



Cover Cropping is a practice of planting a temporary crop, typically flowering and/or nitrogen-fixing species, after harvest with termination in late winter/early spring.

See USDA NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 340 for more information nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards

Incentive

Blue Diamond is offering **no cost seed and up to \$35/acre to cover crop**. The incentive rate is reduced when planted on less than every other orchard row. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all desired acreage to be cover cropped for 2023. Growers will be **pre-approved for up to 125 acres (per Blue Diamond contract) on a first-come, first-serve basis**. Acreage requested above 125 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 Cover Cropping 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 cover crop consultation and coordination process.**

Benefits

Cover cropping may provide several benefits, including: improved pollinator health, improved soil health, water conservation, and reduction of post-harvest dusts.

Where to apply

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