

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

CONTOUR ORCHARD AND OTHER FRUIT AREA

(acre)

CODE 331

DEFINITION

Planting orchards, vineyards, or small fruits so that all cultural operations are done on the contour.

PURPOSES

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

- Reduce soil and water loss,
- Better control and use water, and
- Operate farm equipment more easily.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On sloping land where soil and water losses need to be controlled, especially if a permanent cover is not established.

CRITERIA

CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity

1. Effects the water budget, especially effects on volume and rates of runoff and infiltration.
2. Decreases in surface runoff and increases in infiltration with any benches or terraces constructed to provide access to growing plants. Consider the type of bench or terrace (inward sloping versus outward sloping), width, degree of slope, and

vegetative cover at the time of runoff.

Water Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.
2. Effects of increased volumes of soluble nutrients, pesticides, and salts contained in infiltrating water. Comparison should be made to noncontoured orchards on sloping ground or to the present land use if not now in orchard.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Allowable deviation from the true contour.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.