

FARM CLIMATE SMART WI

CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICE LIST

Agroforestry, Forestry, & Wildlife Habitat



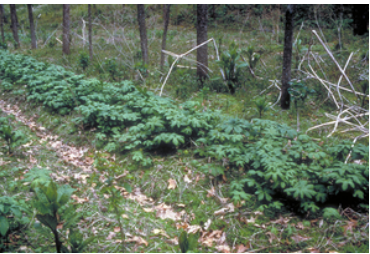
Alley Cropping (311)

Alley cropping is an agroforestry practice where agricultural or horticultural crops are grown in the alleyways between widely spaced rows of woody plants. An example could include wheat, corn, soybeans, or hay planted between rows of black walnut or pecan trees.



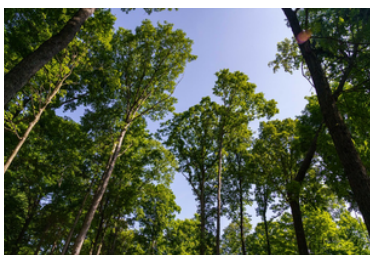
Critical Area Planting (342)

Critical area planting establishes permanent vegetation (such as grass, trees, shrubs, or vines) on sites that have, or are expected to have, high erosion rates, and on sites that have conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal planting practices.



Forest Farming (379)

Forest farming, also known as multi-story cropping, is managing or establishing stands of trees or shrubs in coordination with the management and/or cultivation of understory plants or non-timber forest products.



Forest Stand Improvement (666)

Forest stand improvement is the manipulation of species composition, structure, or density of a stand of trees to achieve desired forest condition. Preferred plants are identified and retained to achieve the desired forest stand.



Credit: H.A., CC BY 2.0

Hedgerow Planting (422)

Hedgerows are established using woody plants or perennial bunch grasses that produce erect stems of at least 3 feet in height that will persist over winter. Conservation benefits include improved wildlife habitat, and reduced drift of airborne dust, chemicals, and odors.



Credit: Xiaoqiang Liu, The Ohio State University

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Riparian herbaceous cover is establishment of grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats.



Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

An area predominantly covered by trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from a watercourse or water body. practice designed to reduce transfer of sediment, pesticides, and nutrients to surface water.



Silvopasture (381)

Silvopasture establishment involves establishing a combination of trees and compatible forages on the same acreage. Silvopasture systems are specifically designed to produce trees, forage, and livestock on the same acreage.



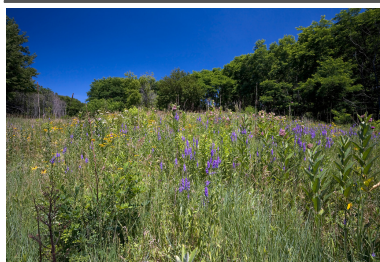
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Establishing woody plants by planting, direct seeding, or through natural regeneration. This practice could be used to improve plant diversity, improve water quality, control erosion, sequester and store carbon, or create beneficial habitat.



Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Establishing and managing upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife. Examples include creating food plots, planting grasses, legumes, trees, or other woody vegetation.



Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)

Establishment of herbaceous and/or shrubby wildlife habitat that provides essential wildlife food and cover. This practice is very commonly used to provide habitat rich in blooming forbs for pollinators and monarch butterflies.



Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment & Renovation (380)

Windbreaks or shelterbelts are single to multiple rows of trees/shrubs planted in a line to reduce erosion from wind. They are established upwind of the areas to be protected. Renovating a windbreak may involve removing, releasing, or replacing selected/rows trees and shrubs.



Conservation Cover (327)

Conservation cover is establishing and maintaining perennial vegetative cover to protect soil and water resources on lands needing permanent protective cover that will not be used for forage production. An example of this would be planting legumes that benefit native pollinators.

FARM CLIMATE SMART WI

CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICE LIST

Soil Health



Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Conservation crop rotation is growing a planned sequence of various crops on the same piece of land for conservation purposes such as reduced soil erosion or helping to break insect or weed cycles.



Contour Buffer Strips (332)

Contour buffer strips are strips of perennial grass alternated with wider cultivated strips that are farmed on the contour.



Contour Farming (330)

Using ridges, furrows, and roughness formed by tillage, planting and other methods on a grade near land contours to alter the speed or direction of water flow.



Cover Crop (340)

Planting cover crops is growing a crop of grass, small grain, or legumes primarily for seasonal protection and soil improvement.

Credit: Stephen Kirkpatrick, USDA NRCS



Field Border (386)

Field borders are strips of permanent vegetation (grasses, legumes, forbs, or shrubs) established on one or more sides of a field.

Credit: USDA NRCS



Filter Strip (393)

A filter strip is an area of vegetation established for removing sediment, organic material, and other pollutants from runoff and wastewater. Filter strips are generally located at the lower edge(s) of a field and are designed to serve as a buffer between a field and environmentally sensitive areas.

Credit: SnapPlus



Grassed Waterway (412)

Grasses waterways are shaped channels constructed to move runoff from concentrated-flow areas, terraces, or diversions where erosion control is needed. Waterways can be used to control gullies and/or improve the water quality of downstream water bodies by reducing the sediment carried by runoff water.

Credit: Michigan State University

FARM CLIMATE SMART WI

CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICE LIST

Soil Health



Credit: USDA NRCS

Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)

Herbaceous wind barriers are rows or narrow strips of stiff herbaceous vegetation established in a field perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction.



Credit: Kristine Lang

Mulching (484)

Mulching is applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the land surface. This practice is used on all lands subject to erosion and high runoff that need the additional protection.



Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)

This practice includes maintaining most of the crop residue on the soil surface throughout the year. Crops are planted and grown in narrow slots or tilled strips established in the untilled seedbed of the previous crop.



Credit: National Farmers Union

Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)

This practice limits soil-disturbing activities used to grow and harvest crops on farms where the field surface is tilled prior to planting. This practice includes tillage methods commonly referred to as mulch tillage where a majority of the soil surface is disturbed by non-inversion tillage operations and planting systems with relatively minimal soil disturbance.



Soil Carbon Amendment (336)

Soil Carbon Amendments are derived from plant materials or treated animal byproducts. They may be applied to the soil to improve or maintain soil organic matter, sequester carbon and enhance soil carbon stocks, improve soil aggregate stability, and/or improve habitat for soil organisms. Examples include compost and biochar.



USDA NRCS

Stripcropping (585)

Stripcropping is growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips in a field to reduce soil erosion, reduce particulate emissions into the air, and improve water quality.

FARM CLIMATE SMART WI

CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICE LIST

Soil Health



Credit: Mulatie Mekonnen

Vegetative Barrier (601)

A vegetative barrier is a permanent strip of stiff, dense vegetation established along the general contour of slopes or across concentrated flow areas. They are used to reduce erosion, manage water flow, stabilize steep slopes, trap sediment, or reduce ephemeral gully erosion.

Wetlands



Wetland Enhancement (659)

Rehabilitation or reestablishment of a degraded wetland, and/or the modification of an existing wetland to favor specific wetland functions.



Wetland Restoration (657)

Wetland restoration is a way to return a former or degraded wetland to a condition that is a close approximation of its original condition. This practice can provide habitat for wildlife, reduce flooding, improve water quality, and increase groundwater recharge.



Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)

Creating or improving habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. It can be applied on or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies where wetland-associated wildlife habitat can be managed.

Livestock & Nutrient Management



Feed Management (592)

Manipulating and controlling the quantity and quality of available nutrients, feedstuffs, ingredients, or additives fed to livestock and poultry. The purpose of the practice is to supply the quantity of available nutrients required by livestock and poultry while reducing the quantity of nutrients excreted in manure.



Nutrient Management (590)

This practice involves managing rate, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments while reducing environmental impacts. Sources of nutrients could include commercial fertilizers, animal manures, and irrigation water.

