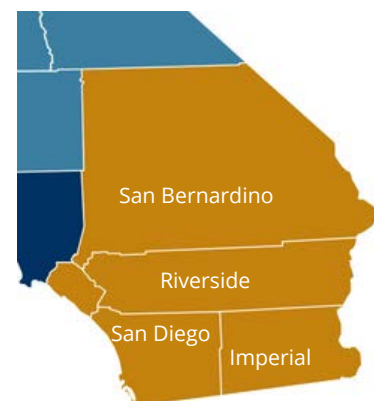




A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GUIDE TO HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM MOST COMMON AND AWARDED PRACTICES

THIS GUIDE SERVES TO

assist you in deciding and implementing practices on your farm that meet the Healthy Soils Program grant criteria. We've broken down the top four practices that have been awarded and used successfully on farms located in: San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Imperial Counties



1. HEDGEROWS

Hedgerows not only provide wind protection but increase biodiversity and provides habitat for beneficial species.



COMMON NATIVE SPECIES LIST

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Arroyo lupine | • Deergrass | • Mojave yucca |
| • Arroyo willow | • Desert bells | • Mule-fat |
| • Beard grass | • Desert broom | • Red willow |
| • Bigberry manzanita | • Fourwing saltbush | • Saltgrass |
| • Brittlebush | • Golden currant | • Scarlet bugler |
| • Bush sunflower | • Great valley gumweed | • Thick-leaf yerba santa |
| • California poppy | • Hummingbird trumpet | • Western white clematis |
| • Coastal cholla | • Jojoba | • White flowered golden brush |
| • Coastal sagebrush | • Lacy phacelia | • White sage |
| • Chaparral yucca | • Lemonade bush | • Yerba mansa |
| • Common sunflower | • Mexican whorled milkweed | |

2. COMPOSTING

Applying compost to your farm builds soil structure, increases soil fertility and water holding capacity, adds nutrients, and supports beneficial microorganisms.

With the Healthy Soils Program grant, you have two options when it comes to compost*: make your own or buy from a certified compost supplier.

*While it is a fantastic way to produce soil amendments and divert organic material from landfills, Vermicomposting is not a permitted form of composting with HSP.

OPTION 1: COMPOST PRODUCED ON-SITE

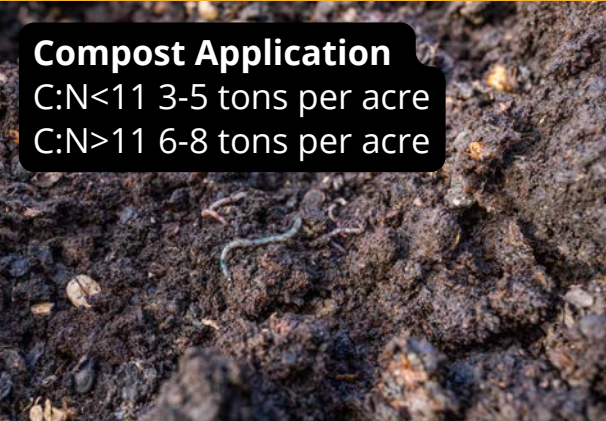
Plant and animal materials can be composted using the two methods below on your farm:

1. In-vessel or Static Aerated Pile System:

Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 3 consecutive days.

2. Windrow Composting:

Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 15 consecutive days. The materials must be turned a minimum of five times.



Compost Application
C:N<11 3-5 tons per acre
C:N>11 6-8 tons per acre



OPTION 2: COMPOST PURCHASED FROM A CERTIFIED FACILITY

San Bernardino

Victor Valley Regional	(760) 241-1284
Agromin OC Oterio Green Material	(805) 485-9200

Riverside

Agriscape Inc.	(951) 696-0651
Southern California Landscape Supply	(951) 538-3338

San Diego

El Corazón	(760) 439-9920
Inland Pacific Resource Recovery	(858) 505-6700
Miramar Greenery	(858) 573-1275
Otay Mesa	(760) 214-1842
Plants Choice Inc.	(619) 585-9909
San Pasqual Valley Soils	(760) 746-4769
Terra Bella Nursery Inc.	(619) 585-1118

Imperial

Brandt Company	(760) 348-2295
Bull Enterprise Inc.	(760) 353-9235
Imperial Valley Compost at Mesquite Cattle	(760) 351-1900
TruSource LLC	(760) 352-4157

3. COVER CROPS

A great way to increase your soil fertility and water holding capacity is by planting cover crops between growing seasons on any given field. Cover cropping manages soil erosion while decreasing weeds, pests, and diseases. Mix and match any of these suitable species to add nutrients to your soil.



NATIVE SPECIES

Forb: common sunflower, lacy phacelia, wild canterbury bells; California bluebell

Legume: small-flowered lupine, arroyo lupine, *tomcat clover

Grass: California brome, *small fescue

Grain: American bird's-foot trefoil

These species are easy to moderately easy to grow.

*Slightly difficult

Species listed focus on four categories of cover crops.

- Forbs bring biodiversity and habitat for beneficial species.
- Legumes fix nitrogen.
- Grasses to increase soil moisture and suppress weeds.
- Grains help build biomass and break up compaction.

Discover more species using [NRCS California eVeg.guide](#).

INTRODUCED SPECIES

Forb: common beet, brown, white, yellow and field mustard, rape, safflower, buckwheat, flax, cultivated radish

Legume: chickpea, sunn hemp, lentil, gama medick, alfalfa, clover: yellow, white, Egyptian, strawberry, rose, crimson, balansa, red, Persian, arrowleaf, vetch: purple, common, hairy, winter, bell bean, cow pea, tepary bean

Grass: Japanese millet, teff grass, annual and Italian ryegrass, regreen sterile hybrid, annual fescue, soft brome

Grain: oat, barely, proso and pearl millet, rye, sorghum, sudangrass, common wheat, triticale

These species are easy to moderately easy to grow.





4. MULCHING



Adding mulch protects against erosion, compaction, and weeds. Mulch also moderates soil temperature and increases water holding capacity. Depending on the style of mulch you choose it can create shelter for beneficial insects.

NATURAL MATERIALS

Application: 1-3 inches thick or 1-2 tons/acre

Examples include: Chipped brush, bark, wood shavings, sawdust, leaves, leaf mold, pine needles, grass hay, rice hulls, grasses, grass clippings, crop residues, straw, almond/walnut shells, cocoa bean hulls or coconut fiber.*

WOODCHIPS

Application: 2-4 inches thick or ≥ 10 tons/acre

Includes: Chemically untreated, woody material that is $\frac{3}{4}$ -2 inches in diameter, without leaves and hardy enough to last for several years.

Mulch must be bought off site for HSP grant.

*Cannot use on farm cover crop residue as a mulch.



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