

List of Conservation Management Practices for the California Farm Bureau's Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) offers financial incentives through its Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program to support conservation management practices in agriculture. This program promotes conservation practice standards recommended by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), aimed at improving soil health, sequestering carbon, and reducing atmospheric greenhouse gases. Citrus growers interested in taking advantage of this program can adopt one or more of the recommended management practices compatible with orchard management, as listed below.

The program incentivizes two types of practices based on implementation timelines:

1. **Annually implemented practices:** Grant beneficiaries must implement these once in each project year and a total of three times during the grant term. The implementation of cover crops is set for Fall 2024, while other annual practices are scheduled to begin in Summer 2025 (subject to change).
2. **One-time implemented practices:** These practices are implemented only once in the grant term, but beneficiaries must maintain them for the project lifespan. These can be implemented at any time before 2027.

I. **Orchards (Citrus only)**

A. One-time practices

1. Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
2. Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
3. Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
4. Mulching (Wood Chips Only) ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
5. Whole Orchard Recycling ([USDA NRCS CPS 808](#))
6. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

B. Annual practices for 3 years

7. Compost Application ([USDA NRCS CPS 808](#))
 - a) Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
 - b) On-farm Produced Compost
8. Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
9. Mulching (Natural Materials Only) ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
10. Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#)) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
11. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
12. Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))



Questions or Contact

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