



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E340107Z

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Cover crop to minimize soil compaction

Conservation Practice 340: Cover Crop

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Quality Degradation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Establish a cover crop mix that includes plants with both fibrous root and deep rooted systems. Fibrous to treat and prevent both near surface (0-4”) and deep (>4”) soil compaction and deep rooted to break up deep compacted soils. Cover crop shall not be harvested, grazed, or burned.

Criteria

- Plant species, seedbed preparation, seeding rates, seeding dates, seeding depths, fertility requirements, and planting methods will be consistent with applicable local criteria and soil/site conditions <REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC LISTS>.
- Determine method and timing of cover crop termination to meet grower's objective and current NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines.
- Select species that are compatible with other components of the cropping system.
- Ensure herbicides used with crops are compatible with cover crop selections.
- Cover crops may be established between successive production crops, companion-planted or relay-planted into production crops. Select species and planting dates that will not compete with production crop yield or harvest.
- Do not burn cover crop residue.



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- Do not harvest or graze cover crop.
- If specific rhizobium bacteria for selected legumes are not present in the soil, treat seed with appropriate inoculum at time of planting.
- Select a mix of cover crop species that includes plants with both fibrous root and deep rooted systems. Fibrous to treat and prevent both near surface (0-4") and deep (>4") soil compaction and deep rooted to break up deep compacted soils.

Documentation Requirements

- Cover Crop, 340, Implementation Requirements document must be completed per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.