United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

NHCP-1AA

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES December 20, 2001
450-VI
NOTICE 127

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised conservation practice standards for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included for clarification.

Effective Date. This notice is effective when received.

Explanation.

Access Road (560) - This conservation practice standard has been updated to current format. The criteria section has been revised to include additional drainage requirements. In addition, several edits were made on the standard.

Diversion (362) - This conservation practice standard has been updated to current format. New criteria have been added for maximum flow velocities by referencing current NRCS and ARS publications on allowable velocity or tractive stress for vegetated channels. New provisions have been added to allow reduced minimum top width of 3 feet for small drainage areas.

Drainage Water Management (554) - This standard is a complete rewrite of the Regulating Water in Drainage Systems standard that changes the name to Drainage Water Management Code 554 and replaces the following standards:

- 554 Regulating Water in Drainage Systems
- 335 Controlled Drainage
- 641 Water Table Control.

Fish Pond Management (399) - This is a major revision of the Fish Pond Management practice standard. All sections of this standard were revised to reflect new science and technologies that have evolved in the fields of ecosystem and aquatic sciences. Information in the original standard was extremely limited and did not satisfy the rigors of a National Standard. This new standard provides the information necessary to address fish pond management.

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DIST: NHCP

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Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603) - This practice has had several changes. The practice code number changed from 422A to 603. Three new sections were added: Barrier Direction and Spacing, Calculating Porosity, and Harvest. The minimum barrier height under "Additional Criteria to Protect Growing Crops from Damage from Wind-borne Soil Particles" was changed from 2 feet to 0.5 feet. The "Additional Criteria to Provide Food and Cover for Wildlife" was shortened to deal only with vegetation. Under "Operation and Maintenance," harvest information was moved to criteria and an additional statement about prescribed burning was added. In addition, a few minor edits were a made to the standard.

Irrigation Land Leveling (464) - This standard has been reformatted with minor revisions to the Purpose and Criteria sections. Changes can be found in the following methods:

- Slope for Subsurface Irrigation Methods and
- Slope for Graded Irrigation Methods on slopes of more than 0.5 percent where leveling designs provide for increasing or decreasing slopes.

Pond Sealing or Lining-Bentonite Sealant (521C) - This practice standard has been reformatted with minor revisions to the new format. Changes include criteria to allow the use of this standard when planning and designing waste impoundment structures.

Pond Sealing or Lining-Soil Dispersant (521B) - This practice standard has been reformatted with minor revisions to the new format. Changes include criteria to allow the use of this standard when planning and designing waste impoundment structures.

Roof Runoff Structure (558) - This conservation practice standard has been updated to current format and the name has been changed from Roof Runoff Management to Roof Runoff Structure. Additional criteria for increasing infiltration, protecting structures, and improving water quality have been added. Explicit criteria on gutter supports have been removed.

Surface Roughening (609) - This is a complete rewrite of this practice standard to bring it in line with existing policy. The definition was changed. Purposes will now include guidance to reduce wind erosion, reduce dust emissions into the air, reduce deposition of soil into surface water, and protect plants from abrasion by windblown particles. Criteria applicable to these purposes have been included.

Waste Utilization (633) - The Waste Utilization Standard has been revised to be consistent with the Nutrient Management Standard (590) on the application of waste/nutrients on frozen or snow-covered ground. Application of waste under these conditions was strictly prohibited in the 633 standard, while the 590 standard prohibited application of nutrients only "if the potential risk for runoff exists." The 633 standard now includes that same language. In addition, the decision to apply waste under these conditions requires that the basis for the decision to do so be documented in the waste management plan.

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Instructions.

Replace the Contents pages i through v in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages dated September 2001.

Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised Contents pages.

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the practice standards for Access Road dated 4/82; Controlled Drainage dated 12/90; Diversion dated 10/85; Fish Pond Management dated 10/77; Herbaceous Wind Barriers dated 6/94; Irrigation Land Leveling dated 10/80; Pond Sealing or Lining-Bentonite Sealant dated 10/77; Pond Sealing or Lining-Soil Dispersant dated 10/77; Regulating Water in Drainage Systems dated 10/77; Roof Runoff Structure dated 6/84; Surface Roughening dated 10/87; Water Table Control dated 10/87; and Waste Utilization dated 4/99.

Copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State Offices (or equivalent), Regional Offices, Centers, and Institutes. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1AA from the GSA National Forms and Publications Center, 7CPN, Warehouse 4, Dock 1, 501 West Felix Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76115, using GSA Form 49.

This notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS homepage on the World Wide Web at http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/nhcp_2.html or from the FTP server in Fort Worth, Texas.

***Federal Register* Notices.**

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the *Federal Register*. Comments were accepted for 60 days.

Guidance to the States for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State technical guides can be found in 450 - GM, 401.19.

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Attachments