



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

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**TECHNICAL GUIDE  
NOTICE #273 (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 II. Natural Resources Information**

**Rose Lake Plant Materials Center**

The **Community Garden Guides**, found in the folder, **PMC Technology Development**, are out of date and have been archived.

Technical questions should be directed to John Durling, Rose Lake PMC Manager, at (517) 641-6300 or [john.durling@mi.usda.gov](mailto:john.durling@mi.usda.gov).

**SECTION III. Conservation Management Systems**

The **Resource Management System Guidance Documents Example** folders have been renamed to match current NRCS land use designations.

Technical questions should be directed to Sally Van Lieu, Resource Conservationist, at (517) 324-5279 or [sally.vanlieu@mi.usda.gov](mailto:sally.vanlieu@mi.usda.gov).

**Section IV. Practice Standards and Specifications**

**Conservation Practices**

The national conservation practice standard **Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products (Code 333)** and accompanying **Statement of Work** have been adopted by Michigan.

Technical questions should be directed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 324-324-5250 or [jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov).

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DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

A new **Cover Crop Calculator** has been developed for use with the conservation practice standard (CPS) **Cover Crop (Code 340)**. It is a simple, easy to use Excel spreadsheet to help field offices generate multiple seed mixtures that set the minimum seed rate for each species, as found in Table 2 of the Cover Crop (340) CPS. It was developed by the team of Jerry Grigar, Monica Wymer and Tony Wernette (Big Rapids FO), in consultation with Jim Hoormen (Ohio State University Extension and Midwest Cover Crop Council member).

The calculator divides the single species rate by the number of species selected to calculate the seeding rate per acre. For example, to develop a seed mixture with oilseed radish, oats and cereal rye, enter a check mark in front of each species. The calculator then divides the full rate of each species alone by three to determine a cover crop "cocktail" mixture seed rate for each species, to meet the minimum for Table 2 of the Cover Crop (340) CPS. Remember that a producer can always choose to increase the seeding rate but the mixture must contain the minimum of each species to be certified as meeting the Cover Crop (340) CPS.

At the top of the spreadsheet is an area to describe the Producer, Tract and Field Number, etc. A singly-page document is printed for the producer to follow. Any additional specifications may be added with the Cover Crop (340) Job Sheet if needed.

The Cover Crop Calculator has been placed in the folder for the Cover Crop (340) CPS.

Technical questions should be directed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 324-5250 or [jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov).

#### **Section V Conservation Effects**

The **Effects for RMS Guidance Documents** folders have been renamed to match current NRCS land use designations.

Technical questions should be directed to Sally Van Lieu, Resource Conservationist, at (517) 324-5279 or [sally.vanlieu@mi.usda.gov](mailto:sally.vanlieu@mi.usda.gov).

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

 *Ruth D. Shaffer* ACTING FOR B. Dierberger  
**BETSY DIERBERGER, Ph.D.**  
State Resource Conservationist