

Water Quantity Enhancement Activity – WQT02 – Mulching for moisture conservation



Enhancement Description

This enhancement consists of using fibrous mulch to reduce irrigation evaporation losses from bare soil surfaces.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland

Benefits

This enhancement conserves irrigation water by reducing the evaporative effects of wind and high temperatures on bare soil surfaces.

Criteria

1. This enhancement is for mulching material used for an irrigated cropping system.
2. Implementation of this enhancement requires compliance with the requirements of the Conservation Practice Standard, Mulching (484).
3. A minimum of 60% of the soil surface must be covered in order to qualify for this enhancement.
4. All mulching material must be biodegradable.

Documentation Requirements

1. List of fields where this enhancement was applied, field size, and type of mulch used
2. Photo documentation of mulching; photos must be date stamped and labeled with field number

Michigan Supplement

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The following biodegradable mulch materials are approved for use with the Conservation Stewardship Program WQT02 Mulching for moisture activity in accordance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Michigan (MI) conservation practice standard, Mulching (484):

- To conserve moisture, mulch material applied to the soil surface shall provide at least 60 percent surface cover to reduce potential evaporation.

Examples of biodegradable mulches include the following mulch materials:

- Compost
- Corn cobs
- Hay
- Manure
- Recycled newspaper
- Sawdust
- Straw
- Wood chips, Wood bark or wood shavings
- Other mulch type: _____

(Pre-approved by local NRCS staff):

Field Data

Location	Size (ac)	Mulch type	% cover

Note: This Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) program sheet is not approved documentation where mulching is required by NRCS engineering practice per the NRCS MI 484.