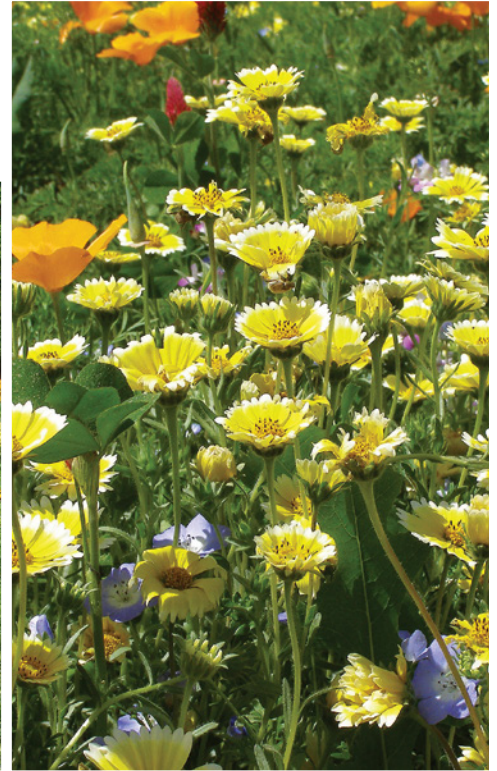




Blue Diamond's USDA Climate Smart-Grant (CSG): Conservation Cover

Conservation Cover utilizes perennial, vegetative, plants on idle, fallow, or marginal land which can provide several benefits. It is also referred to as "bee pasture".

See USDA NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 327 for more information



Incentive

Blue Diamond is offering **no cost seed and up to \$50/acre to implement conservation cover**. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all desired acreage to be put into conservation cover for 2023. **Growers will be pre-approved for up to 10 acres (per Blue Diamond contract) on a first-come, first-serve basis**. Acreage requested above 10 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Qualifications

1. Participation in the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP). bluediamondgrowers.com/forms/
2. Registration with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ca&agency=fsa
3. Completed application and subsequent approval from Blue Diamond
4. Proof of Conservation Cover Implementation
5. Adherence to all program requirements

Process

A Blue Diamond team member will review submitted applications for completeness. **If approved, growers will receive next-steps guidance from Blue Diamond and then be contacted shortly after by Project Apis m. to begin the conservation cover consultation and coordination process.**

Benefits

Conservation Cover may provide several benefits including: increased pollinator health, reduced soil erosion/sedimentation, and increased water infiltration.

Where to apply/documents to have

Apply online at bit.ly/bdg-csg-app

Reimbursements

The reimbursement process will begin after the project has been implemented and proof of implementation has been provided to Blue Diamond.

Where to learn more

For more information, please review the detailed CSG guidebook, which can be found on the Blue Diamond Growers webpage: bit.ly/bdg-csg or contact csg@bdgrowers.com