



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E340101Z

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Cover crop to reduce water erosion

Conservation Practice 340: Cover Crop

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

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Erosion

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Cover crop added to current crop rotation to reduce soil erosion from water to below soil tolerance (T) level. Cover crops grown during critical erosion period(s). Species are selected that will have physical characteristics to provide adequate erosion protection.

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 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, or 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.
- Do not harvest or graze cover crop.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- If specific rhizobium bacteria for selected legumes are not present in the soil, treat seed with appropriate inoculum at time of planting.
- Time cover crop establishment in conjunction with other practices to adequately protect soil during critical erosion period(s).
- Select cover crops that will have the physical characteristics necessary to provide adequate erosion protection.
- Use current erosion prediction technology to determine amount of surface and/or canopy cover needed from cover crop to achieve the erosion objective (average annual soil loss below T).
- Crops planted following the cover crop must be no-tilled.

Documentation Requirements

- Cover Crop, 340, Implementation Requirements document must be completed per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.
- Reports from the current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies to document the soil erosion estimates (before and after) to show reduction in water erosion to below T.