



April 30, 2015

CALIFORNIA NRCS TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 125

SUBJECT: Issue New and Revised Documents to the Field Office Technical Guide, Sections I, II, and IV.

Purposes:

1. Issue Agronomy, Forestry, and Range Technical Notes to Section I > Technical Notes.
2. Issue Assessment Tools posted to Section I > Resource Assessment Tools.
3. List updates recently made in the eVegGuide; link in Section II > Vegetative Guide.
4. Issue updates to Conservation Practice Documents in Section IV.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section I: Posted new/revised Technical Notes:

- TN-Agron-CA-79: Herbicide Symptoms on Non-Target Species, UC IPM Photo Repository. Posted to Sec I > Technical Notes > Agronomy
- TN-Agronomy-CA-80: Soil Health Field Assessment Worksheet announced. Posted to Sec I > Technical Notes > Agronomy
- TN-Agronomy-CA-81: Cover Crop Chart: Common Cover Crops in California. Posted to Sec I > Technical Notes > Agronomy
- TN-Forestry-CA-43: California Tree Seed Zones
Posted to Sec I > Technical Notes > Forestry
- TN-Range-CA-61: Guidelines for Assessment of Rangeland Health in California's Annual Grasslands and Oak Woodlands.
Posted to Sec I > Technical Notes > Range

Section I: Posted new Assessment Tools

- *"Soil Health Field Assessment Worksheet"*
Posted to Section I > Resource Assessment Tools
- *"Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health in California's Annual Grasslands and Oak Woodlands"* and accompanying *"Rangeland Health Indicator Evaluation Sheet and Matrix"*. Posted to Section I > Resource Assessment Tools > RANGE TOOLS > Rangeland Health

- “Range Health Field Assessment Worksheet”. Posted to Section I > Resource Assessment Tools > RANGE TOOLS > Rangeland Health
- “Apparent Range Trend Worksheet – Perennial Grasslands”. Posted to Section I > Resource Assessment Tools > RANGE TOOLS

Section II: Updates to the eVegGuide: [Link on eFOTG > Section II > Vegetative Guide](#)

- CPS 512, Forage and Biomass Planting, with perennial rye now shows as irrigated.
- Updates for MLRAs 21, 23, 29 & 30 work is underway with plant and treatment changes as per inputs from Ceci Dale-Cesmat, Rob Pearce, Bryan Voelker, and Bryon Hadwick.
- "Search" tab on the home page renamed to "Data".
- Inside the [new] Data tab, "Plant Viewer" is first and "Treatment Viewer" is last.
- Work is underway on "Report" tab. When results are displayed, results are sorted into:
 - Tier 1: plants with no suitability warnings;
 - Tier 2: plants with a single suitability warning;
 - Tier 3: plants with more than one suitability warning.
- For Cal-IPC rated plants, use one footnote for plants with a high rating, and different footnote for plants with a moderate or limited rating. Work underway on this item.
- In the "Report" tab, Excel/CSV is now a download option in addition to Word/Rich Text formats.
- In the "Report" tab, when the map is showing in the CLIMATE & SOIL PROFILE, the SSURGO reference was changed from “Map Unit” to "Soil Map Unit."

Section IV: The following California Approved and Interim Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications have been revised, added, or removed in Section IV of eFOTG:

NOTE: The term “Implementation Requirements” will be replacing “Practice Requirements” in an attempt to align, over time, to the terminology changes in NHCP - National Handbook of Conservation Practices and in the General Manual, eFOTG sections.

Code	Practice Name	Std (CPS)	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
327	Conservation Cover				•		
340	Cover Crop	•	•	•			
422	Hedgerow Planting				•		
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	•					
528	Prescribed Grazing <i>528-Grazing Record Worksheet</i>						

Code	Practice Name	Std	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
442	Sprinkler System	•					
649	Structures for Wildlife <i>649A: Brush Piles (overview, spec, IR)</i> <i>649: Nest Structures, all (overview)</i> <i>649B: Barn Owl Nest Structures (spec)</i> <i>649C: Wood Duck Nest Structures (spec)</i> <i>649D: Burrowing Owl Nest Structures (spec)</i> <i>649H: Nesting/Loafing Islands (ov,spec,ir)</i> <i>649: All activities, general, (IR)</i>		• • •	• • • •	• • •		
612	Tree / Shrub Establishment <i>612A-Containerized Stock</i>				•		
384	Woody Residue Treatment				•		

Narrative Summary of Changes to Conservation Practice Documents:

Conservation Cover (CPS 327) – Implementation Requirements sheet added.

Cover Crop (CPS 340) – Practice Standard: Added a paragraph in the Criteria for all Purposes: The cover crop cannot be harvested as a cash crop, but closely-managed grazing is allowed as long as the purpose(s) of the practice are met. Also added a new Overview and Specifications Sheet.

Hedgerow Planting (CPS 422) – Added an Implementation Requirements sheet.

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (CPS 441) – Practice Standard, “Conditions where practice applies” was clarified. Use CPS 441 when *uniform discharge rates from emitters* is desired rather than uniform coverage across the field.

Prescribed Grazing (CPS 528) – Added a Grazing Record Worksheet as way to record periods of grazing and stocking rates in land units.

Sprinkler System (CPS 442) – Practice Standard, “Conditions where practice applies” was clarified. Use CPS 442 when *uniform coverage between laterals and sprinklers* is the water application objective.

Structures for Wildlife (Code 649) – Added several new Specifications and Implementation Requirements for different types of wildlife structures.

Tree / Shrub Establishment (CPS 612) – Added new Implementation Requirements for 612A – Bare Root / Containerized Stock

Woody Residue Treatment (CPS 384) – Added an Implementation Requirements sheet.

Location of Documents

The California eFOTG, located on the web at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx is being updated to reflect these changes to Sections I & IV. Previous document versions will be moved to the archived folders.

Optional Filing Instructions (for hard copies of FOTG maintained in Field Offices)

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-8, dated November 20, 2014, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated April 30, 2015.

Replace old documents with the new as described in this Technical Guide Notice.

/s/ 

TOM HEDT

State Resource Conservationist

ATTACHMENTS: (copies sent by request) (Copies will be posted to the California eFOTG.)

DIST: AE