

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
CONSERVATION COVER (327)**

Landowner/user:

Date:

Address:

A properly operated and maintained **Conservation Cover Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of Conservation Cover will help you to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by supporting one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion and sedimentation.
- Reduce ground and surface water quality degradation by nutrients and surface water quality degradation by sediment.
- Reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM), PM precursors, and greenhouse gases.)
- Enhance wildlife, pollinator and beneficial organism habitat.
- Improve soil health.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

Lifespan 5 Years

- Mowing and harvest operations in a perennial crop system such as orchards, vineyards, berries, and nursery stock shall be done in a manner which minimizes the generation of particulate matter.
- If wildlife habitat enhancement is a purpose, maintenance practices and activities shall not disturb cover during the reproductive period for the desired species. Exceptions should be considered for periodic burning or mowing when necessary to maintain the health of the plant community.
- Control noxious weeds and other invasive species.
- Mowing may be needed during the establishment period to reduce competition from weeds.
- To benefit insect food sources for grassland nesting birds, spraying or other control of noxious weeds shall be done on a "spot" basis to protect forbs and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife.
- Re-vegetate bare spots.

Specific Additional Requirements for Your Practice: