



Conservation Enhancement Activity

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

E512L (with Montana Supplement)

Diversifying forage base with interseeding forbs and legumes to increase pasture quality

Conservation Practice 512 (L): Pasture and Hay Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of perennial, herbaceous species that increases the diversity to enhance livestock, forage supply and quality, not available in other pastures.

Criteria

- Select perennial, forbs and legume plant species and their cultivars based on compatibility with established forage species, climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant universities (LGU), plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.
- Utilize seed and planting materials that will meet State quality standards.
- Inter-seeding method will not restrict plant emergence or leave the site vulnerable to erosion.
- When planting legumes, use pre-inoculated seed, inoculum coated seed, or inoculate with the proper viable strain of rhizobia immediately before planting.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Select plants that will help meet livestock forage demand during times that normal forage production is not adequate.
- Use forage species that will meet the desired level of nutrition (quantity and quality) for the kind and class of livestock to be grazed or fed.
- Select species mixtures with similar palatability to avoid selective grazing.
- Select species with low or not toxic effects on grazing livestock. If two species for consideration provide similar forage quality, with one providing added benefit to wildlife and pollinator species, the wildlife beneficial species should be selected.
- In areas where animals congregate, consider establishing persistent species that can tolerate close grazing and trampling.
- Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Nutrient Management (Code 590) for details for managing nutrients.
- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.
- **Refer to MT CPS 512 Standard, Specification, and Implementation Requirements for planting information and guidance.**
- **Exclude livestock until the plants are well established.**



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, select a perennial forb and/or legume mixture for establishment. *If livestock are included in the system, forage species selected will meet the desired level of nutrition for the kind and class of the livestock to be fed. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)*

Species	Species type (grass, legume, broadleaf)

- Prior to implementation, select planting technique, seeding rates and timing appropriate for the site and climatic conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date	
Planting Technique	
Seeding rates	



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- Prior to implementation when livestock are included in the system, modify the grazing plan that maintains grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.
- *Prior to implementation when livestock are included in the system*, modify the grazing plan that maintains grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.
- *Prior to implementation, a current (within 3 years of the proposed planting date) soil sample analysis is required when soil amendments will be added.*
- During implementation, *exclude livestock until the overseeded species are well established and have reached the full start grazing heights or recommended cutting heights before the first grazing or cutting begins. Refer to Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) 511 Forage Harvest Management and (CPS) 528 Prescribed Grazing for more information.*
- During implementation, keep the following documentation:
 - Records, seed tags and photographs of planting preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - Documentation of seed rate basis (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments and rates used for the implementation of the enhancement.
- During implementation where livestock are included in the grazing system, *documentation and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records for each field are required.*
- As needed, provide technical assistance to meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512) and all supporting implementation requirements and specifications as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- *Prior to implementation where livestock are included in the system*, *modify the grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs and maintain sufficient height to protect from soil erosion.*

E512L – Diversifying forage base with interseeding forbs and legumes to increase pasture quality with Montana Supplement (bold)	April 2021 MT Supplement November 2022	Page 4
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
 - Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Pasture and Hay Planting (512).
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, verify the planned perennial forbs/ legumes or mixture was established to specifications developed for the site.



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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____

Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____

Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date



E512L – Diversifying forage base with interseeding forbs and legumes to increase pasture quality with Montana Supplement (bold)	April 2021 MT Supplement November 2022	Page 6
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