

**HEDGEROW PLANTING  
(CODE 422)**

**DESCRIPTION**

Establishment of dense vegetation in a linear design to achieve a natural resource conservation purpose.

**PURPOSE**

This practice is to be used to address a natural resource concern or improved conservation benefit by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

**CONDITION**

This practice may be applied on land in production agriculture where air and water quality are impaired or where there is a high potential of water quality impairment.

**POLICIES**

1. Hedgerows shall be established using woody plants or perennial bunch grasses producing erect stems attaining average heights of at least 3 feet persisting over winter. Hedgerows shall be a minimum of 6 feet wide if seeded and one row wide if planted with seedlings or large stock. Herbaceous and/or woody species may be appropriate.
2. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Hedgerow Planting (Code 422) and MACS Hedgerow Planting (422) specifications shall be followed when applying this practice.
3. Site preparation and planting to establish vegetative cover shall be done at a time and in a manner to ensure the survival and growth of the selected species. It is eligible for cost-share provided it is an area of light infestation, i.e., less than 20% of the site is covered by *Multiflora Rose* or other invasive woody species. The maximum cost-share available for site preparation is \$600 per acre.
4. Occasional removal of trees is permitted, provided that the intended purpose is not compromised by the loss of vegetation. In addition, such harvesting must occur as part of an approved forestry management plan.
5. The following associated practices must be installed or present when applying this practice around poultry houses, they include: Waste Storage Facility (313), Animal Mortality Facility (316), and Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
6. Cost-sharing *is not authorized* for the following:
  - a. Plantings intended for forage production. (Refer to the conservation practice standard Pasture and Hayland Planting, Code 512).
  - b. Plantings which will be established on critically eroding areas which usually cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment and management. (For site stabilization

on these areas, refer to the conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting, Code 342).

- c. Plantings that do not follow local and state ordinances in regard to setbacks and property lines.
  - d. Plantings that are to be used as aesthetic borders **only** between properties.
7. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of fifteen (15) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor, and materials needed to meet this requirement. At a minimum, these measures shall be carried out for the life of the practice:
- a. Periodically inspect the hedgerow, and repair or restore as needed to maintain the intended purpose from adverse impacts such as excessive vehicular and pedestrian traffic, pest infestations, pesticide use on adjacent lands, livestock damage, and fire.
  - b. Replace dead trees and shrubs as needed, and control undesirable vegetative competition.
  - c. As applicable, control of concentrated flow erosion or mass soil movement shall be continued in the up-gradient area to maintain buffer function.
  - d. On poultry and livestock operations, irrigation is required for all plantings in front of a tunnel or exhaust fan and for 20 feet on each side.
8. Applicants must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. The application will not be approved unless a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form is submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

### **COST-SHARE RATE**

The State cost-share payment will not exceed 100% of the total eligible costs, not to exceed \$150,000 per project from all funding sources.

USDA shares will be considered co-cost shares and entered accordingly on the Water Quality Project form (application) and Claim for Payment. Any USDA co-cost share entered on the Claim for Payment that was not entered on the Water Quality Project form, may be determined to be an overrun and require an additional funding justification for the project.

**ATTACHMENTS**

***Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.***

*The following items are needed:*

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website (<https://dat.maryland.gov>) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. Aerial photograph indicating the property lines and existing and proposed BMPs.
4. Plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP.
5. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted along with the Application (SECTION III, #30).