



## 484 – Mulching Implementation Requirements

Producer:

Location:

Farm Name:

Project or  
Contract:

County:

Tract Number:

### Practice Lifespan – 1 year



### Practice Purpose(s): (check all that apply)

Mulching can be designed to accomplish one or more of the following conservation purposes. Check all that apply:

Conserve soil moisture

Reduce Energy Use Associated With Irrigation

Provide Erosion Control

Suppress Weed Growth

Facilitate Establishment of Vegetative Cover

Improve Soil Health (Organic Matter)

Reduce Airborne Particulates

Other: (Specify)

### Description of work:

### NRCS Review Only

Designed By:

Date

Checked By:

Date

Approved By:

Date

## **484 – Mulching Implementation Requirements**

### **General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes:**

The selection of mulching materials will depend primarily on the purpose(s) for the mulch application site conditions and the material's availability. Mulch materials shall consist of natural and/or artificial materials that are of sufficient dimension (depth or thickness) and durability to achieve the intended purpose for the required time period.

Prior to mulching, the soil surface shall be prepared in order to achieve the desired purpose.

The mulch material shall be evenly applied and, if necessary, anchored to the soil. Tackifiers, emulsions, pinning, netting, crimping or other acceptable methods of anchoring will be used if needed to hold the mulch in place for specified periods.

In cases where excessive furrow erosion may occur due to concentrated flows from plastic mulches, appropriate measures will be taken to protect the furrows.

As a minimum, manufactured mulches shall be applied according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Mulch material needs to be of a quality to meet the intended purpose.

### **Additional Criteria to Conserve Soil Moisture and/or Reduce Energy Use Associated with Irrigation**

Check if Applicable

Mulch materials applied to the soil surface shall provide at least 60 percent surface cover to reduce potential evaporation.

### **Additional Criteria to Provide Erosion Control and to Reduce Airborne Particulates**

Check if Applicable

When mulching with cereal grain straw or grass hay, apply at a rate to achieve a minimum 70 percent ground cover. Mulch rate shall be determined using current erosion prediction technology to reach the soil conservation objective.

When mulching with wood products such as wood chips, bark, or shavings or other wood materials, apply a minimum 2-inch thickness comprised of particles that remain in place during heavy rainfall and or strong wind events.

When mulching with gravel or other inorganic material apply a minimum 2 inch thickness and shall consist of pieces 0.75 to 2 inches in diameter.

### **Additional Criteria to Establish Vegetative Cover**

Check if Applicable

Mulch shall be applied at a rate that achieves a minimum of 70 percent ground cover to provide protection from erosion and runoff and yet allow adequate light and air penetration to the seedbed to ensure proper germination and emergence.

### **Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Health**

Check if Applicable

Use plant-based mulching materials of suitable quantity and quality to add organic matter, provide food and shelter for soil biota, and protect the soil surface from raindrop impact and crusting, while allowing for adequate soil aeration.

Apply mulch materials with a carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N) less than 30 to 1 so that soil nitrogen is not immobilized by soil biota. Do not apply mulch with C:N less than 20:1 to an area of designed flow in watercourses.

An evaluation of the system using the current approved soil conditioning index (SCI) procedure results in zero or higher.

## 484 – Mulching Implementation Requirements

### Operation and Maintenance:

- Mulched areas will be periodically inspected, and mulch shall be reinstalled or repaired as needed to accomplish the intended purpose.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the mulch (application, amount of cover provided, durability, etc.) and adjust the management or type of mulch to better meet the intended purpose(s).
- Removal or incorporation of mulch 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.

### Specific Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements For Your Practice:

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### Mulching Specifications:

Layout	Field	Field	Field
Total Area (acres)			
Mulch Type			
Rate (amount per appropriate unit)			
Percent Cover and/or Thickness (% or inches)			
Application Date			
Tackifier Required			
Method/Type of Anchoring <sup>1</sup>			
Additional Protective Measures <sup>2</sup>			
Livestock Exclusion is Required <sup>3</sup>			

<sup>1</sup> List any anchoring necessary to hold the mulch in place. Types include: **Peg or Twine, Mulch Netting, Asphalt Emulsion, Chemical or Disking**. If none, list as **N/A**

<sup>2</sup> 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**.

<sup>3</sup> If livestock exclusion is necessary, refer to (472) Use Exclusion and/or (382) Fence for more information.

A map(s) showing all sites/areas planned for Mulching is attached.

If you have questions about this planned **Mulching** practice contact:

Name:		Tel:		Email:	
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