

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION

PEST MANAGEMENT

(ACRE)

CODE 595

I. SCOPE

The work shall consist of furnishing appropriate materials (pesticides), qualified labor, and adequate equipment to properly apply pesticides for the environmentally safe control and management of targeted pest species.

II. GENERAL

A pest management plan is to be developed as a component of a conservation plan when pesticide application is identified as a planned treatment within a Conservation Management Unit. All methods of pest management must be integrated with other components of the conservation plan.

The pest management component of a Resource Management System (RMS) is a record of the landowner/land manager's decisions for managing pest populations.

The objective for applying pest management in accordance with the NRCS Pest Management Conservation Practice Standard is to manage pest populations to enhance the quantity and quality of commodities while minimizing negative impacts of pest control on soil resources, water resources, air resources, plant resources, animal resources, and/or humans.

NRCS Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST) is to be used in evaluation of the potential for pesticides to move with water and eroded soil/organic matter and affect non-target organisms.

The automated Nevada Pest Management Worksheet (NV-ECS-23) will be used to record WIN-PST evaluations and identify appropriate mitigation techniques by pesticide loss pathway and resource concern (*e.g.*, pesticide incorporation may be an appropriate mitigation technique for planned pesticide applications that can impact a surface water body).

The Nevada Pest Management Jobsheet (NV-ECS-24) documents the selected treatment alternative(s) for control of target pest(s).

NRCS personnel can provide photocopies of approved pest control recommendations but do not make specific pesticide recommendations.

Photocopies of approved recommendations must show the date the recommendations are provided to the cooperators.

Pesticide label instructions regarding environmental hazards and site-specific application criteria shall be followed. Landowners/applicators shall be encouraged to pay special attention to pesticide label information/instructions on:

- limiting pesticide residues in leachate and runoff
- soil texture considerations, depth to water table, and application setback distances from water bodies
- chemical storage, mixing and loading
- wearing protective equipment and accidental or unnecessary pesticide exposure
- minimizing volatilization and drift
- removing pesticide residues from sprayers before moving to the next crop.
- specified depth for incorporating soil-applied pesticides
- applying pesticides during proper climatic conditions, crop stage, and soil moisture conditions
- re-entry restrictions and pesticide residues in soil that may carry over and harm subsequent crops

All pesticide applicators who apply restricted use chemicals are required by the Nevada Department of Agriculture to pass the Pest Control Applicator examination. Re-certification is required every three years.

III. SPECIFICATIONS

The pest management component of a conservation plan shall be prepared for each field or treatment unit according to the criteria, considerations, and operation and maintenance listed for the Pest Management Standard in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices.

The target pest, alternative pest control treatments, associated environmental hazard ratings, and specific management or cultural practices to mitigate treatment impacts are recorded on the Nevada NRCS Pest Management Worksheet (NV-ECS-23).

Completing the following steps in use of the Nevada Pest Management Worksheet and Jobsheet will assist the planner and landowner/operator in completing a Pest Management Plan.

Step 1 - Cooperator, Date, and Planner: complete the spaces provided to identify the client, date, and planner who is providing technical assistance.

Step 2 - Name of Consultant: if applicable, enter the name of the consultant(s) providing the landowner/operator with pest management recommendations. Indicate where the pesticide information came from.

Step 3 - Farm/Ranch/Tract/Field(s): identify the farm/ranch, tract and field for which the plan is being developed. More than one tract or field can be included on a single summary sheet if the soils, crop, resource concern(s), target pest and pest management recommendations are the same.

Step 4 - Soils: identify the soil(s) for the field(s) that will be used in the environmental risk analysis process (WIN-PST).

Step 5 - Land Use; Crop Sequence/Rotation: identify the land use. For cropland, identify the crop(s) planned for the field(s). List the crops in the sequence they will be planted, if known. Scheduling the type and sequence of crops can help reduce pest pressures and avoid mistakes such as crop damage from herbicide carryover. Circle the crop(s) for which the summary sheet is being developed.

Step 6 - Purpose: identify the purpose of applying the practice.

Step 7 - Water Resource of Concern: list any water resource that may be adversely affected by planned treatments. Examples are: a shallow water table, well, wetland, perennial stream, pond, lake, high runoff area, or other hydrologically sensitive areas within 100-ft of the edge of the field.

Step 8 - Target Pest: enter the target pest(s) identified by the cooperator for which the pest management plan is being developed.

Step 9 - Alternative Description: enter a short description of the pest management alternative (provided by the cooperator) which is to be evaluated in the environmental risk analysis process. For chemical treatments, enter name of the pesticide (the EPA registration number of pesticide should be included, if known) and application rate and timing. Also include application techniques important to the analysis tool such as *incorporated* or *banded*. Use only the detail necessary to identify differences between the alternatives. Integrated pest control methods such as mowing weeds, crop rotations, and biological methods are to be included in the alternatives with applicable details, such as type of tillage, use of pest resistant varieties, or biological predators.

Step 10 - Windows Pesticide Tool Ratings: identify the environmental risk ratings from WIN-PST interaction loss potential and hazard rating report. Use the pull-down menus for *x*, *h*, *i*, *l*, and *v* symbols in each of the columns to show the ratings. Enter the appropriate Residue Management, Water Management, and Site Conditions.

Step 11 - Conservation Treatment Techniques: select the appropriate conservation treatment technique(s) required to offset potential negative environmental impacts of applying the pest management practice. The "Conservation Techniques" Table lists conservation practices and management techniques that the landowner can install or put in place to reduce pesticide impacts.

The "Mitigation" table lists management techniques and conservation practices and their relative potential to mitigate pesticide impacts on water quality. The "Mitigation" Table also identifies how the different techniques/practices function to reduce pesticide impacts. Refer to the Mitigation Table in considering Conservation Treatment Techniques to be entered in the Pest Management Worksheet.

Note: Evaluate alternatives using the highest hazard component within a soil map unit and highest risk pesticide active ingredient within a pesticide product.

III. SPECIFICATIONS *(continued)*

Step 12 - Job Sketch: provide a map showing the field location and acres. Show the boundaries of any sensitive areas such as water bodies, set backs, or highly erodible soils, where restrictions to pest management methods may occur. If the conservation plan map includes these items, check the appropriate box in lieu of completing a new drawing.

Step 13 – Jobsheet NV-ECS-24: when the selected alternative is entered on the Pest Management Jobsheet (NV-ECS-24), all associated information will be transferred from the Pest Management Worksheet to the Jobsheet. Additional requirements may also be added to the Jobsheet.

Once completed, the Pest Management Jobsheet (NV-ECS-24) provides all information required to meet Nevada specifications for Pest Management practice (Practice Code 595) application.

IV. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Step 14 - Operation and Maintenance: a number of items are required to be assessed and performed routinely. These items include calibration of equipment, maintaining a safe working environment, and reviewing and updating the pest management component of the plan.

The plan should be reviewed by the landowner/operator to determine if any short-term adjustments are needed for either the current or subsequent crops.

Monitoring the effectiveness of management practices and the efficacy of the pest management strategy itself is part of practice Operation and Maintenance.

The Pest Management Jobsheet includes telephone numbers for poison control centers in adjacent states. For non-emergency information, contact the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) in Corvallis, Oregon at 1-800-858-7378, Monday thru Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

In addition to the emergency contact information included on the Pest Management Jobsheet, landowners should develop a safety plan for individuals exposed to chemicals.

Completion of all entries (Step 1 through Step 14, including a map of treatment area) of the Pest Management Worksheet and Pest Management Jobsheet (NV-ECS-23 and NV-ECS-24) will meet the minimum requirements for a Pest Management plan.

Signatures are obtained for the cooperator and the NRCS planner on the Pest Management Jobsheet (NV-ECS-24).

A NRCS certified Pest Management Specialist will also sign Pest Management Jobsheet (NV-ECS-24) following plan review and approval.

The landowner and the case file each receive a "hard-copy" of the Pest Management Worksheet (NV-ECS-23) and Pest Management Jobsheet (NV-ECS-24).

For management of plant pests (noxious and/or invasive weeds), certification of planned practice application is recorded on NV-CPA-595a.