



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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**TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE #261 (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 References

Michigan Technical Notes

Michigan Biology Technical Note No. 20 – “Pollinator Biology and Habitat” has been revised to provide additional information regarding plant species that are preferred forage for honey bees. The bee forage plants are indicated with an asterisk in the plant tables. The recently posted Honey Bee Fact Sheet (found on the Michigan NRCS website) directs interested parties to Biology Tech. Note 20 for this detailed information.

Technical questions should be directed to Daniel Zay, State Biologist, at (517) 324-5267.

SECTION II. Natural Resources Information

Water Quality and Quantity

The **Win-PST 3.1 User Help** guidance document provides basic information on the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (Win-PST version 3.1).

Technical questions about the Win-PST User Help document should be addressed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

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DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

SECTION IV. Practice Standards and Specifications

Conservation Practices

The following documents were added or updated to the folder for conservation practice standard **Integrated Pest Management (585)**:

The **NRCS National Agronomy Technical Note No. 9, "Preventing or Mitigating Potential Negative Impacts of Pesticides on Pollinators Using Integrated Pest Management and Other Conservation Practices"** was released nationally in February 2014.

The **Michigan Drift Management Plan** template has been replaced with a version approved by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Growers should fill out the template to document planned drift management practices and update the document annually.

The **Pacific Northwest Extension Publication PNW 591, "How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides"** provides guidance to conservation planners on ways to reduce the risk of bee (and other pollinator) poisoning from pesticides.

Technical questions on these documents should be addressed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

Forage Harvest Management (511)

A new **job sheet** was prepared for conservation practice standard **Forage Harvest Management (511)** to be used when honey bees are the primary objective under the Honey Bee Initiative. Management of forage harvest will allow full season growth and bloom to maximize forage (nectar and pollen) for honey bees. Harvest is restricted to after a killing frost.

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

Questions regarding Field Office Technical Guide should be addressed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.



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