> or <http://www.oipc.info>

- **Spot** treatment by targeted mowing and/or targeted herbicide application may be required to control noxious / invasive plants, undesirable species, or trees within the plantings.

- Maintenance activities are only allowed between July 16th and February 28th (*Outside the primary nesting and brood rearing season – March 1st to July 15th*)

**unless approved (spot treatments of areas can be conducted whenever necessary)*

Unacceptable

- **Periodic mowing, mowing for cosmetic purposes, and annual mowing are prohibited.**

Unnecessary mowing can:

- *make your conservation practice unattractive to wildlife*
- *affect the establishment and development of your stand*

- Contract area can not be used as turn rows, roads, or for storage of crop or equipment.

- Contract area can not be grazed or hayed (*unless this is part of an approved management plan*).

- **These activities are considered a violation of your contract, penalties can be incurred or your contract terminated.**

(management schedule on following page)

Native Warm Season Grass Planting Management Schedule

Year 1 (Establishment): Apply post-emergent herbicide when weed competition reaches 3-4 inches tall **or** mow when weed competition reaches 18-24 inches tall. When mowing, **do not** mow WSG stands any lower than 8-10 inches.

** Always contact FSA, NRCS, Pheasants Forever Biologist, or Division of Wildlife Biologist before conducting management activities.*

Year 2: DO NOT MOW. Spot mowing or spot herbicide application of invasive/noxious weeds may be necessary.

** Contact NRCS, Pheasants Forever Biologist, or Div. of Wildlife Biologist for dates and rates.*

Year 3: No Activity Required

Year 4: Mid-Contract Management (MCM) Areas will be assessed by assessment teams and management recommendations are made.

Year 5: MCM – management practices based on assessment team recommendations can begin.
Treat area in 3rds if area is greater than 25 acres, treat first 1/3 if necessary.

Year 6: MCM – if not completed or if started in year 5. Treat 2nd 1/3 of area if area is greater than 25 acres. *Otherwise, no* activity is required.

Year 7: Treat the final 1/3 of area if area is greater than 25 acres.
Otherwise, no activity is required.

Year 8: No Activity Required

Year 9: No Activity Required

Year 10: Re-enroll contract and restart management cycle.

****** Always contact NRCS, Pheasants Forever Biologist, or Division of Wildlife Biologist before attempting any management practices with your WSG planting.

******* It is the landowner's responsibility to monitor the area and control invasive/noxious weed competition throughout the life of the contract.