



**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

**Landowner** \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition**

Permanent Native Grasses is establishing and maintaining cover to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production.



**Purpose**

Permanent Native Grasses is used to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality and create or enhance wildlife habitat

**Where used**

Permanent Native Grasses is used on land retired from agricultural production, including land entered in retirement programs. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings.

**Conservation Management System**

Permanent Native Grasses usually is all that is required to meet the requirements of a Conservation Management System. There may be other resource concerns present and could require other practices to also be installed to meet program requirements. In addition other wildlife practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit of the cover that will result from this practice.

**Wildlife**

This practice is well suited for wildlife food and habitat. Selection of grass species will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the grass planting with other wildlife practices or plantings will further enhance the cover.

**Planning Considerations**

1. Select plant species and varieties best adapted to the climate and the soils in the field being established to permanent vegetative cover.
2. Consider the long-term use objectives in selection of vegetative cover species.
3. Consider the needs of wildlife species.
4. Consider existing wildlife habitat on land areas surrounding the field being established to permanent vegetation cover

**Specifications**

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

**Management Considerations**

On highly erodible sites it may be desirable to seed a companion crop with native grasses unless no tilling into a temporary cover crop, row crop residue cover providing at least 70% surface ground cover, or standing small grain stubble.

Companion crops shall be clipped after jointing but before heading out unless otherwise directed by NRCS. A second and subsequent clippings may be necessary when re-growth provides competition during the first year of establishment. Clipping height should be above developing seedlings. Where excessive growth has accumulated, the vegetation should be chopped rather than swathed.

Weed control is critical for the successful establishment of native grasses. Severe infestations of noxious or any competing weeds will usually require application of an appropriate herbicide. Weed control shall be accomplished by using mechanical and/or chemical control methods.