



# CONTOUR ORCHARD AND OTHER PERENNIAL CROPS (331)

## CONTOUR ORCHARD AND OTHER PERENNIAL CROPS

Planting orchards, vineyards, or other perennial crops so that all cultural operations are done on or near the contour.

### PURPOSE

Planting on the contour conserves and protects soil, water, and related natural resources. Conservation benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- Reduce sheet and rill soil erosion
- Reduce transport of excessive sediment and other associated contaminants
- Improve water use efficiency with improved infiltration

### CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice is used when orchards, vineyards, or other perennial crops are established on sloping land. Planting on the contour conserves and protects soil, water, and related natural resources.

## PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each field or group of fields and the following design criteria shall be recorded:

- Percent land slope used for conservation planning,
- The minimum and maximum allowable row grades for the contour system,
- A site map, and photograph of the field showing:
  - the approximate location of the baselines used to establish the system
  - the location of stable outlets for the system
- Temporary cover specifications, where appropriate,
- An evaluation of the conservation system, determined using the current RUSLE2 program computations to verify maximum row grades and critical slope length.



## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance needed for this practice includes:

- Performing all cultural operations between tree or vine rows on or near the contour.
- Periodic inspection and repair of stable outlets, after intense storm runoff events.
- Protecting uphill and downhill farm roads from erosion.
- Maintain adequate vegetative cover to control erosion at field boundaries and other susceptible erosive locations within the planning unit.

**PRACTICE 331 CONTOUR ORCHARD AND OTHER PERENNIAL CROPS DOCUMENTATION WORKSHEET**

**Client Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Farm Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Planner Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tract Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Purpose:**

- Reduce sheet and rill soil erosion
- Reduce transport of excessive sediment and other associated contaminants
- Improve water use efficiency with improved infiltration

SITE PLANNING CONDITIONS FOR THE DOMINANT CRITICAL SOIL MAP UNIT/COMPONENT			
Planning Map Unit/ Component	Planning Slope %	Planning Length of Slope (ft.)	Percent Absolute Contour Row Grade Planned

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM CONTOUR ROW GRADES	
Minimum Contour Row Grade (Percent)	Maximum Contour Row Grade (Percent)
The crop rows shall have sufficient grade to ensure that runoff water does not pond and cause unacceptable crop damage.	The maximum row grade shall not exceed: (a) one-half of the up-and-down hill slope percent used for conservation planning, or (b) 4 percent, whichever is less. Up to a 25 percent deviation from the design row grade is permitted within 150 feet of a stable outlet.

**PLANNED PRACTICE LOCATION AND EXTENT**

Contract Number	Contract Identification Number (CIN)	Tract Number	Field Number(s)	Acres Contracted	Acres Planned	Actual Acres Applied (NRCS USE ONLY)

*\*A completed copy of this page must be submitted for a financial assistance payment to be processed.*

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## COST SHARE DOCUMENTATION FOR CASE FILE

Before payment is made, the following information is required to be in the case file:

Plan or location map, or photograph of the field and documentation of practice layout according to plans and specifications is present in the client's case file.

Photographs of the installed practice that include:

» Date photo was taken in the filed.

» Statement of what the photo represents, when clarification is required.

Field verification is documented and a certified planner verified "as installed" this practice meets NRCS standards and specifications.

» Planned acres: \_\_\_\_\_

» Applied acres: \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Certification (NRCS USE ONLY)

I certify that the practice as installed is complete and meets the applicable Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and all applicable practice specifications. Any changes to the original practice design have been approved and are documented on the original practice design "as installed."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Planner (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Planner (sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date