



Helping People Help the Land

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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March 31, 2010

**TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE #227 (electronic)**

Purpose: To transmit information regarding the electronic NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

Effective Date: This notice is effective upon receipt.

Notice of Changes

SECTION I: General Resource References

D. Erosion Prediction

The documents on **Channel Erosion** and **Gully Erosion** have been reviewed and found to be current.

Technical questions should be directed to Sean Duffey, Water Resources Coordinator/Geologist, at (517) 324-5247.

F. Maps

The maps in the **Geology** folder have been replaced with a weblink to the GIS-based MSU/DNRE **Groundwater Mapping Project**.

Contact Sean Duffey, Water Resources Coordinator/Geologist, at (517) 324-5247 for technical information.

The map for the **Michigan Coastal Zone Management Area (CZMA)** has been replaced with a DNRE weblink to a list of maps showing coastal zone boundaries by county.

Technical questions should be directed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239

- More -

DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

G. Michigan Technical Notes

The following Agronomy Technical Notes have been added:

- **Agronomy Technical Note #43, Instantaneous Application Rates and Runoff**
- **Agronomy Technical Note #44, Common Terms Used in Irrigation Water Management Training**

The following Agronomy Technical Note has been revised for ease of use:

- **Agronomy Technical Note #40, Vegetative Filter Strip Design with the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 (RUSLE2) Model**

Technical questions should be directed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 324-5250.

SECTION II: Natural Resources Information

K. Forestry Information

The **Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Guide** has been updated. This excel spreadsheet-based tool assists users with selection of woody plants for conservation plantings. Updates include:

- 49 new species added
- Scientific names updated
- Mature height, shade tolerance, and state status added
- Instructions page added
- Overall layout of spreadsheet revised

Technical questions should be addressed to Andy Henriksen, State Forester, at (517) 324-5234.

SECTION IV: Standards and Specifications

A. Conservation Practices

The interim conservation practice standard **Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798)** and accompanying O&M Plan and Conservation Sheet have been updated to reflect changes in the national practice standard. The following revisions have been made:

- Removed the purpose of extending the growing season, since this is not a resource concern. "Extend the growing season" was kept in the definition.
- Removed the "existing" cropland criteria from 'Conditions Where Practice Applies'
- Adding two additional resource concerns and accompanying additional criteria:
 - Improving air quality through reduced transportation inputs; and
 - Reducing energy use through local consumption
- Clarified the criteria as to when the tunnel cover should be used
- Removed the reference to the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) for the soil quality criteria.

Technical questions should be directed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

C. Michigan Conservation Sheets

The following two conservation design sheets have been removed:

- **Weed Control for Tree and Shrub Establishment**
- **Tree and Shrub Planting for Restoration Windbreaks and Wildlife**

These have been replaced by the **Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment (490/612) Conservation Design Sheet**.

Technical questions should be directed to Andy Henriksen, State Forester, at (517) 324-5234.

H. Non-Practice Statements of Work

The **Statement of Work for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans** has been moved to **Section III** in the **Conservation Activity Plan Technical Criteria** folder.

Technical questions should be directed to Betsy Dierberger, Grassland/Forage Specialist, at (517) 324-5265.

L. Technical Tools

The **MSU Extension Bulletin E-2904** (Nutrient Recommendations for Field Crops) has been updated with the newest version, published in September 2009. It can be found in the Nutrient Management folder under Nutrient Management References.

Technical questions should be directed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

Questions regarding eFOTG content management should be directed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.



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