United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES **March 11, 2015**
450 – NHCP
NOTICE 161

Purpose. This notice transmits a new national Conservation Practice Standard (CPS), along with an updated index, for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included to highlight key content in the document.

Effective Date. This notice is effective upon receipt.

Explanation of Change. New national CPS is as follows:

High Tunnel System (Code 325).—This is a new national conservation practice standard with a 5-year lifespan that replaces the Seasonal High Tunnel for Crops (Code 798) interim standard, which has been utilized extensively by a number of States since 2010. Because the Interim Conservation Practice Standard has been used so widely (10,000 structures with financial assistance amounting to about 20 million dollars), States recommended conversion of this interim standard to a new National Conservation Practice Standard. "High Tunnel System" (Code 325) applies to "kits" that can be purchased from a number of suppliers. Improving plant health and vigor has been identified as the purpose of this standard. The conservation practice describes "an enclosed polyethylene, plastic, or fabric covered structure used to cover and protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner."

Filing Instructions. If a hardcopy of the NHCP is maintained, replace the "Contents" (pages i through vi, dated September 2014) with the revised pages found at http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=22299

This notice, and the conservation practice standard included with this notice, can be accessed electronically through the NRCS Web site at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849

DIST: S, R, L, and National Center Director

Federal Register Notice.

NRCS published a notice to solicit public comments about how to improve specific agency conservation practice standard in the *Federal Register* on February 3, 2015, for a 30-day comment period. Comments from the public were accepted during the comment period.

Guidance to the States and the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State-level technical guides can be found in Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, Section 401.19.

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