Irrigation System / Sprinkler

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 442

DEFINITION

A sprinkler irrigation system is a planned system in which all necessary components have been installed for efficient application of irrigation water by means of nozzles operated under pressure.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Sprinkler irrigation designs are based on an evaluation of the site considering soil, topography, water supply, energy supply, crops to be grown, labor requirements, and expected operating conditions.

The purpose of a sprinkler system is to efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water to the crops or soil without causing erosion, excessive water loss, or reduction in water quality.

An irrigation system must be designed as an integral part of a conservation plan based on the capabilities of the natural resources and the needs of the farm enterprise.

The most efficient type of system should be planned. For example, surface or flood type irrigation systems may not be adapted to the site if the soils are sandy. Sprinkler irrigation systems are a better choice for sandy soils. Conversely, if the soils are very slowly permeable (clayey), the site may not be well adapted to sprinkler irrigation due to excessive runoff and erosion.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

The following pages list the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, and soil.
Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECT WORKSHEET

NOTE: *recorded in Microsoft word 6.0 - use tabs to change cells/fields*

STATE	ANY	FIELD OFFICE	ANY	DATE	5/15/97

PRACTICE: 442 Irrigation System - sprinkler	NOTES:
RESOURCE: SOIL **RESOURCE CONCERN: EROSION**	**Help Message: Click on form field for choice lists.** **Refer to Microsoft Word Users Guide (Creating a form)**
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
SHEET AND RILL	moderate reduction in sheet and rill erosion
WIND	moderate reduction in wind erosion
EPHEMERAL GULLY	moderate reduction in ephemeral gully erosion
CLASSIC GULLY	N/A
STREAMBANK	N/A
IRRIGATION INDUCED	moderate reduction in irrigation induced erosion
SOIL MASS MOVEMENT	N/A
ROADBANK/CONSTRUCTION	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOIL CONDITION**	
SOIL TILTH	N/A
SOIL COMPACTION	N/A
SOIL CONTAMINATION	
• SALTS	N/A
• ORGANICS	N/A
• FERTILIZERS	N/A
• PESTICIDES	N/A
• OTHER	
DEPOSITION/DAMAGE	
• ONSITE	moderate reduction/onsite deposition damage
• OFFSITE	moderate decrease/offsite deposition damage
DEPOSITION/SAFETY	
• ONSITE	moderately improve onsite safety/deposition
• OFFSITE	moderately improve offsite safety hazard/depos.
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **WATER** RESOURCE CONCERN: **WATER QUANTITY**	
SEEPS	insignificant
RUNOFF/FLOODING	N/A
EXCESS SUBSURFACE WATER	N/A
INADEQUATE OUTLETS	N/A
WATER MGT. IRRIGATION	
• SURFACE	N/A
• SPRINKLER	significant improvement in irrigation efficiency
WATER MGT. NON-IRRIGATED	N/A
RESTRICTED FLOW CAPACITY (H20 convey.)	
• ONSITE	N/A
• OFFSITE	N/A
RESTRICTED STORAGE	N/A

RESOURCE: **WATER** RESOURCE CONCERN**: WATER QUALITY**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	N/A
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	N/A
• SALINITY	N/A
• HEAVY METALS	N/A
• PATHOGENS	N/A
• OTHER	
SURFACE WATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	N/A
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	N/A
• SUSPENDED SEDIMENTS	moderate reduction in SWater contam./susp. sedi.
• LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN	N/A
• SALINITY	N/A
• HEAVY METALS	N/A
• WATER TEMPERATURE	N/A
• PATHOGENS	N/A
AQUATIC HABITAT SUITABILITY	moderate inprovement in Aqua. Hab. Suit.
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **AIR** RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR QUALITY**	
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT AND SMOKE PARTICLES	
• ONSITE SAFETY	N/A
• OFFSITE SAFETY	N/A
• ONSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	N/A
• OFFSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	N/A
• ONSITE HEALTH	N/A
• OFFSITE HEALTH	N/A
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT CAUSING CONVEYANCE PROBLEMS	N/A
AIRBORNE CHEMICAL DRIFT	N/A
AIRBORNE ODORS	N/A
FUNGI, MOLDS, AND POLLEN	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR CONDITION**	
AIR TEMPERATURE	N/A
AIR MOVEMENT (windbreak effect)	N/A
HUMIDITY	N/A
OTHER	

RESOURCE: **PLANT** RESOURCE CONCERN: **SUITABILITY**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
SITE ADAPTATION	slight improvement in plant suitability/site adapt
PLANT USE	moder. improvement in plant suit. for intended use
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **CONDITION**	
PRODUCTIVITY	sign. improvement in plant cond./ productivity
HEALTH, VIGOR, SURVIVAL	sign. improvement in plant health,vigor, survival
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT**	
ESTAB., GROWTH, HARVEST	moder. improvement in plant estab.,growth,harvest
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT	moder. improvement in plant nutrient management
PESTS	N/A
THREAT/ENDANGERED PLANTS	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **ANIMAL** RESOURCE CONCERN: **HABITAT**	
FOOD	sign. improvement in animal habitat/food supply
COVER/SHELTER	insignificant
WATER (QUANTITY & QUALITY)	insignificant
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT**	
POPULATION BALANCE	N/A
THREAT/ENDANGERED ANIMALS	N/A
HEALTH	sign. improvement in animal mgt./ health
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **HUMAN** RESOURCE CONCERNS**: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS**	
PLAN / COST EFFECTIVENESS	moderately cost effective
CLIENT FINANCIAL CONDITION	significantly cost effective
MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS	N/A
AVAILABLE LABOR	moderate decrease in labor requirement
AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT	situational regarding equipment concerns

RESOURCE: **HUMAN** RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY	N/A
PRIVATE/PUBLIC VALUES	N/A
CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS	N/A
RISK TOLERANCE	insignificant risk involved
TENURE	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS**	
ABSENCE/PRESENCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	situational regarding cultural resources
SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	situational regarding cultural resources
MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE CULTURAL RES. IMPACTS	situational regarding cultural resources
OTHER	