Mulching

New Jersey Conservation Practice Job Sheet 484

Definition

Applying plant residues, by-products or other suitable materials produced off site, to the land surface.

Purposes

Mulching can be designed to accomplish one or more of the following conservation purposes:

- Conserve soil moisture
- Moderate soil temperature
- Provide erosion control
- Suppress weed growth
- Establish vegetative cover
- Improve soil condition and increase soil fertility

Where used

Mulching can be used all lands where mulches are needed to:

- Establish vegetation
- Prevent erosion
- Control weeds
- Conserve soil moisture

This practice may be used alone or in combination with other practices.

Resource management system

Mulching is used concurrently with other practices to ensure those practices will be successfully implemented.

A resource management system for erosion control could include windbreak establishment, conservation crop rotation, residue management and various other conservation practices as well.

Plans and Specifications

Specifications shall be prepared for each site and purpose, and recorded using information from the Standard or other acceptable documentation.

Operation and Maintenance

Mulched areas will be periodically inspected, and mulch shall be reinstalled or repaired as needed to accomplish the intended purpose. Removal, incorporation, bio- or photo-degradation of mulch and associated materials shall be consistent with the intended purpose and site conditions.

Operation of equipment near and on the site shall not compromise the intended purpose of the mulch. Prevent or repair any fire damage to the mulch material. Properly collect and dispose of artificial mulch material after intended use.

Monitor and control undesirable weeds in mulched areas.

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the New Jersey NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Mulching – Job Sheet

Client:	**Farm #:**
Field(s):	**Tract #:**
Designed By:	**Date:**

Purpose (check all that apply)	
☐ Improve soil condition and increase soil fertility	☐ Moderate soil temperature
☐ Provide erosion control	☐ Establish vegetative cover
☐ Suppress weed growth	☐ Conserve soil moisture

Layout	**Field _____**	**Field _____**	**Field _____**
Total Area (acres)			
Mulch Type [1]			
Rate (amount per appropriate unit)			
Percent Cover and/or Thickness [2] (% or inches)			
Application Date			
Tackifier Required			
Method/Type of Anchoring [3] (if applicable)			
Additional Protective Measures [4] (if applicable)			
Livestock Exclusion is Required [5]			

[1] List the type of mulch to be utilized. Mulch types include: **Hay or Straw, Compost, Manure, Leaves,Wood Chips, Wood Shavings, Sawdust, Peat Moss, Gravel, Crushed Stone, Plastic, Wood Fiber Cellulose, Excelsior Fiber Mat** or **Other.** If other, specify in the "Additional Specifications and Notes" section of this document**.**

[2] List the percent cover or desired thickness of the applied mulch over the area.

[3] List any anchoring necessary to hold the much in place. Types include: **Peg or Twine, Mulch Netting, Asphalt Emulsion, Chemical or Disking.** If none, list as **N/A**

[4] List any additional protective measures needed in addition to mulching. Examples include: **jute mesh, silt fences, straw/hay bale barriers,** and **soil stabilization blankets** or **erosion mats**.

[5] If livestock exclusion is necessary, refer to (472) Access Control and/or (382) Fence for more information.

Clear Form

Print Form

Mulching – Job Sheet

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Recommendation: Import digital photographs to indicate practice before and after effects.

Scale 1"=_____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2") ↑N

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Practice Checkout:

Amount completed: _____units Mark as-built location on plan map and attach photos.

Remarks_____

This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications ☐ Yes ☐ No

Clear

Check out completed by: _____ Date: _____

Certified by:_____ Date:_____