



**Quail Covey Headquarters Shrub Planting Appendix Job Sheet**

**JS-MO645**

<b>Landowner/Producer:</b>		<b>Farm #:</b>
<b>Field/Stand(s):</b>	<b>Acres:</b>	<b>Tract #:</b>
<b>Planned By:</b>  <i>I certify the information in this job sheets meets the criteria for the planned purpose(s) and the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.</i>  <b>Signature:</b>		<b>County:</b>

<b>COVEY HEADQUARTERS</b>	
<b>SHRUB PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS</b>	
<b>Number of Covey Headquarters to be planted:</b>	
<b>Total Number of Shrubs Needed:</b>	
<b>Recommended species</b>	
*You are responsible for ordering shrubs for your planting.	
<b>Species:</b>	<b>Number needed:</b>
<b>Comment:</b>	
<b>Site Preparation</b>	
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.	
<b>Methods:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tillage:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide (pre-emergent):	
<b>Comment:</b>	



### Storage and Preparation of Seedlings

If possible, store seedlings in cold storage (33° to 40° Fahrenheit). Otherwise, place seedlings in a ventilated, cool, and shaded place. Protect seedlings from freezing. Seedlings should be kept moist, but not wet. Avoid physical damage to roots during storage. If seedlings need to be stored for over 1 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. Place the trench in a shady location, out of direct sunlight.

### Planting

The minimum size for a covey headquarter is 1,500 square feet (30 feet x 50 feet). 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). Perennial herbaceous vegetation control is required prior to planting shrubs. Plant the shrubs in rows for easy identification and follow-up weed control. Covey headquarters may be planted to a single species to mimic a natural shrub thicket or multiple shrub species can be used to provide vegetative diversity. If multiple species are planted, intermix the species in each covey headquarter (ex. plant wild plum, gray dogwood, and ninebark in the same covey headquarter). If deer damage is a concern, the following species are recommended – false indigo bush, aromatic sumac, and blackberry. If rabbit damage is a concern, consider placing shrub protectors around the seedlings. Plant bare-root shrubs on a 3 feet x 3 feet spacing yielding 167 shrubs per 30 feet x 50 feet covey headquarter. Plant container grown shrubs on a 5 feet x 5 feet spacing yielding 60 shrubs per 30 feet x 50 feet covey headquarter.

Planting Dates:	Plant Spacing:	feet x	feet
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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 1 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.
7. Do not use a weed control mat around the shrubs to encourage shrub suckering.

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 1/4 of the root system should be removed.

### Post-Planting Maintenance



**Weed control**

Elimination of competing vegetation is normally carried out for 1 to 5 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 applying non-selective herbicides around the planted shrubs. Non-selective herbicides can damage or kill young seedlings. Selective herbicides (e.g., grass only herbicides) and pre-emergent herbicides (prevent weed seed from germinating) usually offer the safest weed control.

Herbicide:  
 Other:

Date(s) to be completed:

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 2 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.

Comment:

**Certification Statement:**

I certify that implementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated purpose(s), and meets the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.

X

Planner/Technical Service Provider

