



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Air Quality Enhancement Activity– AIR03 – Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives (chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting)



Enhancement Description

The use of non-burning alternatives to dispose of pruning's, removals and other crop residues from orchards, vineyards and other crops. Non-Burning alternatives include chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting of these materials.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland (orchards, vineyards, other cropping systems that produce significant residues that have used

burning in prior years).

Benefits

Burning prunings, removals and residues produces smoke, as well as other air emissions, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) that are precursors needed for ozone formation, and various forms of particulate matter. By replacing burning with alternatives (chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting), harmful air emissions will be greatly reduced, and the resulting material usually can be used as mulch elsewhere on the farm, or sold as mulch to outside customers.

Criteria for Non-burning Alternatives

- A system of burning prunings, removals or residues is currently being utilized on the farm
- Burning of such material shall be replaced by one of the non-burning alternatives (chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting).
- Wood chips and other mulch material resulting from chipping, grinding or shredding shall be used for dust control on unpaved roadways or other farm surfaces, for bioenergy purposes, for composting, or left in orchards for natural decomposition.

Documentation Requirements for Non-burning Alternatives

- A map showing farm areas where these activities were conducted and applied.
- Dates, locations and type of non-burning alternatives used.