

PEST MANAGEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 595



PEST MANAGEMENT

Managing weeds, insects and diseases to reduce adverse effects on plant growth, crop production, and natural resources.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice establishes the minimum acceptable elements of a pest management program. It includes appropriate cultural, biological, and chemical controls, and combinations thereof.

The purpose of the practice is to establish a pest management program that is consistent with crop production goals and environmental concerns.

The following are major considerations regarding the pest management practice:

1. Use integrated pest management principles to assure the techniques are environmentally sound.
2. Use crop rotations to break up pest cycles

3. Use hand weeding or spot treatment when appropriate
4. Use biological control and beneficial insects
5. Scout fields and apply chemicals at the correct time and dose rate
6. Consider the effects of repetitive use of the same chemicals on pesticide resistance
7. Control erosion to reduce runoff and associated pollution
8. Use field borders and buffer strips to reduce potential for pollution from runoff
9. Become familiar with common pests including life cycles and learn alternative control techniques
10. Use chemicals safely
11. Always follow label instructions
12. Use extreme care in preparing tank mixes and rinsing chemicals from tanks
13. Assure farm workers are properly trained in safety precautions

Additional information including standards and specifications are included in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide