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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>San Bernardino</th>
<th>Riverside</th>
<th>San Diego</th>
<th>Imperial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victor Valley Regional</td>
<td>Agriscape Inc.</td>
<td>El Corazón</td>
<td>Brandt Company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### San Bernardino

| Victor Valley Regional | (760) 241-1284 |
| Agromin OC Ontario 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

*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.

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.

*Slightly difficult

Discover more species using NRCS California eVeg guide.
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 ¾ -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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