



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 2890  
Washington, D.C. 20013

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NHCP-1AE

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**  
**450 – VI**  
**NOTICE 131**

**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.**

New or revised Standards:

**Animal Mortality Facility (316)** – This is a new standard. This standard guides the design and installation of on-farm facilities to treat or dispose of livestock and poultry carcasses.

**Aquaculture Ponds (397)** – The name of this standard has been changed from Commercial Fishpond to Aquaculture Ponds. Much of the criteria for pond design was simplified and is referenced to Pond, 378.

**Bedding (310)** – This is a complete rewrite of this standard. The most pertinent changes include addition of a Considerations section, the deletion of the wording “Soils must be sufficient depth to provide a satisfactory root zone after bedding.” and the addition under Plans and Specifications of the requirement that “Areas where the rooting depth may limit plant growth after construction of the beds shall be identified on the plan map.”

**Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas (331)** – This is a complete rewrite of this standard to meet existing policy, including establishment of criteria to meet the purpose(s) listed.

**Fence (382)** – This standard has been reviewed and only minor changes have been made to the standard.

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**Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)** – This standard has been reviewed and only minor changes have been made. The Conditions where practice applies has been clarified to state that it is applicable only on slopes less than 30 percent.

**Irrigation Canal or Lateral (320)** – Revisions for this standard include reformatting and adding:

- a Considerations section,
- an Operation and Maintenance section,
- references to Section 650.1412 (d) of the Engineering Field Handbook (EFH) Part 650, Chapter 14, for criteria for side slopes.

**Irrigation Field Ditch (388)** – The revisions for this standard include reformatting and the addition of a Considerations Section and an Operation and Maintenance Section.

**Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443)** – Revisions to this standard includes reformatting and the addition of:

- the requirement to develop an irrigation water management plan with this practice,
- criteria applicable to chemical and nutrient application,
- a Considerations Section, and
- an Operation and Maintenance Section.

**Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining, Plain Concrete (428A)** – The name of this standard has been changed from Irrigation Water Conveyance, Nonreinforced Concrete Ditch and Canal Lining to Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining, Plain Concrete to reflect the changes in the concrete design codes. This standard has been revised to include updating to the current format and to add an additional purpose for improving management of irrigation water.

**Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining, Galvanized Steel (428C)** – Revisions to this standard include reformatting and the removal of the construction specification. The limits required for the materials used in this practice were incorporated into the standard.

**Mole Drain (482)** – Revision to the Mole Drain standard includes reformatting and adding a Considerations section.

**Range Planting (550)** – This standard has been reviewed and only minor changes have been made. An additional purpose was included to enhance aesthetics of rangeland.

**Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (607)** – This revision includes reformatting, the addition of a Considerations Section, and an Operation and Maintenance Section.

**The following standards are being withdrawn:**

**Land Reclamation, Fire Control (451)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. This practice was used within the RAMP program which is no longer administered by NRCS.

**Land Reclamation, Highwall Treatment (456)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. This practice was used within the RAMP program which is no longer administered by NRCS.

**Instructions.**

Replace the Contents pages i through vi in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages dated October 2002.

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 Bedding (310) dated October 1980; Commercial Fishponds (397) dated June 1984; Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas (331) dated October 1978; Fence (382) dated April 1995; Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548) dated April 1995; Irrigation Canal or Lateral (320) dated October 1977; Irrigation Field Ditch (388) dated October 1977; Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (442) dated October 1978; Irrigation Water Conveyance – Ditch and Canal Lining – Nonreinforced Concrete (428A) dated October 1985; Irrigation Water Conveyance – Ditch and Canal Lining – Galvanized Steel (428C) dated October 1978; Land Reclamation, Fire Control (451) dated June 1984; Land Reclamation, Highwall Treatment (456) dated June 1984; Mole Drain (482) dated October 1980; Range Planting (550) dated April 1995; and Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (607) dated October 1978.

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-1AD 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/practice\\_stds.html](http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_stds.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 30 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, Section 401.19.

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Attachments