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**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**  
**450-VI**  
**NOTICE 124**

**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.**

**Alley Cropping (311):** Several new purposes were added to this conservation practice standard. Editorial changes were made to the criteria with a new section of additional criteria to reduce surface water runoff and erosion. Changes and additions were also made to the considerations and operation and maintenance sections.

**Constructed Wetland (656):** This is a major revision of this conservation practice standard. The Definition, Purpose and Criteria were changed to reflect a waste treatment function.

**Firebreak (394):** Editorial changes were made in the purposes, criteria and considerations. The consideration concerning erosion control was moved to criteria.

**Forest Site Preparation (490):** The conservation practice standard definition, purposes and conditions where practice applies were simplified. Several editorial changes were made to the criteria. New considerations were also added.

**Forest Stand Improvement (666):** This conservation practice standard was revised by expanding the purposes for the practice. The general criteria were clarified and expanded. Several new planning considerations were also added.

**Forest Trails and Landings (655):** The name of this conservation practice standard was changed to reflect a broader application than forest harvesting. The definition was also changed to broaden the scope. Trails for recreation and general forest management were added as purposes. Additional criteria and considerations were added to support the changes in definition and purposes.

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**Heavy Use Area Protection (561):** This is a major revision and formatting change from the existing 1977 standard. Additional purposes and associated criteria were added to strengthen this practice.

**Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441):** The reissue of Practice Standard 441 changes the tubing depth and spacing. The Subsurface Irrigation section, changes minimum flushing velocity from 2 fps to 1 fps to be consistent with ASAE EP405, and changes the uniformity terminology.

**Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447):** This new standard is a complete revision of the existing Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery Standard.

**Pest Management (595):** This conservation practice standard was revised from being just a pesticide practice standard to a standard that includes all the strategies of Integrated Pest Management for controlling pests. The code was changed from 595A to 595.

**Pipeline (516):** This standard has been updated to the current format. Also, additional pertinent industry standards have been added to this standard.

**Prescribed Burning (338):** A significant change was made to Conditions where Practice Applies. Some editorial changes were made to the criteria and considerations. The plans and specifications section was expanded.

**Riparian Forest Buffer (391):** A minor change was made to the definition for clarification. Several new purposes were added to the standard to address wildlife habitat and corridors, provide for harvesting products, scour erosion, and restoring plant communities. Minor editorial changes were made to the general criteria but expanded criteria were developed for aquatic organisms and wildlife habitat and runoff of nutrients, sediments, pesticides, etc. Criteria for Zone 3 is referred to the Filter Strip conservation practice standard.

**Spring Development (574):** This update of the Spring Development standard includes additional considerations to consider when planning or installing this practice. The standard has been reformatted.

**Tree/Shrub Establishment (612):** The definition of this standard was expanded listing the methods used for tree/shrub establishment. The purposes for the practice were expanded to encompass emerging technology and issues such as carbon sequestration and waste utilization. The criteria and considerations were changed to support the purpose changes.

**Tree/Shrub Pruning (660):** The practice standard purposes were expanded beyond improvement of wood quality such as improved nut or fruit production, better growth and vigor of understory plants, and improved plant appearance or density. The design criteria and planning considerations were each expanded to support the purposes. The steps describing how to prune were removed.

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**Use Exclusion (472):** Significant changes were made to the purposes, criteria, and considerations of this conservation practice standard to provide greater clarification for using the practice.

**Watering Facility (614):** The name of this practice has changed from Trough or Tank to Watering Facility. A reference section has been added.

**Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380):** A minor editorial change was made to the practice definition but several new purposes were added. The criteria were expanded to reflect the added purposes. Several additions were also made to considerations.

**Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650):** The definition of this conservation practice standard was expanded for clarification. Several editorial changes were made to the criteria without major change to the meaning. Some additions were also made to the considerations and operation and maintenance sections.

**Instructions.**

Replace the “Contents” pages in the NHCP with the attached revised version dated August 2000.

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

Remove the practice standards for Alley Cropping 311 dated 6/98; Constructed Wetland 656 dated 8/98; Firebreak 394 dated 6/94; Forest Harvest Trails & Landings 655 dated 5/96; Forest Site Preparation 490 dated 6/94; Forest Stand Improvement 666 dated 6/94; Heavy Use Area Protection 561 dated 10/77; Irrigation System, Microirrigation 441 dated 2/00; Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery 447 dated 10/78; Pest Management 595A dated 7/97; Pipeline 516 dated 10/85; Prescribed Burning 338 dated 6/94; Riparian Forest Buffer 391 dated 7/97; Spring Development 574 dated 10/87; Tree/Shrub Establishment 612 dated 6/94; Tree/Shrub Pruning 660 dated 7/97; Use Exclusion 472 dated 6/94; Trough or Tank 614 Dated 10/87; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment 380 dated 6/94; and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation 650 dated 6/94.

With this notice, we are withdrawing the State Interim number 709 which covered Closure of Waste Storage Ponds. This information is now contained in the new National Conservation Practice Standard Code 360 Closure of Waste Impoundments.

Hard copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all States, Regional Offices, Institutes, Centers, and Cooperating Scientists as indicated on the attached distribution list. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1W 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.

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Copies of this notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with it can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS Home Page on the World Wide Web at [http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/nhcp\\_2.html](http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/nhcp_2.html) or from the FTP server in Fort Worth, Texas. Guidance for electronic access of standards is contained in NHCP Notice 116.

**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. A number of individuals, groups and agencies requested copies of these proposed and revised standards, and several comments were received. All comments were reviewed and many were incorporated into the final version of several of these standards.

NHCP Notices 117 and 118 provide guidance to the states for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that requires advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State technical guides.

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Attachments