

Micro-Irrigation System

Definition/Purpose

A Micro-irrigation System means an environmentally safe system for the conveyance and distribution of water, chemicals and fertilizer to agricultural fields for crop production. A micro-irrigation system is for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface: as drops, tiny streams or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line.

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth.

Policies

1. Operation and Maintenance Plan Statement (NC-AgWRAP-OMP) is required.
2. Minimum life expectancy is 10 years.
3. This practice is intended to be implemented to replace and/or reduce the use of other types of irrigation and fertilization such as the traveling gun, center-pivot and furrow irrigation systems unless agronomic necessity (e.g., frost/freeze protection, soil settling) suggest alternate or temporary methods of irrigation.
4. Backflow devices are required.
5. Limit one system per cooperator/farming operation.
6. Cost Share will be based on actual cost with receipts required not to exceed \$25,000 charge to NCAgWRAP, including the cost of backflow prevention.
7. The following persons are eligible to sign for job approval authority: District or NRCS staff with appropriate job approval authority, a NC licensed irrigation contractor, a technical specialist with irrigation designation, a person with design certification by National Irrigation Association or professional engineer.

Standards

N. C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Standard #441 (Irrigation System, Micro irrigation).