



Conservation Practice Overview

October 2017

CPS Mulching (Code 484)

Mulching is applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the land surface.

Practice Information

This practice is used on all lands subject to erosion and high runoff that need the additional protection. Mulching can be applied to achieve one or a combination of purposes. Purposes for utilizing this practice are—

- To help control soil erosion.
- Protect crops.
- Improve moisture management.
- Reducing irrigation energy.
- Prevent excessive bank erosion from water conveyance channels.
- Maintain or increase organic matter.
- Improve plant productivity and health.



Mulch materials may consist of natural or artificial materials of sufficient dimension (depth or thickness) and durability to achieve the intended purpose for the required time period.

Common Associated Practices

Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Mulching (Code 484) is commonly applied with practices associated with a vegetation establishment such as CPSs Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Diversion (Code 362), Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380), and others.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.