

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 590



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

This practice involves managing the amount, placement, and timing of plant nutrients to obtain optimum yields and minimize the risk of surface and ground water pollution.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Nutrient management may be used on any area of land where plant nutrients are applied to enhance yields and maintain or improve chemical and biological condition of the soil. The source of plant nutrients may be from organic wastes, commercial fertilizer, legumes, or crop residue. The objective is to apply the proper amount of nutrients at the proper time to achieve the desired yield and minimize entry of nutrients into surface or ground water supplies.

Planning nutrient management involves the following considerations, among others:

- National, State and local water quality standards

- Sources and forms of plant nutrients available to the farmer
- Amounts and timing of nutrients based on soil testing, planned yield, and growing season of target plants
- Evaluation of use of crop rotations that enhance efficiency of nutrient utilization and improve soil tilth
- Waste storage requirements and land area requirements for proper management of plant nutrients

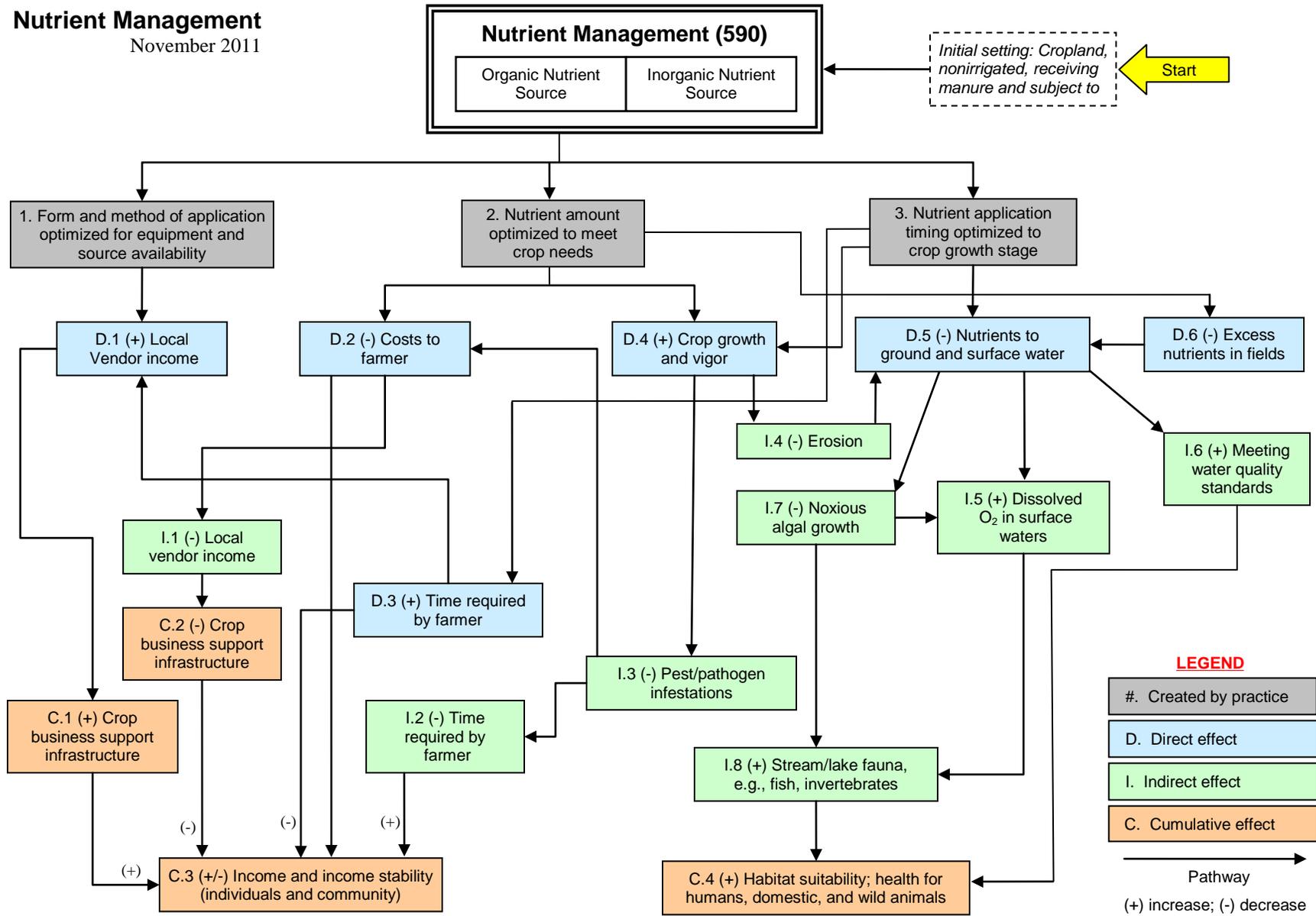
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Nutrient Management is commonly used in a Conservation Management System on a variety of land uses with practices such as Pest Management (595), Waste Utilization (633), Irrigation Water Management (449), and Residue Management (344).

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.

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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.