

Requirements for Forage Biomass Planting (512) Organic 2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Eligible lands: Cropland, Pasture and Hayland are eligible. All approved species listed in the FOTG under 512 can be planted.

Planting Options:

Forage Mixture Organic (New Seeding Grass and Legume mix): Any mix in the Forage and Biomass standard can be planted. Current stocking rate for the operation and documentation in the GRAZE Program (Forage Animal Balance software) must show 33% or less of the livestock requirement comes from supplemental feed (e.g. hay).

Overseeding Mixture Organic (overseeding a thin stand of grass with grass and legumes): plant compatible species listed in the Forage and Biomass standard. Light tillage or no-till drilling will be used. Current stocking rate for the operation and documentation in the GRAZE Program (Forage Animal Balance software) must show 33% or less of the livestock requirement comes from supplemental feed (e.g. hay).

Overseeding Legumes Organic (overseeding a thin stand of grass with legumes) plant compatible species listed in the Forage and Biomass standard. Frost seed in February or use light tillage or no-till drilling in March or September. Current stocking rate for the operation and documentation in the GRAZE Program (Forage Animal Balance software) must show 33% or less of the livestock requirement comes from supplemental feed (e.g. hay).

Warm Season Organic (Establishment of warm season forage) Warm season forages listed in the Forage and Biomass standard may be planted. Weeds need to be controlled prior to planting, ideally for two years prior to planting. No more than 20% of the total pasture acreage is eligible for Warm Season Grass planting (This does not mean 20% of each field). Current stocking rate for the operation and documentation in the GRAZE Program (Forage Animal Balance software) must show 33% or less of the livestock requirement comes from supplemental feed (e.g. hay).

Note: If NWSG is planted, *there is no harvest or grazing for 2 years from date of establishment unless approved by Area Biologist or State Grazing Specialist.*

All Plantings will apply fertilizer according to a soil test less than 12 months old.

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/publications/soilfertilizerpubs.htm> Fertilizer code for native grass is NWSG.