



Soil Quality Enhancement Activity – SQL11 – Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Cover Crop Requirements

- Cover crops cannot be mechanically harvested. Grazing is allowed after plant establishment.
- Cover crops must follow planting dates, seeding rates, method of planting and other requirements in Conservation Practice Standard [340, Cover Crop](#). Specifications will be provided on the [Cover Crop Worksheet \(NE-CPA-7\)](#).
- Cover crop mixes must include a warm season or cool season grass and provide at least 85% soil coverage.
- All cover crop mixes intended to accomplish objectives for either 4. e. Habitat for Beneficial Insects and/or 4. f. Pollinator Habitat must include a minimum of two flowering species which collectively comprise at least one-fourth (25%) of the total seeded mix on a seeds per square foot basis. Select species that bloom outside of the bloom period for the orchard/vineyard crops and avoid mowing or other destruction of cover during the timeframe that the seeded species is blooming. (For more information, refer to job sheets Enhancement PLT15 Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat.)

For a list of potential cover crop species refer to the species guide associated with the [Cover Crop Worksheet \(NE-CPA-7\)](#).

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

In addition:

Complete, sign, and attach [Cover Crop worksheet NE-CPA-7](#) showing the cover crops grown, seeding date, seeding rate, fertilizer applied, and the method and date of termination.

I certify that the enhancement criteria have been met and the required documentation provided to NRCS.

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____