

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY AFORESTATION OF CROP, HAY AND
PASTURE LAND
DCR Specifications for No. VFR-1

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's voluntary afforestation of crop, hay and pasture land best management practice, which are applicable to all contracts, entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice documents trees planted (hardwoods and/or conifers) on land used as crop, hay or pastureland in order to make a permanent land use conversion to forest within the last 15 years.

The purpose of this practice is to document voluntary tree establishment that will change land use to one that will more effectively control the soil and nutrient loss from surface runoff, thus improving water quality. This practice will also provide forest areas for the benefit of wildlife.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Forestland being replanted following timber harvest is not eligible.
2. Gullied or eroded areas shall be stabilized with a temporary or suitably durable grass cover until trees are established. Pure stands of fescue are discouraged due to tree establishment competition. Plantings must be protected from grazing.
3. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
5. Filter efficiency may also be improved by the addition of low growing or ground cover vegetation. Herbaceous plantings/shrubs are encouraged to provide soil stabilization and to provide long-term benefits for wildlife. Department of Forestry can recommend appropriate species.
6. This practice is subject to the specifications outlined in the DOF Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality, Technical Manual and NRCS standards Tree & Shrub Establishment (612) and Tree/Shrub Site Prep (490).
7. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of 5 years. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. Control of noxious and invasive plants to ensure the survival of the stand is the responsibility of the participant. This practice is subject to spot check by the SWCD throughout the lifespan of the practice.

C. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and SWCD staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above, and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA), for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised March, 2016