

# Mulching

Georgia

Conservation Practice Job Sheet – Code 484 (10/15)

Land User	County
Farm #	Date
Tract #	Assisted by

## Mulching



### Definition

Mulching is application of plant residues or other materials, such as plastic mulch, to the soil surface.

### Purposes

Select the appropriate purposes and provide additional information in Tables 1 and 2. Attach a printout from RUSLE2 (or current erosion prediction software), where additional documentation is required.

Apply adequate vegetative mulch to obtain the minimum surface cover at the beginning and throughout the mulching period when a minimum coverage of the soil surface is required by the purpose. This period may be as long as one year, the maximum lifespan of the practice.

\_\_\_ Conserve soil moisture. Minimum 60% cover.

\_\_\_ Reduce energy or conserve soil moisture associated with irrigation. Minimum 60% cover.

\_\_\_ Provide control of soil erosion or the presence of airborne particulates. Minimum 70% cover of cereal grain or hay. Determine the mulching rate with RUSLE2. See details of this purpose in the standard for the amount of other mulch products to apply.

\_\_\_ Facilitate the establishment of vegetative cover. Minimum 70% cover.

\_\_\_ Improve soil condition/organic matter depletion. Requires soil conditioning index (SCI) =>0 in RUSLE2.

### Conservation Management System

Rarely does one conservation practice provide the treatment needed for all of our natural resources. Mulching is a component of conservation management systems.

A conservation management system is a combination of conservation practices and management that achieves a level of treatment for our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources while also meeting the objectives of the land user. In addition to mulching, additional practices such as critical area planting, cover crop, nutrient management and various structures may be needed.

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## **General Specifications**

Select the mulch that is suitable for the land use and site. Anchor where appropriate. See the standard and the statement of work for additional details.

The procedure for estimating cover crop or other biomass weight (dry lbs./ac.) is described in Appendix I.

**Practice Lifespan** 1 year

## **Operation and Maintenance**

- Mulched areas will be periodically inspected, and mulch shall be

- reinstalled or repaired as needed to accomplish the intended purpose.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the mulch (application, amount of cover provided, durability, etc.) and adjust the management or type of mulch to better meet the intended purpose(s).
- Removal or incorporation of mulch materials shall be consistent with the intended purpose and site conditions.
- Operation of equipment near and on the site shall not compromise the intended purpose of the mulch.
- Prevent or repair any fire damage to the mulch material.
- Properly collect and dispose of artificial mulch material after intended use.
- Monitor and control undesirable weeds in mulched area

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Table 1. Documentation of purpose and mulching activities

<b>Purpose or Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Purposes (elaborate from pg. 1)</b>	
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Mulch type and specifications</b>	
<b>Site preparation</b>	
<b>Date and method of application</b>	
<b>Percent cover of soil or rate during the lifespan of the practice</b>	
<b>Anchoring, tacking or netting</b>	
<b>Operation, maintenance and/or removal</b>	



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**For More Information:** Contact your local NRCS Office or Soil or Water Conservation District

**Jobsheet Certifications**

**Prepared by**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved by**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Installation Meets NRCS Standards and Specifications**

**Certified by**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_