



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E328109Z

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Conservation crop rotation to reduce the concentration of salts

Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Crop Rotation

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Quality Degradation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Implement a crop rotation to reduce the concentration of salts and other chemicals from saline seeps. The rotation should include at least 3 crops and/or cover crops grown in a sequence in the recharge areas of saline seeps that have rooting depths and water requirements adequate to fully utilize all available soil water. Do not use summer fallow. Use an approved water balance procedure to determine crop selection and sequence. Select crops with a tolerance to salinity levels that match the salinity of the discharge area. <See State list>

Criteria

- Crops shall be grown in a planned sequence as outlined in Plans and Specifications. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of three different crops. For purposes of these criteria a cover crop is considered a different crop.
- Where applicable, plan suitable crop substitutions when the planned crop cannot be planted due to weather, soil conditions, or other local situations.
- Select crops to be grown in the recharge area of saline seeps that have rooting depths and water requirements adequate to fully utilize all available soil water.
- Do not use summer fallow.



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- Use an approved water balance procedure to determine crop selection and sequence.
- If excess subsoil moisture exists below the rooting depth of crops commonly grown in the recharge area, establish deep-rooted perennial crops for the number of years needed to dry the soil profile.
- Select crops with a tolerance to salinity levels that match the salinity of the discharge area. [<See State list>](#)

Documentation Requirements

- Conservation Crop Rotation, 328, Implementation Requirements document must be completed per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.