

## INDIANA CONSERVATION CHOICES

# Orchards, Vineyards and Perennial Crops

Conservation practices help improve soil health, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide other natural resource benefits.

## USDA's NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE - INDIANA

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Are you interested in getting the most out of your orchard or vineyard? Whether your goal is increased fruit or nut production, minimizing erosion, increasing pollinator habitat or managing pests, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help.




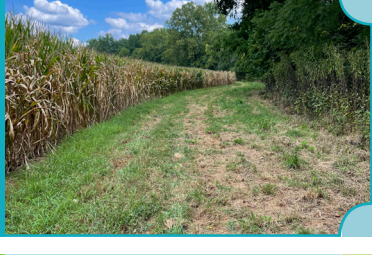

Perennial crops offer many benefits over annual crops, but have their own unique challenges as well. The goal with any production operation is a healthy, productive crop that allows for longterm sustainability of the natural resources and the operation. NRCS has tools and funding available to help you manage the unique challenges of perennial crops while building a sustainable farm.

Perennial crops' advantages include having a longer lifespan than annual crops, providing permanent living cover and deep roots, increasing nitrogen retention and soil carbon accumulation.

This fact sheet lists common conservation practices for orchards, vineyards, and other perennial crops. To learn more about managing your land, visit your local NRCS office. We can help you make the right choices to protect and improve your land and other resources.





Practice	Description	Benefits
<p><b>Pollinator &amp; Beneficial Insect Habitat</b></p> 	<p>Planting wildlife friendly grasses and wildflowers to support pollinators and beneficial insects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increases pollination of crops</li> <li>» Increases predation and parasitism of pests</li> <li>» Reduces soil erosion, runoff and improves water quality</li> </ul>
<p><b>Erosion Control</b></p> 	<p>Protecting the soil with vegetation or structural practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Stabilize eroding areas</li> <li>» Divert water to prevent erosion and increase infiltration</li> <li>» Improve water quality</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pest Management</b></p> 	<p>Pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reduces pesticide risk to soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans</li> <li>» Reduces pesticide risk from leaching, drift, volatilization and direct contact</li> <li>» Proper identification of pests allows for treatment options</li> </ul>
<p><b>Buffers</b></p> 	<p>Planting strips of grasses and wildflowers, trees, and/or shrubs around fields or bodies of water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improves water quality in adjacent bodies of water</li> <li>» Reduces pesticide drift from adjacent fields</li> <li>» Provide wildlife habitat</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contour Orchard</b></p> 	<p>Planting perennial crops on the contours of the land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reduces erosion, runoff and nutrient loss</li> <li>» Improves water infiltration</li> </ul>



**For more information visit: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/Indiana](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Indiana)**