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DURING INSPECTION.



## NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY TEMPLATE

This template is intended as an accompaniment to the Oregon Tilth fact sheet on improving and maintaining natural resources and biodiversity, found here: [oregontilth.link/NaturalResourcesGuideTemp](http://oregontilth.link/NaturalResourcesGuideTemp)

Organic producers are required to “maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality” (205.200), and need to look at each category below, identify concerns or issues, plan activities within each category, and maintain documentation.

SOIL COMPOSITION AND STABILITY	
Example Practices to Maintain or Improve	Examples of Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase soil organic matter through diverse crop rotations and cover cropping</li><li>• Reduce soil disturbance</li><li>• Restore vegetative covers that control erosion and filter nutrients and/or pollutants</li><li>• Manage frequency and intensity of grazing</li><li>• Use contour farming or terracing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Results from soil lab tests showing quality indicators</li><li>• Visual observation records or photos of changes in soil life over time</li><li>• Planting and field management records showing increased use of cover crops, reduction in soil disturbance, or additions of organic matter</li><li>• Images of soil cover throughout the year</li></ul>
Your Practices to Maintain or Improve	Your Documentation to Show Your Inspector
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WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY	
Example Practices to Maintain or Improve	Examples of Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of filter strips, vegetative covers, or other buffers to stop runoff from entering water</li><li>• Moisture monitoring and responsive irrigation management or the use of an efficient irrigation system</li><li>• Choosing crops with reduced water needs</li><li>• Use of nutrient budgets</li><li>• Restricting livestock access to riparian areas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Images of water clarity during irrigation or rain</li><li>• Records of selecting crop varieties with reduced water needs</li><li>• Written records of soil moisture monitoring and irrigation management</li><li>• Images or records of buffer or sediment basin establishment</li><li>• Records of manure management and maps or images of livestock access areas</li></ul>
Your Practices to Maintain or Improve	Your Documentation to Show Your Inspector
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## NATURAL AREAS AND WILDLIFE

Example Practices to Maintain or Improve	Examples of Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of diverse buffers, hedgerows, field borders, and other natural areas to provide food, habitat, and shelter for wildlife</li> <li>Taking steps to protect at-risk ecosystems and rare, threatened, or endangered species</li> <li>Conserving wildlife corridors</li> <li>Restoring riparian areas or degraded land to native habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results from soil lab tests showing quality indicators</li> <li>Visual observation records or photos of changes in soil life over time</li> <li>Planting and field management records showing increased use of cover crops, reduction in soil disturbance, or additions of organic matter</li> <li>Images of soil cover throughout the year</li> </ul>
Your Practices to Maintain or Improve	Your Documentation to Show Your Inspector
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## NATIVE AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Example Practices to Maintain or Improve	Examples of Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting native species, including native trees and shrubs in livestock operations for shade</li> <li>Removal or suppression efforts of invasive species</li> <li>Regular monitoring of invasive plants and animals</li> <li>Careful selection of seed and planting stock sources so as to avoid introduction of invasive species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting records of native species planted in pastures, hedgerows, or buffers, or before and after photos</li> <li>Documentation of seed searches showing effort to avoid introduction of weeds and invasive species</li> <li>Pictures or records of invasive species removal or suppression (such as mowing)</li> </ul>
Your Practices to Maintain or Improve	Your Documentation to Show Your Inspector
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## BIODIVERSITY

Example Practices to Maintain or Improve	Examples of Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection of crops and livestock that are suitable for site-specific conditions and/or resistant to common pests, disease, etc.</li> <li>Selection of genetically diverse crops and livestock</li> <li>Implementing diverse crop rotations, rotating mixed livestock through pasture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field records showing a mixed livestock rotation through pasture</li> <li>Records showing a wide variety of crops and species planted in fields and pastures</li> <li>Records of working with a conservation agency to install pollinator habitat</li> </ul>
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