



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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February 18, 2010

## TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 611

This notice transmits updates to Section IV – Practices Standards and Specifications in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

### **Conservation Cover (327) Standard**

Conservation Cover is a standard that can be used when other seeding or vegetative standards such as Range Planting (550) or Pasture and Hay Planting (512) do not apply (due to variability of plant composition, for instance). The current standard has been revised and updated to provide guidance and place greater emphasis on the use of Conservation Cover as an alternative practice that can be planned to control classic and ephemeral gully erosion as well as a treatment for critical areas in sodbuster situations.

If you have any questions about the applications of Conservation Cover please contact Rob Glidden, Resource Specialist, at (308) 237-3118 ext. 1117 or by email at [robert.glidden@ne.usda.gov](mailto:robert.glidden@ne.usda.gov).

### **Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798) Standard - Interim**

A seasonal high tunnel is a polyethylene covered structure with no electrical, ventilation, or heating system, at least 6 feet in height, which modifies the climate to create more favorable growing conditions for vegetable and other specialty crops grown in the natural soil beneath it. Potential natural resource benefits from using tunnel structures include:

- Improved plant quality;
- Improved soil quality, and;
- Improved water quality through methods such as reduced nutrient and pesticide transport.

This is an interim practice standard that is being evaluated nationally and Nebraska is one of 38 states participating in a 3-year pilot study to determine if high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide use, nutrient leaching, and soil erosion while extending the growing season and improving plant health for the specialty crops grown under them.

Reporting for interim practice evaluation by the producers will be completed in year 1, 2 and 3 as described in the Statement of Work (SOW). District Conservationists will provide copies of information listed on the SOW to the State Resource Conservationist.

If you have any questions about the Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops Standard please contact Corey Brubaker, State Conservation Agronomist, at (402) 437-4164 or by e-mail at [corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov](mailto:corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov).



Note: The State Office will archive a hard copy of all materials and copies of electronic files of materials removed on the Nebraska eFOTG site under Section IV, Archive, Conservation Practices. If Field Offices wish to maintain an archived hard copy, of the above referenced standards as a reference, they may do so.

If you have any filing or generic questions, please contact Jamie Petersen at (402) 437-4063 or by e-mail at [jamie.petersen@ne.usda.gov](mailto:jamie.petersen@ne.usda.gov).

Changes for all field offices are noted by "**ALL COUNTIES**" and should be made in all Field Office Technical Guides.

<b>REMOVE AND RECYCLE</b>	<b>INSERT</b>
<b>ALL COUNTIES</b>	<b>ALL COUNTIES</b>
Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Table of Contents T.G. Notice 607 NOVEMBER 2009	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications <a href="#">Table of Contents</a> T.G. Notice 611 FEBRUARY 2010
Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Conservation Cover (327) Standard T.G. Notice 590 SEPTEMBER 2007	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications <a href="#">Conservation Cover (327) Standard</a> T.G. Notice 611 FEBRUARY 2010
<b>NONE</b>	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications <a href="#">Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798) Standard</a> T.G. Notice 611 FEBRUARY 2010

/s/ Douglas G. Gahn, Acting

STEPHEN K. CHICK  
State Conservationist