

Conservation Crop Rotation

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

NH - 328



Definition:

Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field

Where used:

This practice applies to all land where crops are grown, except pastureland, hayland, or other land uses where crops are grown occasionally only to facilitate renovation or reestablishment of perennial vegetation.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specification sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard Conservation Crop Rotation, code 328, NRCS-NH, April 2000.

Operation and Maintenance

Rotations shall provide for acceptable substitute crops in case of crop failure or shift in planting intentions for weather related or economic reasons. Acceptable substitutes are crops having similar properties that meet the criteria for all the resource concerns identified for the field or treatment unit.

In areas where summer fallow is practiced, the decision to plant a crop or fallow shall be made annually based on soil moisture at planting time. Fields shall be fallowed only when soil moisture is not adequate to produce a crop. If moisture supply is adequate but limited, short season shallow rooted crops shall be selected and grown. Deep-rooted crops shall follow shallow rooted crops in subsequent years, if needed, to utilize all plant available water in the root zone.

Follow NRCS state policy for considering cultural resources during planning and maintenance.

Purposes (check all that apply)

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion.
- Reduce irrigation-induced erosion.
- Reduce soil erosion from wind.
- Maintain or improve soil organic matter content.
- Manage the balance of plant nutrients.
- Improve water use efficiency.
- Manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases).
- Provide food for domestic livestock.
- Provide food and cover for wildlife.

Landowner:	Field ID.
Conservationist:	Date:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

General Specifications

- Crops shall be grown in a planned recurring (rotation), unless a suitable substitution crop is used.
- Use crops and varieties adapted for your soils and region.
- Cover and green manure crops may be grazed as long as enough biomass remains for the intended purpose(s).
- A conservation crop rotation may include crops planted for cover or nutrient enhancement

Rotation

Year in Rotation	Crop (s)	Additional notes: Seeding date, Tillage, Soil Amendments, etc.

Additional specifications for intended purpose:

References

- _ 2001 Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management
<http://www.css.cornell.edu/extension/CornellGuide.html>
- _ Penn State Agronomy Guide – <http://AgGuide.agronomy.psu.edu>

Practice Sketch: If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

