



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E484D

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

Lowbush blueberry field mulching for moisture management

Conservation Practice 484: Mulching

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual and Mixed), Crop (Perennial)

RESOURCE CONCERN: Water

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

A full-field application of state-approved natural material such as wood chips for moisture retention to enhance resilience in low bush blueberries (aka wild blueberries). Wood chips hold precipitation in the root zone and prevent moisture loss in well drained soils.

Criteria

- Prepare the field by flail mowing vegetation or other mechanical treatment so wood chips make contact with the ground surface.
- Apply wood chips by broadcasting over the entire field using a manure spreader or other means of uniform distribution.
- Ensure even distribution. Application shall be a minimum of 2 inches. Deeper mulch application may smother plants and affect plant health and productivity.
- Estimated application rate to achieve the appropriate depth of cover is 270 cubic yards per acre.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, inform NRCS:
 - When a source of appropriate mulch has been located,
 - When fields have been prepared,
 - Planned date for work to commence and method of installation, and
 - When actual mulch material arrives on site (either delivered or generated).
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any changes in the mulching plan so NRCS can verify that changes meet the enhancement criteria.
- Photo documentation during implementation to document the average size of mulch material and depth of layer applied.
- Photo documentation after implementation of the mulched fields to verify the location and extent (area covered) of the practice implementation.
- Provide invoices, trucking slips, or other documentation of actual amount of material applied to field.

Tract	Field/ Location	Acres	Mulching Material	Total Cubic Yards Needed	Planned Application Date



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NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance to meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes in the mulching plan to ensure enhancement criteria are met.
- If changes were made after implementation, use information provided from the participant to verify the applied system meets the enhancement criteria.



NRCS Documentation Review:

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Participant Name _____

Contract Number _____

Practice Certification and Checkout for Mulching

(Use additional sheets if needed)

	Practice Completion Date	Practice Completion Date	Practice Completion Date
Field(s):			
Extent performed (acres):			
Checked by (printed name) and date:			
ESJAA, name, signature, and date:			
Notes:			
NRCS approval signature above indicates that the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.			

2024 Alabama Supplemental Guidance for CSP Enhancement

ENHANCEMENT NUMBER AND TITLE: E484D: Lowbush blueberry field mulching for moisture management

CONSERVATION PRACTICE E484: Mulching

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ENHANCEMENT:

This enhancement is to achieve improved moisture management by applying a full-field application of state-approved natural material such as wood chips for moisture retention to enhance resilience in low bush blueberries (aka wild blueberries). Wood chips hold precipitation in the root zone and prevent moisture loss in well drained soils.

Important considerations:

- Fields should be prepared in a way that mulching materials contact the ground surface.
- Apply materials for mulching by broadcasting over the entire field using a manure spreader or other means of uniform distribution.
- Application shall be a minimum of 2 inches.
- Estimated application rate to achieve the appropriate depth of cover is 270 cubic yards per acre.
- Use Alabama Cooperative Extension guidance to decide the specific materials for mulching. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/mulches-for-the-home-landscape/>

PROVIDE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, inform NRCS:
 - When a source of appropriate mulch has been located,
 - When fields have been prepared,
 - Planned date for work to commence and method of installation, and
 - When actual mulch material arrives on site (either delivered or generated).
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any changes in the mulching plan so NRCS can verify that changes meet the enhancement criteria.
- Photo documentation during implementation to document the average size of mulch material and depth of layer applied.
- Photo documentation after implementation of the mulched fields to verify the location and extent (area covered) of the practice implementation.
- Provide invoices, trucking slips, or other documentation of actual amount of material applied to field.

The attached documents support the full implementation of this Conservation Stewardship Enhancement.

CSP Participant Name

Date