RESIDUE MANAGEMENT, SEASONAL

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 344

RESIDUE MANAGEMENT, SEASONAL

This practice is managing to leave protective amounts of crop residue on the soils surface during a prescribed time of the year by delaying primary tillage or seedbed preparation until immediately prior to planting time.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice generally applies to cropland, but may also be used on other areas where field crops are grown such as wildlife or recreation lands. The practice only applies to crops that produce sufficient amounts of residue to protect the soil from erosion.

Erosion can be significantly reduced by this practice in locations where delaying seedbed preparation allows residue to be left on the soil surface during critical periods for protection from wind and water erosion. Crops grown using this tillage system are generally planted in a relatively clean seedbed.

Excessive removal of plant residue by burning, baling, or grazing often produces negative impacts on the natural resources. These activities should not be performed without evaluating the impacts.

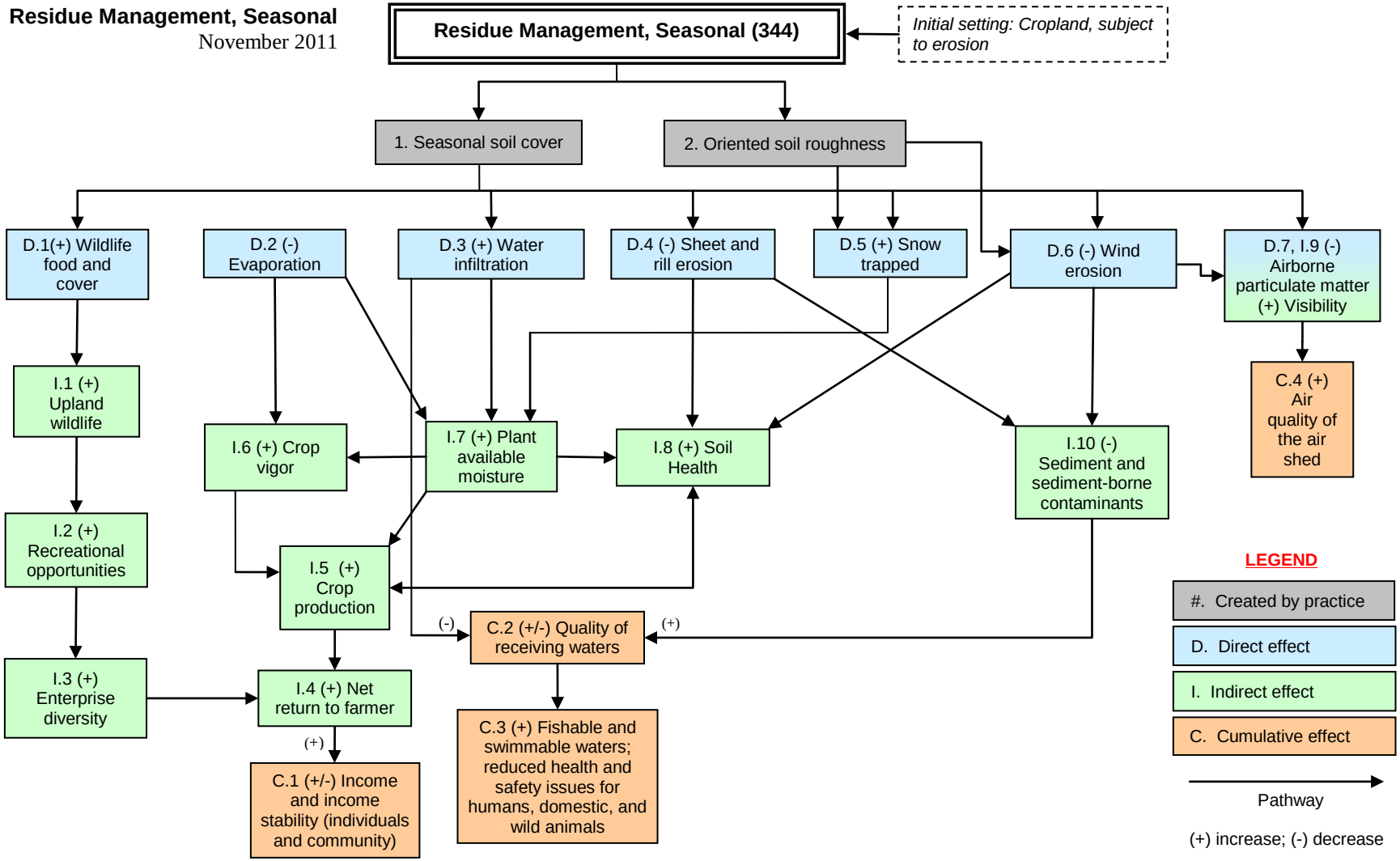
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Residue Management, Seasonal is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), and Irrigation Water Management (449).

For more information, refer to the practice standard in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and design criteria.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Residue Management, Seasonal
November 2011



Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.