



# Blue Diamond Growers Climate-Smart Grant (CSG): Cover Crops



Cover Cropping is a practice of planting a temporary crop in the orchard middles, 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](https://nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards)

**Application opens February 3–April 30.**



## Incentive

Blue Diamond is offering **no cost seed and a \$35/acre implementation incentive to cover crop**. The incentive rate is for growers who implement the practice in every or every other row of their almond orchard. **Growers will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.**

## Qualifications

1. Participation in the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP) for the 2024 crop year  
[bluediamondgrowers.com/forms/](https://bluediamondgrowers.com/forms/)
2. Registration with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
[offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ca&agency=fsa](https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ca&agency=fsa)
3. Completed application and subsequent approval from Blue Diamond
4. Proof of Cover Crop 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 and Other Considerations

Cover cropping may provide several benefits, including: improved pollinator health, improved soil health, water conservation, and reduction of dust.

## Where to apply

Apply online at [bit.ly/bdg-csg](https://bit.ly/bdg-csg)

## Reimbursements

The reimbursement process will begin after the project has been implemented and proof of implementation has been completed with 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](https://bit.ly/bdg-csg) or contact [jbains@bdgrowers.com](mailto:jbains@bdgrowers.com).

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*Climate-Smart Grant funding is not guaranteed and is subject to the review and approval of the USDA.*