

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

COVER CROP

(ac.)
CODE 340

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL PURPOSES

- Cover Crop 340 Job Sheet/Specification: SD-JS-340
- Seed Tag(s)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION: (See Standard)

- **Purpose: Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion:**
 - SD-JS-Agron RUSLE2 generated Job Sheet *and/or*
 - Wind Erosion Prediction System (WEPS) Profile/Run printout
- **South Dakota Approved Efficiencies for this purpose:**
 - WEPS is not needed unless a wind erosion resource concern exists (Consider running WEPS when Wind Erodibility Index (WEI) of 86 or greater or when soil loss tolerance T value is 3 or less)
 - RUSLE2 is not needed when sufficient quantities of biomass or crop residue in the management system will reduce sheet and rill erosion to the planned soil loss objective (e.g., T or less).
 - The soil loss tolerance value is 4 or greater for the predominant soil map unit(s) and rotation is changed to include an additional high residue crop or cover crop. No fall tillage of the cover crop. Residue cannot be hayed or removed. Grazing is permitted provided adequate biomass is present and utilization does not exceed 50%.
 - If the Efficiency Guidelines above are not met, run RUSLE2 and/or WEPS.
 - More than one field can be represented on the SD-JS-Agron and/or equivalent WEPS Profile/Run printout. When evaluating an operation with multiple fields, select the predominant critical soil type and most erosive management. Field evaluated should represent critical conditions (e.g., slope steepness, slope length, unsheltered distance).
 - Note: Planners can always elect to run erosion prediction tools to ensure erosion objectives are being met.

- **Purpose: Maintain or Increase Soil Health and Organic Matter Content:**
 - SD-JS-Agron RUSLE2 or WEPS generated Job Sheet
- **South Dakota Approved Efficiencies for this purpose:**
 - RUSLE2 or WEPS is not needed to identify cover crops that will produce a positive trend in the Organic Matter (OM) sub-factor value or positive soil condition index (SCI) when:
 - Cover crop residue is not baled and removed from the field **or**
 - Cover crop is not tilled in the fall **or**
 - When grazed, crop residue or cover crop does not exceed 50% utilization.
 - If the Efficiency Guidelines above are not met, run RUSLE2 and/or WEPS.
 - More than one field can be represented on the SD-JS-Agron and/or equivalent WEPS Profile/Run printout. When evaluating an operation with multiple fields, select the predominant critical soil type and most erosive management. Field evaluated should represent critical conditions (e.g., slope steepness, slope length, unsheltered distance).

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

The minimum documentation required to certify the cover crop practice includes:

1. A field visit by a NRCS employee with cover crop job approval authority verifying seeding.
2. Seed tag label(s) - the minimum bulk seed germination allowed for each species is 85%.
If less than 85%, the seed rate must be based on PLS.
3. Receipt or other documentation of how much seed was purchased.
4. Corresponding acreage of fields where the seed was planted.
5. Date planted.
6. Establishment procedure (drilled or broadcast).