



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Urban Conservation

NRCS Programs

NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters.

Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture includes the cultivation, processing and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban areas.

Community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities, and vertical production are all examples of urban agriculture.

Tribal communities and small towns may also be included. (www.usda.gov/topics/urban)

NRCS Email:
NRCSInfo@ok.usda.gov

www.farmers.gov



The NRCS is dedicated to minimizing negative impacts on our natural resources.

We provide America's farmers and ranchers with technical and financial assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground to help the environment and agricultural operations.

The USDA recognizes that conservation by farmers, ranchers and forest owners today means thriving and sustainable agriculture for our future. Seventy percent of the nation's land is privately owned and conservation of our nation's private lands not only results in healthy soil, water, air, plants, animals and ecosystems, it also provides productive and sustainable working lands.

The USDA is working to support urban agriculture as it plays an important role in growing not only fresh, healthy food, often where grocery stores are scarce, but also providing jobs and beautifying neighborhoods.

Contact your local office to be directed to an NRCS planner who can help you develop conservation plans and implement conservation practices on your land.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

What is it?

What does it do?

High Tunnel (325)

An enclosed polyethylene, polycarbonate, plastic, or fabric covered structure that is used to cover and protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold, to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner.



- Improve plant health and vigor
- Extends growing season
- Protection for harsh weather conditions
- Reduce need for pesticides
- Allows for crop diversity

Cover Crops (340)

Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.



- Reduce erosion from wind and water
- Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content
- Reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excessive soil nutrients
- Suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
- Improve soil moisture use efficiency
- Minimize soil compaction

Irrigation System, Micro irrigation (441)

An irrigation system for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface: as drops, tiny streams, or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line.



- Efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth
- Prevent contamination of ground and surface water by efficiently and uniformly applying chemicals
- Establish desired vegetation (e.g., windbreaks)

Mulching (484)

Applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the land surface.



- Improve the efficiency of moisture management
- Rescue irrigation energy used in farming/ranching practices and field operations
- Improve the efficient use of irrigation water
- Prevent excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels
- Reduce concentrated flow erosion
- Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion
- Improve plant productivity and health
- Maintain or increase organic matter content
- Reduce emissions of particular matter

Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)

Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, by direct seeding, and/or through natural regeneration.



- Maintain or improve desirable plant diversity, productivity, and health by establishing woody plants
- Create or improve habitat for desired wildlife species compatible with ecological characteristics of the site
- Control erosion
- Improve water quality by reducing excess nutrients and other pollutants in runoff and groundwater
- Reduce excess nutrients and other pollutants in runoff and groundwater
- Sequester and store carbon
- Restore or maintain native plant communities

Water Harvesting Catchment (636)

A facility for collecting and storing water from an area that has been treated to increase precipitation runoff.



- Provide water for livestock
- Provide water for fish and wildlife
- Provide water for other conservation purposes where additional water is needed