

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
MULCHING**

484

484 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to apply mulching to predetermined areas for the intended purpose(s). (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 484).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and needs for mulching. Considerations will include landowner goals and objectives, existing condition and effects of this practice on soil, water, air, plant, animal and human resources. A discussion of NRCS mulching standards and specifications should also take place. The role of the landowner and the person assisting with the mulching plan should also be discussed. Additional pertinent questions must be asked and answered on a site-specific basis.

484 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify the resource inventory and operations that are required so that the conservation practice of mulching can be planned and implemented. Appropriate resource inventories include soils, physical features, utilities and field boundaries.

Identify map resources needed such as satellite imagery and USGS 7.5 Minute quadrangle(s). Appropriate inventory data collection sheets and an Environmental Evaluation, CPA-52 should be completed. Insure that utilities and cultural resources are considered.

484 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to plan the mulching practice, identify the objectives, and develop a record of the completed actions taken.

All required deliverables for the conservation practice, installation, and compliance are found on the New Mexico Statement of Work. This document will be followed to successfully complete the project. The local conditions will need to be assessed. A working knowledge of the types of mulching materials available must be gained. Details of type of mulch, distribution and anchoring must be determined. (See NRCS Practice Standard 484, Practice Specification 484 and pertinent Job Sheets). If applicable, the landowner will need to provide the contractor with the appropriate standards, statement of work, job sheets and personal expectations.

II. SITING

The purpose of this step is to insure that the client fully understands which land units are involved in the mulching conservation practice. Care should be given to make sure the land unit locations involved in the plan is known by all involved.

III. MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT

The purpose of this item is to insure an understanding of the materials/equipment used to implement mulching. Appropriate standards, job sheets and expectations that includes the types and number of each type of materials /equipment will need to be provided to the landowner and all those involved in the implementation of the conservation practice

484 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe each component of the mulching conservation practice which includes step by step instructions, construction methods and materials to be used.

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This will include the documentation of all components described in Mulching 484. Additional reference material should include as needed and appropriate. The landowner must be provided with a complete mulching plan in the form of NRCS Job sheets for practice code 484 in order to document the conservation practice implementation. Any items not described in Job Sheet 484 that are essential for implementation of mulching will be added to the Job sheet.

484 - STEP 5. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION, MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure that proper management and maintenance is completed before, during and after mulching. (See NM-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 484 and Job Sheet 484).

This requires a familiarity with soils, cropping practices and site conditions.

484 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard and Specification 484 & Job Sheet 484, CPA-52 and other appropriate documents.

II. DOCUMENTS

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the mulching plan. This includes the Practice Requirements for Mulching 484, Job Sheet for 484 and any other job sheets that may be needed for this practice to meet the intended goals and objectives.