

Mulching

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon

484 OR-JS

October 2010

Client: _____



Photo courtesy of Oregon NRCS Field Office

Mulching

Applying plant residues or other suitable materials produced off site, to the land surface.

Purposes

Mulching can be designed to accomplish one or more of the following conservation purposes:

- Conserve soil moisture
- Moderate soil temperature
- Provide erosion control
- Suppress weed growth
- Facilitate establishment of vegetative cover
- Improve soil condition
- Reduce airborne particulates.

Where used

Mulching can be used on all lands where mulches are needed. This practice may be used alone or in combination with other practices.

Resource Management Systems

Mulching is used concurrently with other conservation practices as part of a resource management system. These



Photo courtesy of Oregon NRCS Field Office

practices may include Channel Bank Vegetation (322), Critical Area Planting (342), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Conservation Crop Rotation (328) and other practices where one or more of the purposes for mulching is needed.

General Specifications

The selection of mulching materials will depend primarily on site conditions and the material's availability. Mulch materials will consist of natural and/or artificial materials such as plant residue, wood bark or chips, by-products, gravel, plastic, fabric, animal manure, rice hulls, and materials from food processing plants. Other equivalent materials of sufficient dimension (depth or thickness) and durability to achieve the intended purpose for the required time period may also be utilized.

Mulching is generally performed after grading, soil surface preparation and seeding and plantings are complete. Soil surface will be prepared in order to achieve the desired purpose.

The mulch material will be evenly applied and anchored to the soil. Tackifiers, emulsions, pinning, netting, crimping or other acceptable

methods of anchoring will be used if needed to hold the mulch in place for specified periods.

Manufactured mulches will be applied according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Mulching operations will comply with federal, state and/or local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Mulch material will be relatively free of disease, pesticides, chemicals, noxious weed seeds, and other pests and pathogens.



Photo courtesy of Oregon NRCS Field Office

Plans and Specifications

Specifications will be prepared for each site and purpose and recorded using approved specification sheets, such as Mulching 484 OR-Specification or other acceptable documentation.

Operation and Maintenance

Mulched areas will be periodically inspected, and mulch shall be reinstalled or repaired as needed to accomplish the intended purpose. Removal, incorporation, bio- or photo-degradation of mulch and associated materials will be consistent with the intended purpose and site conditions.

Operation of equipment near and on the site will not compromise the intended purpose of the mulch. Prevent or repair any fire damage to the mulch material.

Properly collect and dispose of artificial mulch material after intended use.

Monitor and control undesirable weeds in mulched areas.



Photo courtesy of Oregon NRCS Field Office

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Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon

October 2010

Client _____ Farm/Tract _____

Location _____ County/SWCD _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

DESIGN APPROVAL:

Practice Code No.	PRACTICE	LEAD DISCIPLINE	CONTROLLING FACTOR	UNITS	JOB CLASS				
					I	II	III	IV	V
484	Mulching	BCSD-Agron	Material Slope	Type %	<13	Straw <21	Fabric all	all all	all all

This practice is classified as Job Class: _____

Design Approved By: /s/ _____ Date: _____

Job Title: _____

CLIENTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

The Client acknowledges that:

- a. They have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- b. The following information must be provided to NRCS by the client before this practice can be certified as applied:

Preparation of the site, type of mulch material used, and percent cover and/or thickness of mulch.

Dates mulch applied and method(s) of anchoring, netting or tackifiers used.

- c. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.

Accepted By: /s/ _____ Date: _____

CERTIFICATION:

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client and certify this practice has been applied.

Certification By: /s/ _____ Date: _____

Job Title: _____

MULCHING SPECIFICATION SHEET

Practice Purpose (check one or more that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conserve soil moisture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suppress weed growth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate soil temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilitate establishment of vegetative cover
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide erosion control (attach erosion prediction from RUSLE and/or WEPS)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve soil condition (attach Soil Condition Index value)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce airborne particulates		
Mulching Specification Requirements			
Field(s):	Area to be mulched:	Width:	Area:
Type of Mulch:			
Thickness, Percent Cover, or Rate/Acre:			
Anchoring Materials:			
Timing:			
Additional Manufacturer Specifications:			
Attach aerial photo or map of field(s)/area(s) to be mulched.			
Site Preparation and Additional Installation Information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare soil surface by grading, shaping or seeding the soil surface. • Ensure moisture conditions meet crop requirements prior to applying mulch materials to soil surface. • If improvement of soil condition is a purpose: C:N Ratio of Mulch Material will be: _____ • Insure that mulch material is free of disease, pesticides, chemicals, noxious weed seeds, & other pests & pathogens. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional requirements: 			

MULCHING SPECIFICATION SHEET**Operation & Maintenance**

- Mulched areas will be periodically inspected and re-installed or repaired as needed.
 - Removal or incorporation will be consistent with the intended purpose and site conditions.
 - Operation of equipment near and on the site will not compromise the intended purpose of the mulch.
 - Prevent or repair any fire damage to the mulch material.
 - Properly collect and dispose of artificial mulch material after intended use.
 - Monitor and control undesirable weeds in mulched areas.
- Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements: