

USDA COVER CROP

Conservation Practice Jobsheet

340

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

March 2012

Landowner _____



WHAT IS A COVER CROP

Crops including grasses, legumes and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water.
- Increase soil organic matter content.
- Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile.
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation.
- Increase biodiversity
- Weed suppression
- Provide supplemental forage
- Soil moisture management
- Reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all lands requiring vegetative cover for natural resource protection and or improvement.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Cover crop is normally established along with other conservation practices as part of a resource management system. Other conservation practices may include nutrient and pest management, residue management, wildlife habitat improvement, irrigation water management, field borders, mulching, grass waterways, filter strips, diversions and grade stabilization structures.

PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS

Practice specifications are provided to assure that the cover crop meets the resource needs and producer's objectives.

Specifications for the establishment of this practice shall be prepared for each field or treatment unit according to the Criteria and Considerations described in the standard.

**NRCS, LA
MARCH 2012**

COVER CROP – SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

Landowner/Cooperator _____

Field Office _____

Plan Number _____ Location _____

Field Area (ac) _____ Treatment Area (ac) _____ Precipitation (inches) _____

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)

	Reduce erosion from wind and water
	Increase soil organic matter content
	Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile
	Promote biological nitrogen fixation
	Increase biodiversity
	Weed suppression
	Provide supplemental forage
	Soil moisture management
	Reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere
	Minimize and reduce soil compaction
	Other

Site Conditions

Plant Materials – Cultivar and Species (see note below)	Full Seeding Rate (lb/ac PLS)	Planned % of Seeding Mix	Planned Acres	Treatment Area Total lbs. of PLS Needed
Totals				

Note – Planner may attach copy of “Louisiana Seed Mixture Worksheet” if used to figure seed mixture.

Cover Crop Site Preparation and Establishment

Site Preparation Activities:	
Planting/Seeding Method:	
Nutrient and Pest Management Planned:	

Soil Amendments and Fertilization

Soil Test Taken		Soil pH from Soil Test	
Other Important Factors (i.e., salinity, iron, etc.)			

	Low	Medium	High
Phosphorus			
Nitrogen			
Potassium			

Site Conditions for Planning Cover Crop Establishment

	Site One	Site Two
Dominant Soil Series		
Representative Slope %		
Existing Vegetation Present		
Erosion Problems		
Fertility Requirements		

Operation and Maintenance

Item	Year 1 – Area Treated	Year 2 – Area Treated	Year 3 – Area Treated	Year 4 – Area Treated
Method of Killing Cover Crop (chemical, mechanical, grazed, etc)				
Haying – improve vigor, control weeds and diseases				
Weed Control – chemical, mechanical				
Habitat Manipulation – disking, interseeding				

Additional Specifications and Notes

Practice Design Certification (To be completed after jobsheet is complete and before practice installation)

By signing below, I certify that:

- the site specific requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice on the client's treatment unit, as recorded in this jobsheet, have been prepared in accordance with the 340 Cover Crop Standard and the guidance in the 340 Cover Crop Practice Specification.

Signature _____

Date _____

Practice Installation Certification (To be completed after practice installation and check out)

By signing below, I certify that:

- The practice has been installed according to the site specific installation requirements

Signature _____

Date _____

This practice requires a current Louisiana One Call Dottie Confirmation Number.

Call before you dig, wait 48 hours for the site to be marked, observe the marks and dig with care. The service is free. It's the law! Civil Penalties range up to \$25,000 for violations of the "Dig" law



Failure to notify Louisiana One Call before installing this practice may delay or terminate NRCS assistance.

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