

Quail Covey Headquarters

Job Sheet

Shrub Planting Appendix

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
University of Missouri Extension – The School of Natural Resources

For:	County:
Field(s):	Farm #:
Date:	Tract #:
Designed By:	Contact Information:

COVEY HEADQUARTER SHRUB PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Number of Covey Headquarters to be planted:

Total Number of Shrubs Needed:

Recommended species

*You are responsible for ordering shrubs for your planting.

Species:	Number needed:

Comment:

Site Preparation

Any vegetation that would hinder planting or provide excessive competition to the seedlings should be controlled or removed prior to planting. If herbicides are applied, follow label rates.

Methods:

Tillage:

Herbicide:

Herbicide (pre-emergent):

Comment:

Storage and Preparation of Seedlings

If possible, store seedlings in cold storage (35° to 40° Fahrenheit). Otherwise, place seedlings in a ventilated, cool, shaded place. Seedlings should be kept moist, but not wet. Avoid physical damage to roots during storage. If seedlings need to be stored for over one week and cold storage is not available, the seedlings should be heeled in. This is done by digging a slightly sloping trench, placing the seedlings in the trench and covering the roots with moist soil. Do not allow the roots to dry out. If possible, place the trench in a shady location, out of direct sunlight.

Planting

The minimum size for a covey headquarter is 1,500 ft² (30'x 50'). Covey headquarters can be larger but should be at least 30 feet wide. Covey headquarters should be scattered across the field (see planning map for recommended planting locations). Plant the shrubs in rows for easy identification. If multiple species are planted, intermix the species in each covey headquarter (ex. plant wild plum, gray dogwood and blackberry in the same covey headquarter). If deer and rabbit damage is a concern, consider placing shrub protectors around the seedlings.

Planting Dates:

Plant Spacing: ft. x ft.

Bare-rooted shrubs may be planted with a mattock, dibble or planting bar or mechanical tree planter. Container shrubs are planted by digging a hole big enough (up to 2 times as wide as the root volume) to hold the container volume. With all planting methods, the following measures are to be followed:

1. Plant the shrub at the same depth it was growing in the nursery. The root collar should line up with the soil surface.
2. Plant the shrub upright. Make sure the roots are hanging downward in a natural position and not doubled or sharply bent. Remove any packaging material from container plants.
3. Pack the soil firmly around the roots so that the shrub is held in place, there is good soil-root contact, and any air pockets are eliminated.
4. Plant only one shrub per spot.
5. Do not allow plant roots to dry out while planting.
6. Arrange shrub planting rows on the contour on sloping ground to avoid soil erosion within the planting furrow.

If needed, root-prune seedlings that have excessively long main or lateral roots (roots longer than the effective depth capacity of planting tools or machines). No more than one-quarter of the root system should be removed.

Post-Planting Maintenance

Weed control

Elimination of competing vegetation is normally carried out for one to five years after planting. Weed control is an important factor in shrub seedling survival. Due to the narrow plant spacing, mowing with a tractor is usually not feasible. Competing vegetation should be controlled with the use of an herbicide. When using herbicides, read and follow label directions. Care should be taken when apply non-selective herbicides around the planted shrubs. Non-selective herbicides can damage or kill young seedlings. Selective herbicides (ex. grass only herbicides) and pre-emergent herbicides (prevent weed seed from germinating) usually offer the safest weed control.

Herbicide:

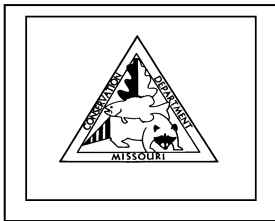
Date(s) to be completed:

Other:

Comment:

Replanting

Some plants will be lost over time to a variety of causes. The decision to re-plant for some or all of the losses will be based on whether or not the remaining plants will likely meet the desired purpose(s) and any program requirements. After two growing seasons, a final status check of the plantings should be conducted. For each covey headquarter, the minimum survival rate is 50 percent of the original planting rate.



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