

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

### TEMPORARY DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR WINDBREAKS

Landowner/Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **OVERVIEW**

Operation and maintenance (O&M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service assistance. The land user is responsible for proper O&M throughout the life of the practice, which is three to five years, and as may be required by federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

Operation refers to operating the practice in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances, and easements and in such a manner that will result in the least adverse impact on the environment while permitting the practice to serve the purpose for which it was installed. Maintenance includes work to prevent the deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacing components which fail.

#### **FREQUENCY OF IRRIGATION**

- The system should be operated to deliver a minimum of three gallons of water per irrigation cycle.
- During the first year of windbreak plantings, the system should be operated twice a week during hot, dry conditions to maintain soil water levels at field capacity. Do not overwater. If there are drought conditions, the system may need to be operated more frequently. More water will be required in peak summer heat than in cooler spring and fall temperatures, so irrigation cycles should be adjusted accordingly.
- During subsequent years, the system should be operated a minimum of once a week. During hot, dry conditions, the system may need to be operated more than once a week.
- Monitor plantings and soil moisture (at or near field capacity) regularly, noting areas of moisture stress and repair or adjust system operation as needed.

**OPERATION PROCEDURES**

During irrigation system operation:

- Examine each emitter for proper operation. Clean plugged application devices, and replace if defective or worn. Flush lateral lines regularly.
- Operate the system at the pressure, discharge rate, irrigation duration and frequency as designed.
- Promptly repair all leaks in delivery facilities, by replacing valves, fittings, gaskets, and worn or damaged parts.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents and/or burrowing animals that have or can potentially damage any part of the delivery or application facilities. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.
- Do not run the drip irrigation system overnight unless it is timer controlled.

On a minimum of a monthly basis:

- Make sure the filter system is working. Clean or replace filters on a regular basis.
- Check to make sure that all connections are watertight and all valves are working properly.

On an annual basis:

- Check for proper operation of backflow protection devices.
- During non-seasonal use, place appurtenances in an area where they will not be damaged but are secure, if necessary.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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