



MULCHING (484)

MULCHING

Mulching is applying a protective cover of plant residues or other suitable material not produced on the site, to the soil surface.



PURPOSE

This practice supports one or more of the following purposes:

- » Conserve soil moisture.
- » Reduce energy use associated with irrigation.
- » Provide erosion control.
- » Facilitate the establishment of vegetative cover.
- » Improve soil health.
- » Reduce airborne particulates.

CONDITIONS WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to all lands where mulch materials are needed.

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:

Plans and specifications shall be prepared for each site and documentation shall include the following:

- » Conservation Plan Map identifying the location of all sites
- » Purpose of the mulch
- » Type of mulch material used
- » Percent cover and/or thickness of mulch material
- » Rate of mulch application (tons/acre, lbs./square foot)
- » Timing of application
- » Site preparation
- » Listing of netting, tackifiers, or method of anchoring
- » Operation and maintenance

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Mulched areas will be periodically inspected, and mulch shall be reinstalled or repaired as needed to accomplish the intended purpose.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the mulch (application, amount of cover provided, durability, etc.) and adjust the management or type of mulch to better meet the intended purpose(s).

Removal or incorporation of mulch materials as necessary after use shall be consistent with the intended purpose and site conditions.

Operation of equipment near and on the site shall 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.

PRACTICE 484 MULCHING DOCUMENTATION WORKSHEET

Table 1: Guide to Mulch Materials, Rates and Uses

Tract Number:			
Field	Type of Mulch	Rate Applied	Anchor Method

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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 case file and include the following:
- Photographs of the installed practice that include:
 - » Date photo was taken in the field.
 - » 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.

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