

Resource Conserving Crop Rotation (RCCR)

FY2026 (Formally E328A)



Description

Establish a Resource Conserving Crop Rotation; with at least one resource-conserving crop, as determined by the state conservationist, that reduces erosion, improves soil fertility and tilth, interrupts pest cycles, builds soil organic matter, reduces depletion of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the need for irrigation in applicable areas, and may provide protection and habitat for pollinators. NRCS does not consider a fallow crop field a “crop rotation.”

Criteria

- Crops shall be grown in a planned sequence. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of two different crops in a minimum three-year crop rotation. Rotation must include AT LEAST one resource conserving crop (refer to WA-Agronomy TN22). For purposes of these criteria a cover crop is considered a different crop.
- Crop rotation must produce a positive trend in the Organic Matter (OM) subfactor value, as determined by the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) calculated using current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies.
Design the crop sequence to provide sufficient diversity in plant family and species as well as timing and type of field operations to suppress the pest(s) of concern, which may include weeds, insects, and pathogens. Use land grant university or industry standards to determine a suitable crop sequence.
- Select crops, varieties of crops, and the sequences of crops based on local climate patterns, soil conditions, irrigation water availability, and an approved water balance procedure.
- Where applicable, plan suitable crop substitutions when the planned crop cannot be planted due to weather, soil conditions, or other local situations.
- The crop rotation shall include at least one of the following types of resource conserving crops (refer to WA-Agronomy TN22):
- With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a perennial grass grown at least 2 years from time of planting.
- With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a legume that is grown at least 2 years from time of planting.
- With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a legume-grass mixture that is grown at least 2 years from time of planting.
- With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a grass-forbs or legume-grass-forbs mixture, in which at least the grass component of the mixture is grown at least 2 years from time of planting, or
- With at least two other crops in the rotation, include a non-fragile residue or high residue crop or a crop that efficiently uses soil moisture, reduces irrigation water needs, or is considered drought tolerant. Neither the crop residue nor the cover crop shall be harvested or grazed. (refer to WA-Agronomy TN22).

Resource Conserving Crops:

Perennial Grasses*

Sandberg Bluegrass
 Kentucky Bluegrass
 Big Bluegrass
 Basin Wildrye
 Blue Wildrye
 Perennial Ryegrass
 Orchard grass
 Tall Fescue
 Sheep Fescue
 Tall Wheatgrass
 Beardless Wheatgrass
 Snake River Wheatgrass
 Siberian Wheatgrass
 Blue Bunch Wheatgrass
 Thick Spike Wheatgrass
 Mountain Brome
 Timothy

Perennial Legumes*

Alfalfa
 Sainfoin
 Red Clover
 White Clover

High Residue Annual Crops*

Spring and Winter Wheat
 Triticale
 Rye
 Oats
 Barley
 Millet
 Sorghum/Sudan Grass
 Teff
 Field Corn
 Sweet Corn

Non-Fragile Residue Annual Crops*

Barley
 Buckwheat
 Corn
 Wheat
 Rye

* See WA-Agronomy TN 22





Documentation & Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, the participant will provide NRCS with the planned crop rotation and tillage operation(s) used for each crop within the rotation, demonstrating meeting CPS 328, Conservation Crop Rotation, and the above stated criteria.
- Prior to implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or field operations to verify the planned systems will meet Resource Conserving Crop Rotation criteria

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance in selecting crop rotations or substitute crops that would meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify that the crop rotation includes at least two different crops in a minimum three-year crop rotation, meeting CPS 328-Conservation Crop Rotation
- Prior to implementation, verify the crop rotation includes at least one resource conserving crop (refer to State Specific List of Resource Conserving Crops).
- Prior to implementation, use the information provided from the participant to calculate the management Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) value using current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies. Crop rotation must produce a positive trend in the Organic Matter (OM) subfactor value.
 - Management SCI Value OM subfactor value:
- Prior to implementation, verify the crop rotation meet planning criteria for soil erosion.
 - Soil T Value: Planned Erosion Rate:
- During implementation, evaluate planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or field operations to verify the planned system meets the Resource Conserving Crop Rotation criteria.
- After implementation, if the applied crop rotation is different than the planned crop rotation, use the information provided by the participant to calculate planned erosion rate and SCI value to document that the applied rotation met the enhancement criteria.
 - Soil Erosion Rate: Management SCI Value: OM subfactor value:

Participant Acknowledgment of required criteria to implement a Resource Conserving Crop Rotation

Participant:

Date:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and documented on RCCR/IRCCR WA-Supplement prior to implementation.

NRCS Design Approval:

Date:

I have reviewed all submitted documentation from the participant and have determined the participant has implemented the RCCR per CPS 328 and criteria stated above.

NRCS Implementation Approval:

Date:

Job Approval Authority:

