

Table 2

**GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING RIDGE HEIGHTS
FOR CONTOURING WITH RUSLE**

Select the ridge height that best describes the condition during the 1/4 of the year when rainfall and runoff are most erosive and the soil is most susceptible to erosion. For dry-farmed cropland of the Northwest Wheat and Range Region, and additional areas where R_{eq} is identified as applicable to the winter erosive period, use the ridge height after fall seeding.

1. VERY LOW (0.5 - 2 in.) RIDGES

- Plants not closely spaced, but with a perceptible ridge height
- No-till planted row crops
- Fields that have been rolled, pressed or dragged after planting
- Conventionally drilled crops when erosive rains occur during or soon after planting
- and clear seeded hay that leaves a very low ridge

2. LOW (2 - 3 in.) RIDGES

- No-till drilled crops
- Mulch tilled row crops
- Conventionally planted row crops with no row cultivation
- Conventionally drilled small grain when erosive rains are uniformly distributed throughout the year
- Winter small grain when runoff from snowmelt occurs during winter and early spring
- Transplanted crops, widely spaced

3. MODERATE (3 - 4 in.) RIDGES)

- Conventionally (clean) tilled row crops with row cultivation
- High yielding winter small grain crops when erosive rains are concentrated in the late spring after plants have developed a stiff, upright stem
- Transplanted crops that are closely spaced and/or in narrow rows

4. HIGH (4 - 6 in.) RIDGES

- Ridge tilled crops with high (4-6") ridges during periods of erosive rain

5. VERY HIGH (Greater than 6 in.) RIDGES

- Ridge tilled crops with very high (6+") ridges during periods of erosive rains
- Hipping, bedding or ridging with very high ridges during periods of erosive rains