

Appendix A: Practice Payment Scenarios, Rates, Requirements, and Implementation Guidelines

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	HSP Practice	Practice Implementation	Payment Scenario	Payment Unit	Payment Rate (\$/Unit)	Number of Years to be Paid	Required Document /Information at Application	Implementation Guidelines	Verification Requirements
For all practices	Soil Sampling	N/A	Soil Organic Matter (SOM) analysis	Per SOM analysis result	\$50.00	3	No	(1) Soil sample(s) must be taken from the same field location once prior to practice implementation and one, two, and three years following initial practice implementation; (2) it is recommended they be sent to the same soil analytic laboratory in the grant term; (3) Follow instructions in HSP Soil Sampling Protocol for Soil Organic Matter Analysis when taking soil sample(s).	A soil test report in each project year including soil organic matter content for field(s) where practice implementation is funded. A soil test report at three years following initial practice implementation may occur outside the grant term and the associated expense will be covered by the Grant Beneficiaries.
Orchard or Vineyard	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, On-farm produced compost	2 tons/Acre	Ac	\$128.64	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			3 tons/Acre	Ac	\$192.96	3			
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	\$257.28	3			
		Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, Purchased compost	2 tons/Acre	Ac	\$128.64	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied, (2) A copy of receipt for compost purchased; (3) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio; (4) A certificate of the compost facility if it is not included in the list at https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/SearchSite .
			3 tons/Acre	Ac	\$192.96	3			
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	\$257.28	3			

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Orchard or Vineyard	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N > 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, On-farm produced compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	\$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	\$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	\$514.56	3			
		Compost (C:N > 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, Purchased compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	\$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre	
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	\$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	\$514.56	3			
Orchard or Vineyard	Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Convert Idle Land near Orchard/ Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Introduced species	Ac	\$403.70	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Introduced species with foregone income	Ac	\$555.82	1		(1) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species	Ac	\$350.34	1	Mix of native perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species with foregone income	Ac	\$660.34	1			

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Orchard or Vineyard	Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Convert Idle Land near Orchard/Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Monarch species – mix species	Ac	\$1,404.68	1	Mix of native perennial grass & forbs including native milkweeds for wildlife, pollinators, or ecosystem restoration	(1) At least 4% native milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) and less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Monarch species – mix species with foregone income	Ac	\$1,443.92	1			
			Pollinator species	Ac	\$1,138.96	1	Mix of native perennial grasses, legumes, and forbs to provide habitat for pollinators	(1) Mixed native species with less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and good maintenance.	
			Pollinator species with foregone income	Ac	\$1,134.30	1			
		Plant Permanent Grass or Grass/Legume Cover in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	Orchard or Vineyard Alleyways	Ac	\$271.80	1	Perennial species	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used, and (2) Maintain permanent vegetation	
Orchard or Vineyard	Cover Crop (NRCS CPS 340)	(1) Add Legume or Non-Legume Cover Crop to Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	One species	Ac	\$122.46	3	Cover crop species	(1) Single or multiple species cover crop is planted without fertilizer. (2) Cover crop is allowed to grow to produce as much biomass as possible. (3) Cover crop biomass/residue should not be removed to other places.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing established cover crops in the field (≥60% coverage), (2) Receipts of cover crop seeds purchased, (3) Cover crop species name and seeding rate.
			Multiple species	Ac	\$153.32	3			

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Orchard or Vineyard	Filter Strip (NRCS CPS 393)	Convert Idle Land Near Orchard/ Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Introduced species	Ac	\$371.66	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Introduced perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at ≥60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain plant growth.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established filter strip (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Native species	Ac	\$407.92	1	Native perennial species	(1) Native perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain plant growth.	
Orchard or Vineyard	Hedgerow Planting (NRCS CPS 422)	Plant 1 Row of Woody Plants on Border of Orchard/ Vineyard	Single Row	Ft	\$11.82	1	Hedgerow species	(1) Pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and perennial wildflowers; (2) Plant density at ≥200 live plants/acre; (3) Average height at ≥3 feet and extend 15 feet wide at maturity; (4) Plant protection & irrigation.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the hedgerow line. (2) Receipts of plants purchased; (3) Plant species name and number of live plants; (4) Maintain plant growth in the project term.
Orchard or Vineyard	Mulching (NRCS CPS 484)	Add Mulch to Orchard or Vineyard	Natural Materials	Ac	\$518.38	3	Natural materials	(1) Materials produced off site; (2) ≥70% of the acreage covered by mulch materials at 1-3 inches thickness or 1-2 tons/acre if using straw. (3) Natural materials include chipped brush, bark, wood shavings, sawdust, leaves, leaf mold, pine needles, grass hay, rice hulls, grasses, grass clippings, crop residues, straw, almond/walnut shells, cocoa bean hulls or coconut fiber. Provide name(s) of natural material(s).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing mulching is completely implemented including thickness measured by a ruler and mulch coverage, (2) Receipts of materials purchased, or donated with proof documents.
			Wood Chips	Ac	\$4,385.44	1	Wood chips	(1) Materials produced off site (2) Wood Chips are characterized as chemically untreated, woody material that is ¼ -2 inches in diameter, without leaves and hardy enough to last for several years; (3) Mulch thickness at 2-4 inches; (4) Application rate at ≥40 cubic yards/acre or ≥10 tons/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing mulching is implemented including thickness measured by a ruler and mulch coverage, (2) Receipts of materials if purchased or donated with proof documents.

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Orchard or Vineyard	Nutrient Management (NRCS CPS 590)	Improved N Fertilizer Management on Orchard/Vineyard - Reduce Fertilizer Application Rate by 15%	Basic nutrient management	Ac	\$17.80	3	An eligible field(s) is where synthetic nutrient fertilizers have been applied annually	(1) A nutrient management plan for each field/crop based on soil test analysis and University of California or CDFA recommended rates. (2) A farming log records all fertilization activities (fertilizer name, nitrogen content, application rate & date) during each project year.	(1) Crop name(s) and age or yield target; (2) the farming log must demonstrate that nitrogen application rate is 15% less than what was used in the past 3 years or UC recommended rate; (3) Receipts of nitrogen fertilizers purchased as applicable; (4) Verification is at the end of the project year or end of fertilization cycle as applicable.
Orchard or Vineyard	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (NRCS CPS 329)	Convert Tillage to No Till in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	No-Till or Strip-Till	Ac	\$32.96	3	Tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) No tillage; (2) all planting methods are no-till drill or broadcast if applicable. (3) Residues are kept on soil surface and not burned or removed; (4) A farming log recording all field activities.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos showing field operations, field floor and overview of the whole field at end of project year; (2) A farming log; (3) verification at the end of project year.
Orchard or Vineyard	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (NRCS CPS 345)	Convert Tillage to Reduced Till in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	Reduced- Till	Ac	\$40.74	3	Conventional tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) Tillage methods (Mulch/vertical tillage, chiseling, or disking) that limit soil disturbance, or (2) Fewer tillage operations. (3) Plant residue covering soil surface during winter- spring period; (4) A farming log recording all field activities related to soil disturbance dates of activities and equipment used.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos for each field showing field operations (including equipment used), field floor and overview of the whole field at end of each project year. (2) A farming log to demonstrate implementation requirements are met; (3) Verification by the end of the project year.
Orchard	Whole Orchard Recycling (NRCS CPS 808)	Whole Orchard Recycling	Whole Orchard Recycling	Ac	\$861.42	1	Age of trees at application	(1) Only orchards with trees at least ten years of age at application are eligible; (2) Orchard trees should be chipped and incorporated on the field where they were grown, not to export to new fields.; (3) Chips must be evenly distributed throughout the orchard and incorporated into the soil to at least 6 inches depth.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing tree removal, chipping, spreading and incorporation of wood chips; (2) A farm log including chipping details (e.g., tons of chips, size); (3) Before and after pictures of orchard; (4) Verification is when chips are incorporated.

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Orchard or Vineyard	Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (NRCS CPS 380)	Plant 1 Row of Woody Plants on Border of Orchard/Vineyard	1-row, trees, containers, hand planted, with tree protected	Ft	\$1.66	1	Tree and/or shrub species	(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) Plant protection and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the tree line. (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live plants; (4) Tree protection and irrigation; (5) Plant maintenance during the project term.
			1-row, trees and/or shrub, with wind protection fence	Ft	\$2.68	1		(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) A wind-protection fence and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	

Definitions:
Cropland, Annual or Perennial: Land where the crop(s) grown is identified as annual or perennial crops according to the Conservation Compliance Agricultural Commodity List under the Food and Security Act of 1985, as amended, or is determined as annual or perennial by the local USDA NRCS if it is not included in the list. Perennial cropland includes orchards and vineyards.
Grazing land: Land used primarily for production of forage plants maintained or manipulated primarily through grazing management.
Grassland: Land where the vegetation is dominated by grasses and other herbaceous (non-woody) plants, such as forbs.
Rangeland: Land on which the potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland.
Pasture: A land use type having vegetation cover comprised primarily of introduced or enhanced native forage species that is used for livestock grazing. Pasture receives periodic renovation and cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. Pasture vegetation can consist of grasses, legumes, other forbs, shrubs, or a mixture. Pasture differs from range in that it primarily produces vegetation that has initially been planted to provide preferred forage for grazing livestock.
Foregone Income: Reduced revenue that is generated mainly from reduced production because the land area used for growing cash crop(s) will be converted to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume Cover. A payment scenario name that includes Foregone Income has higher payment rate because it takes consideration of both the reduced revenue and the expense for implementing the conservation management practice.
Geotagged photograph: A geotagged photograph is a photograph which is associated with a geographic position by assigning a latitude and longitude to the image. For pictures taken with a mobile phone or digital camera, this can be achieved by enabling the GPS function of the device prior to capturing a picture. Geotagging helps CDFA confirm the correct location of practice implementation consistent with Project Design at the time of verification. Please check the link https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/InstructionsOnHowToTakeGeotaggedPhotos.pdf for instructions on how to take and send geotagged photos.