

MDC 450 Herbaceous Vegetation Establishment

- Purpose: Establishment of wildlife-friendly legumes, perennial cool or warm season grasses, native grasses or native forbs to enhance wildlife habitat, improve grazing land diversity, improve water quality or reduce sedimentation.
- Applicability: Upland and aquatic sites where establishment of wildlife friendly herbaceous vegetation will improve streambank stability, benefit wildlife, water quality or provide other resource benefits. All seeding practices on highly erosive sites should follow MDC 200 (Critical Area Treatment).
- Eligibility: Determined by the MDC planner based on Regional priorities.
- Policies:
1. **For projects using native grasses, forbs, and legumes with undetermined origins or origins outside Missouri**, cost share is authorized at **75% of the actual cost** – not to exceed the practice payment limit of \$225/acre and \$7,500.00/ landowner/year. Total landowner payment shall not exceed \$5,625.00 per landowner/year. **Cost share shall not exceed the above stated rates within designated quail and grassland bird focus areas and grassland coalition focus areas when using non-Missouri source seed.**
 - 1A. **For projects using Missouri source origin native grasses, forbs, and legumes used statewide**, cost share is authorized at **90% of the actual cost** – not to exceed the practice payment limit of \$225/acre and \$8,500.00/ landowner/year. Total landowner payment shall not exceed \$7,650.00 per landowner/year. Landowner must provide copies of seed tickets/labels to obtain increased payment rates.
 2. The cooperator agrees to follow an approved wildlife, aquatic vegetation, or grazing management plan that meets NRCS specifications and is maintain practice in a wildlife friendly manner as determined by the MDC Planner, or NRCS for a minimum of 10 years. Grazing or haying may **only** be allowed to meet objectives prescribed by a wildlife management plan.
 3. Cooperators must use a predominance (greater than 75% of the mixture) of Missouri origin legumes, forbs, and native grasses when claiming cost share at the 90 percent rate. It is anticipated the mixture will be 100% Missouri origin to receive the higher rate, however not all grass/forb/legume varieties may be available in a given year.
 4. Only species recommended by the MDC planner, and in accordance with the MDC Exotic Plant Policy, may be planted.
 5. Cost share is authorized for fertilizer and lime applications. A soil test demonstrating the need for application must be provided if cost share is received.
 6. Cost share is authorized for wildlife friendly legumes to create green browse plots.

Refer to the following for practice standards and specifications:

NRCS 327 (Conservation Cover)

NRCS 512 (Pasture and Hayland Planting). For fields that will be hayed and grazed only.

NRCS IS-MO528A – Patch Burn Grazing Conservation Practice Information Sheet

NRCS 528A (Prescribed Grazing)

NRCS 645 (Wildlife Upland Habitat Management)

Guidelines for Converting Tall Fescue To Other Forages or Herbaceous Cover.

MDC Exotic Plant Policy and species list