

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)

Grazing land mechanical treatment involves treating or modifying the soil and plant conditions with mechanical tools by treatments such as pitting, contour furrowing, and chiseling, ripping, or subsoiling in order meet the desired purpose.

Practice Information

Mechanical treatments can improve soil permeability, reduce runoff and increase infiltration, and renovate and stimulate plant community for greater productivity and yield. The benefits are obtained by fracturing compacted soil layers, breaking up root-bound conditions and thatch to increase plant vigor, and renovating and stimulating the plant community for greater productivity and yield.

This standard may be applied on pastureland, rangeland, grazed forest, and native pastures where the slopes are less than 30 percent.

Activities that are involved with this practice may include contour furrowing, chiseling, terracing, pitting, ripping, seeding, prescribed burning, and aerating.



Common Associated Practices

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548) is commonly used on rangeland and applied with conservation practices such as Range Planting (550), Prescribed Grazing (528), Pest Management (595), and Nutrient Management (590). On pastureland the practice is used with Pasture and Hay Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Pest Management (595), and Nutrient Management (590).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.