

Conservation Crop Rotation

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

328



Definition

Growing crops in a planned sequence on the same field.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies to all land where annual crops are grown, with the exception of pastureland, hayland, or other land uses where annual crops are grown occasionally only to facilitate renovation or re-establishment of perennial vegetation.

Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

1. Crops shall be grown in a planned sequence as outlined in Plans and Specifications.
2. Crops shall be adapted to the local climate, the soil resource, and the goals of the producer.

Additional Criteria to Reduce Sheet & Rill and/or Wind Erosion

The selected crops and cropping sequence, in conjunction with other practices in the management system, shall produce sufficient quantities of biomass, crop residue, and/or intervals without soil disturbance (i.e., perennials) to reduce sheet & rill and/or wind erosion to the planned soil loss objective.

Use the appropriate approved soil erosion prediction technology to verify sheet & rill and/or wind erosion objectives are met.

Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Quality

The selected crops and cropping sequence, in conjunction with other practices in the management system, shall achieve both of the following minimum performance targets for the overall rotation:

1. Predicted sheet & rill erosion must be at or below the soil loss tolerance value (T).
2. The Soil Conditioning Index must predict an SCI score of +0.25 or greater.

See Standard for guidance on further improving soil quality with additional targets for SCI, crop continuity, crop diversity, and soil disturbance.

Additional Criteria to Manage the Balance of Plant Nutrients

Determine crop selection and sequence according to an approved nutrient balance or nutrient management planning procedure.

Additional Criteria to Supply Nitrogen through Biological Fixation to Reduce Energy Use

When crop rotations are designed to add nitrogen to the system, nitrogen-fixing crops shall be grown immediately prior to or interplanted with nitrogen-requiring crops.

Additional Criteria to Manage Plant Pests (Weeds, Insects, Disease)

Design the crop sequence to break pest lifecycles and/or to allow use of a variety of control methods and pesticide modes of action.

NOTE: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Conservation Crop Rotation Standard (VA-328). Consult the Practice Standard for further details.

General Information	
Client: _____	County: _____
Field Office: _____	Contract #: _____
Farm #: _____	Tract #: _____
Field # and acreage: _____	

Client's Purpose(s) (check all that apply)
<i>Note: Some purposes trigger additional requirements to include in Specifications – see page 1 or Standard for details.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce sheet & rill erosion
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce wind erosion
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve soil quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Manage the balance of plant nutrients
<input type="checkbox"/> Supply nitrogen through biological fixation to reduce energy use
<input type="checkbox"/> Manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases)
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide feed for domestic livestock
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide annual crops for bioenergy feedstocks
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide food and cover for wildlife, including pollinator forage, cover, and nesting

Practice Specifications
Follow all specifications and recommendations below for practice implementation.
<u>General Criteria Required by Standard in All Cases</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crops shall be grown in a planned sequence as specified below. 2. Crops shall be adapted to the local climate, the soil resource, and the producer's goals.
<u>Description of Planned Crop Rotation</u>
<i>Specify overall rotation duration and crop names/types, sequence, and timing. Consider using and attaching Cropping System Description & Evaluation (D&E) Specification Sheets (see VA NRCS Tech Notes Sharepoint Site for D&E Spec Sheet document).</i>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>

Additional Criteria Required by Standard Depending on Client's Purpose(s)

Write in applicable additional criteria, if any, based on client's purpose(s); see complete Standard for details

[Empty box for additional criteria]

Additional Site-specific Recommendations

List any additional recommendations related to crop rotation or management or complementary practices (conservation tillage, cover crop, etc.) to achieve conservation objectives. Refer to attached Cropping System D&E Specification Sheet if needed.

[Empty box for additional site-specific recommendations]

Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

Carry out the following to ensure that the planned crop rotation practice functions as intended after initial implementation.

Minimum O&M Requirements:

1. Periodically evaluate crop rotation to determine if planned system is achieving desired purposes; make adjustments as needed.
2. Insert substitute crops into the rotation as needed in response to crop failure or weather- or market-driven changes in planting intentions. Acceptable substitutes are crops that will accomplish the purpose of the originally planned crop.

Additional O&M Recommendations

Provide any additional practical guidance for actions to ensure the long-term effectiveness of practice.

[Empty box for additional O&M recommendations]

Planner Certification

The Conservation Crop Rotation practice planned in this job sheet fulfills minimum requirements of Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 328.

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

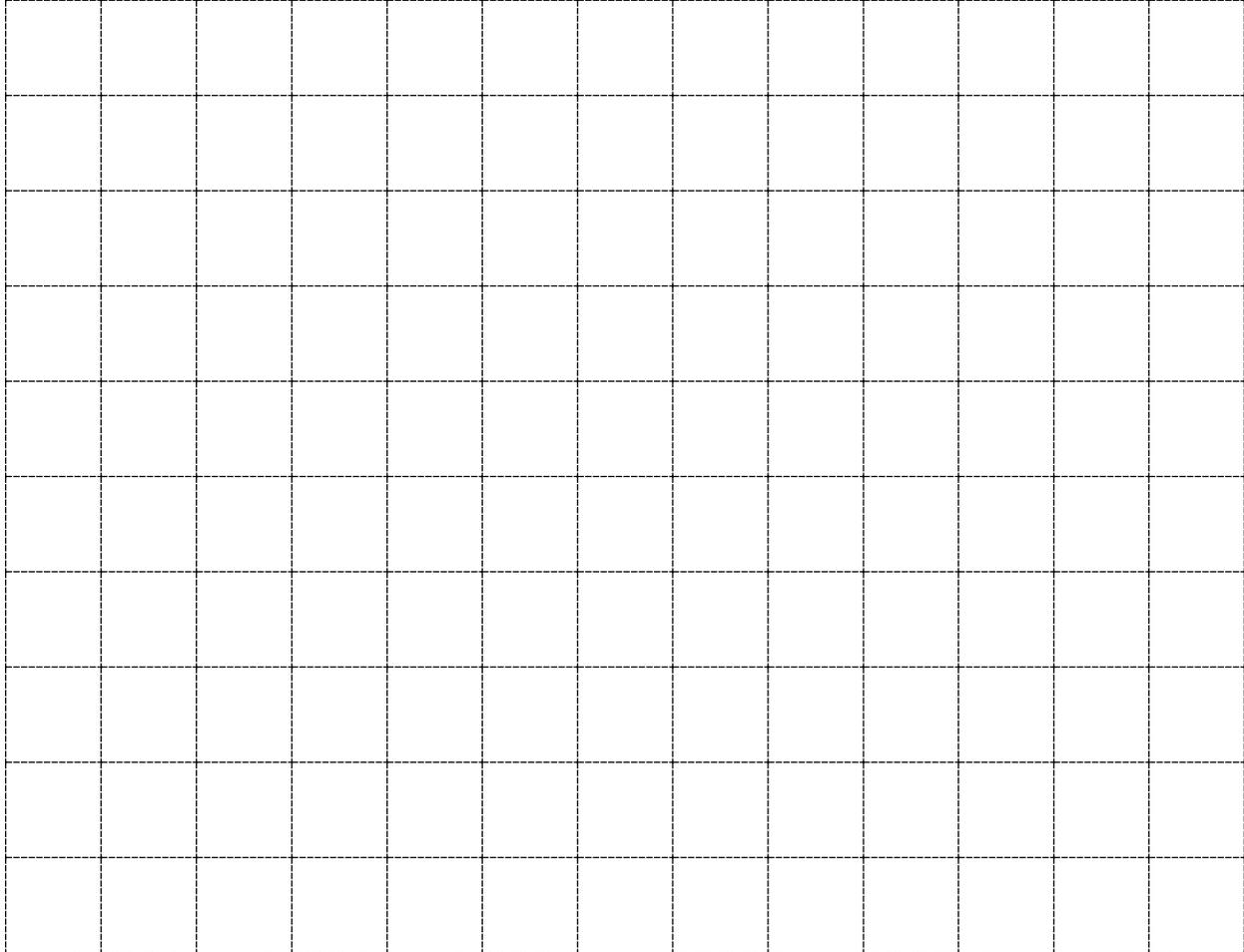
Certification of Practice Completion

The Conservation Crop Rotation practice planned in this job sheet has been completed and maintained according to Virginia NRCS specifications (indicate in Practice Specifications any changes to planned activities and acreage).

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

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")



Additional Specifications and Notes:

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