

Vegetation Land Cover Requirements & Resources

PROGRAM

LAND COVER REQUIREMENTS & CARE

QUICK GUIDE

ORCHARD SWALE REWILDING



Vegetation that requires little to no supplemental water after initial establishment, provides habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects, reduces runoff, improves soil health. provides habitat for wildlife and pollinators, improves soil health.

Care & Maintenance: Annual mowing, weeding until established, and periodic reseeding. Provide irrigation to establish hedgerows and shrubs; Maintain the intended beneficial function through as-needed reseeding; Avoid vehicular traffic and the application of agricultural chemicals.

Notes:

RECHARGE AND RETENTION BASINS

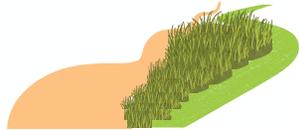


Established vegetation that is suitable for various water depths or periodic droughts, provides bank stabilization, and enhances beneficial habitat for wildlife.

Care & Maintenance: Replant desired vegetation, manage invasive species.

Notes:

EXTENDED FALLOWING IN DESIGNATED BUFFER ZONES

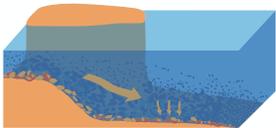


Seeded or residential vegetation that provides ground cover to avoid nuisance conditions, provides beneficial habitat, reduces runoff, and prevents soil erosion.

Care & Maintenance: Replant desired vegetation, manage invasive species.

Notes:

FLOODPLAIN RECONNECTION AND RELATED SPREADING AND RECHARGE



Riparian vegetation that slows the flow of water over the landscape, provides habitat for wildlife, improves soil health, supports sediment deposition, and aids in groundwater recharge.

Care & Maintenance: Continually adjust and modify project features, as needed. Focus on unwanted species that can compete with target vegetation

Notes:

FALLOWING

SELF-REPORTED, INCENTIVIZED FALLOWING, 10-YEAR MLRP



Vegetation that provides ground cover, reduces runoff and soil erosion, and enhances pollinator habitat. Planting hedgerows of native, drought resistant shrubs along the perimeter to buffer wind is encouraged. Hedgerows may require incidental irrigation to promote establishment.

Care & Maintenance: Replant as needed to maintain targeted benefit. Minimize discing for weed control, avoid tillage. Tilling should be avoided. Reseeding may be a necessary. Utilize soil testing to optimize agronomic requirements and benefits.

Notes:



Other Resources

Practical considerations for managing cool-season cover crops with maximal water benefits and minimal water use

<https://suscon.org/blog/2025/05/cover-cropping-in-water-scarce-environments/>

Cover Cropping in California's Water Scarce Environments

<https://suscon.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Cover-Cropping-in-Californias-Water-Scarce-Environments-5.2.25.pdf>

Cover Cropping Guidance Resource Website

<https://linktr.ee/CoverCroppingGuidance>



Monitoring and Reporting

NON-PERMITTED PROJECTS

Geo-tagged, time-stamped photographs to ETSGSA.

PERMITTED PROJECTS

Compliance with any permit directed data or information. Geo-tagged time-stamped photographs to ETSGSA.

SELF-REPORTED COVER CROPPING

Self-attestation through the GAP



Scan to
access all
Links

SEED RESOURCES

Western Cover Crop Decision Tools

<https://westerncovercrops.org/decision-tools/>

Quick Reference to CA Cover Crops

<https://ucanr.edu/site/california-cover-crops-resources/quick-reference-ca-cover-crops>

UC SAREP Cover Crops Database

<https://ucanr.edu/site/california-cover-crops-resources/uc-sarep-cover-crops-database>

Seeds for Bees

<https://www.projectapism.org/>

Native Seed Group (Pacific Coast Seed, S&S, Hedgerow etc)

[Julia Michaels - juliam@hedgerowfarms.com](mailto:juliam@hedgerowfarms.com)

Heritage Growers

[Trish Gomez - trishg@pcseed.com](mailto:trishg@pcseed.com)

Native West

[Patrick Montgomery - patrick@nativewest.com](mailto:patrick@nativewest.com)

Lockwood Seed & Grain (cover crops only)

[Doug Iten - Doug.Iten@lockwoodseed.com](mailto:Doug.Iten@lockwoodseed.com)