

Practices to Consider

When Applying for EQIP



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The US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program is available to growers through two funding sources 1) EQIP Emergency Assistance Program and 2) EQIP General Program. The following information includes examples of conservation practices that citrus growers should consider when applying for funding. Growers are encouraged to apply for both the emergency and general programs, as each program funds different practices. The examples given here are not guaranteed to be covered, nor is this list exhaustive. Please discuss ALL the practices you are implementing in your operation that may be applicable under each program with your NRCS representative when applying for funding.

EQIP Emergency Assistance Funding

<u>Practice Code & Name</u>	<u>Examples of practices used in groves</u>	<u>Practice Description</u>
PC 326 Clearing & Snagging (feet)	Debris removal from canals and streams Clearing of vegetation and obstructions	Obstruction removal from improved or natural streams
PC 384 Woody Residue Treatment (acre)	Burning, shredding, or chipping trees and disposal offsite Remove inoculum sources for fungal diseases and to reduce pest pressure	Manages woody plant residues to improve site conditions
PC 500 Obstruction Removal (number)	Structures, buildings, vegetation, other debris Pump sheds, barns, offices, pole barns	Debris removal & disposal to implement conservation practices and improve water quality
PC 327 Conservation Cover (acre)	Conservation areas, improving wildlife habitats with permanent vegetation Plantings to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and sediment movement	Perennial vegetation established for water and soil conservation
PC 342 Critical Area Planting (acre)	Sites with high erosion: slopes, hill sides, road banks, canal and ditch banks Sides of high middles in bedded groves	Erosion control using permanent vegetation where normal vegetative growth is difficult
PC 382 Fence (feet)	Many types of materials - barbed or smooth wire, wood or metal posts Typical grove fencing and high fences	Barrier to restrict people, regulate livestock and wildlife movement
PC 595* Pest Management Conservation System (acre)	Individual plant covers (IPCs), CUPS Reflective mulch, fabric mulch (Diaprepes)	Using environmental conservation related pest management methods
PC 325 High Tunnel System (sq. feet)	Not utilized in citrus, but consider this if you have other crops Planted in native soil, raised beds 12in max height - vegetables, strawberries, etc.	System used to protect crops from weather or extend growing season

* This practice is covered under both the emergency assistance and general programs

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EQIP General Program Funding

<u>Practice Code & Name</u>	<u>Examples of practices used in groves</u>	<u>Practice Description</u>
PC 340* Cover Crop (acre)	Cover crop between rows, in row, in fields Grown for green manure, weed control, water filtration, pollinator habitat, etc.	Non cash crop used to reduce soil erosion and improve soil and plant health
PC 449 Irrigation Water Management (acre)	Soil moisture sensors Equipment for controlling volume and rate	Managing irrigation water volume, frequency, and rate of application
PC 443** Irrigation System Surface/Subsurface (acre)	Low middle drainage systems Drain tile, drain pipes	Irrigation delivered on the surface using contour levees, furrows, etc. Subsurface control of the water table
PC 430** Irrigation Pipeline (feet)	Mainline irrigation pipes, back flow prevention devices, pressure reducers, relief valves, etc. Pipes that move water from retention ponds to grove	Pipes and components to move irrigation water for application or storage
PC 441** Irrigation System Microirrigation (acre)	Chemigation/fertilization injection stations and components Emitters, drip irrigation, polypipe and tubing	Irrigation system delivering water above or below soil in small, frequent quantities
PC 447** Irrigation System Tailwater Recovery (number)	Retention pond erosion, sealing or lining, storm protection Antenna and electronic irrigational components, pumps, filters, screens, etc.	Facilities used to collect, store, and move tailwater for reuse in irrigation
PC 356** Dike and Levee (feet)	Berms and wetland barriers Dikes and levees	Barriers used to protect against flooding and regulate water. Made from using soil or other materials.
PC 587** Structure for Water Control (number)	Ditch bank risers and tide gates for water level control, float devices and monitoring stations for measurement, Inverted siphons, bridges, pipes, and culverts to move water under, over, or around barriers	Structures and components used to measure and control water rate, level, and flow
PC 484 Mulching (acre)	Compost, mulch, organic matter applications Fabric mulch and reflective mulch materials	Use of plant residues or other materials for crop protection, erosion control, improve soil moisture control, etc.
PC 380 Establishment** PC 650 Renovation** Windbreak/Shelterbelt (feet)	Eucalyptus trees or other varieties used for windbreaks To protect trees and crops from wind, help prevent pests and diseases from entering grove	Trees and/or shrubs planted in a linear fashion and upwind from protected areas

* This practice is covered under both the emergency assistance and general programs

** These practices are not listed on the EQIP General Factsheet, but may still be eligible for funding, please ask NRCS if it is applicable to your operation

The information in this document was sourced from the individual "Conservation Practice Standard Overview" documents which can be found here <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards>. There are more practices eligible for the general EQIP program than what is listed above. We have just highlighted some of those practices more commonly found in citrus groves. Please see the [EQIP Factsheet](#) for full list of practices and talk with your NRCS representative. If you have not already done so, call the NRCS main office line to document having made contact with the agency (352) 338-9500. A representative will contact you to discuss your application. Also be sure to apply for the early start waiver through the EQIP Emergency Assistance program. This is not a guarantee of funding, however, this will allow you to begin working in your grove before the required inspection is completed.