November 2008

CONTOUR ORCHARD AND OTHER FRUIT AREAS

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 331

CONTOUR ORCHARD AND OTHER FRUIT AREAS

Contour orchard and other fruit areas is the practice of planting orchards, vineyards, or small fruit and nut crops so that all cultural operations are done on the contour.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used on sloping land to conserve and protect soil, water, and related natural resources. Contouring orchards and vineyards is especially helpful in fields where permanent cover has not been established between the rows of plants. Contouring decreases surface runoff, increases infiltration of moisture, and reduces soil erosion. The practice also benefits equipment operation, improves aesthetics, and reduces pollution hazards.

Planting orchards and fruit areas on the contour generally requires a bench or terrace to be constructed to provide access to the growing trees or shrubs.

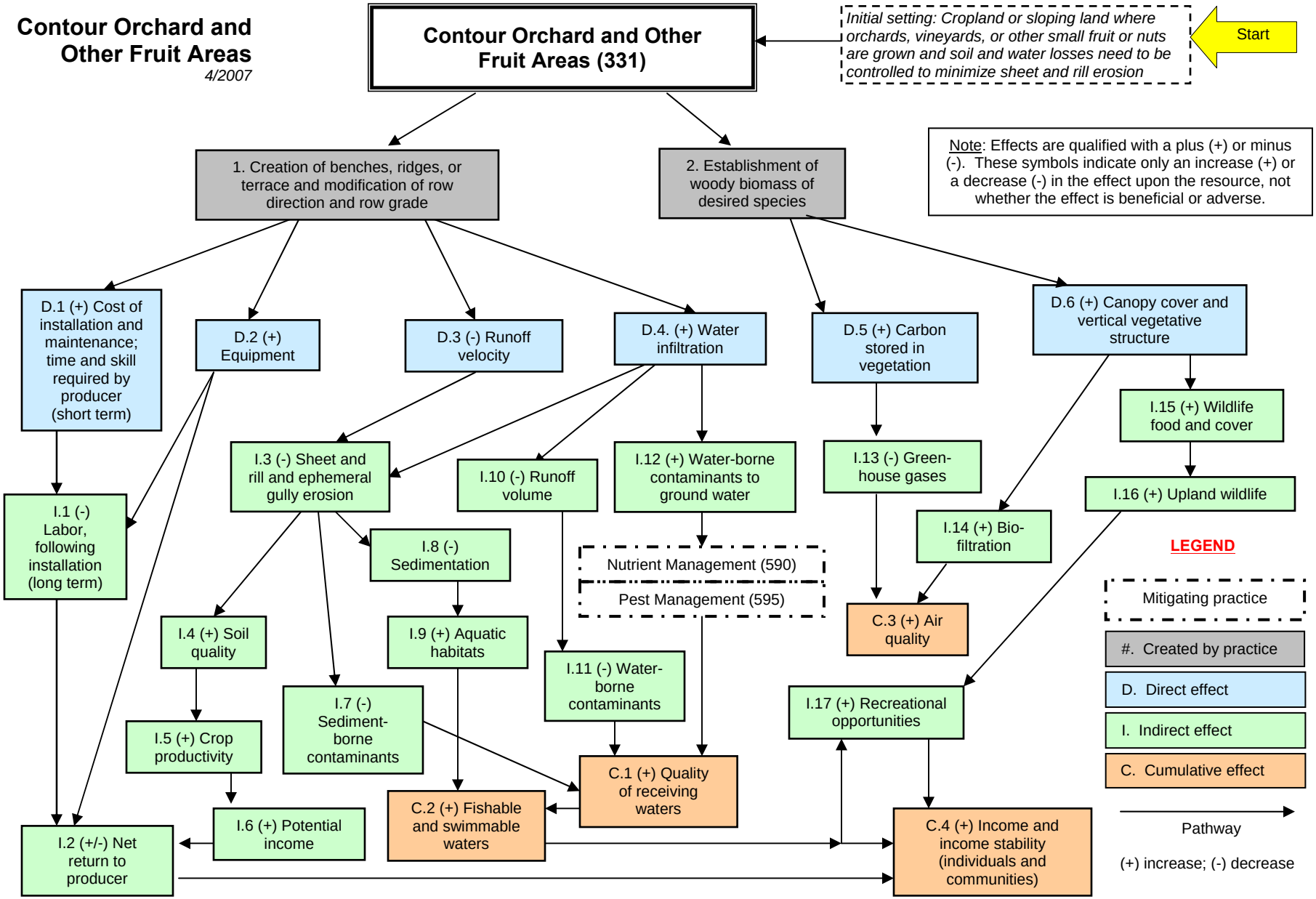
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with Access Road (560), Diversion (362), Grassed Waterway (412), Underground Outlet (620), Conservation Cover (327), Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), and other conservation practices.

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and design criteria.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas
4/2007



The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standard and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.