United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2010 Ranking Period 2

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

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Written documentation shall include the source of the mulch material, application rate, date, and method.