

February 19, 2016

ALABAMA TECHNICAL GUIDE – SECTION IV – NOTICE AL82

This notice transmits revisions to the eFOTG.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS:

Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products, Code 333 – **NEW** – This is a new conservation practice standard (CPS) using gypsum technology to improve soil structure and reduce phosphorus runoff from fields and buffer areas.

High Tunnel System, Code 325 – **NEW** – This standard replaces the interim standard Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops, Code 798. Differences between the interim standard and this new standard include:

All five Purposes were removed:

- Improve soil quality.
- Reduce nutrient and pesticide transport.
- Improve plant quality.
- Improve air quality through reduced transportation inputs.
- Reduce energy use through local consumption.

One Purpose was added - Improve plant health and vigor.

Changes to Conditions Where Practice Applies: The practice does not apply to hydroponically grown crops.

Several Considerations were added, including:

- Runoff may be captured and used for irrigation purposes, if allowed by State law, though runoff should not be relied on as the only source of irrigation water. Use the criteria for CPS Code 558, Roof Runoff Structure, to design any structure needed to meet the runoff criteria above.
- Consider managing the high tunnel system to maintain or improve soil health by following a soil management system that creates a favorable habitat for soil microbes by:
 - minimizing soil disturbance, physical, chemical and biological
 - using plant diversity in the rotation to increase diversity below ground
 - keeping a living root growing year round as much as possible
 - keeping the soil covered with residue and growing plants year round
- Consider the use of moveable high tunnel to reduce salt build up and to provide greater crop rotation flexibility.
- Consider elevating the site of the high tunnel by one foot to prevent ponding of water on the sides and inside the tunnel.

Statement of Work, High Tunnel System (325) – **NEW** – To conform to the new National Standard.

Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops, Code 798 – **DELETED** – This practice is replaced with CPS 325.

GUIDE/JOB SHEETS:

Wild Pig Trapping, Alabama Job Sheet No. AL645G – **REVISED** – In the Overview section, a sentence was added to indicate that NRCS worked in conjunction with the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop the minimum specifications. Under Trap Materials, the use of pressure treated wood for door and door frame is allowed. Under Trap Construction, information was added about the need to evaluate the sounder size before determining the size of trap to build. Under the Note preceding the photos - removed the sentence "Trap designs shown in photos below may not meet Alabama NRCS Specifications". Within the Checklist – Minimum Specifications - Door and door frame can either be all metal or pressure treated wood construction, whereas the previous version specified all metal construction.

High Tunnel System, Alabama Job Sheet No. AL325 – **NEW** – The AL798 Job Sheet was revised to incorporate the changes described above under CPS Code 325.

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