

**Table 1.** Cost share rate and maintenance periods for BMP practices

Practice title	Maximum cost-share rate	Maintenance period
Aquatic Weed Barrier	75%	3 years
Chemigation Infrastructure	70%	5 years
Conversion/ Repair of Flash Board Riser Water Control Structure	75%	5 years
Conversion to Low Volume Irrigation System	75%	10 years
Grade Stabilization	75%	5 years
On-Site Water Detention/Retention	70%	10 years
Permanent Agrichemical Mixing/Washdown Facility	60%	10 years
Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station	60%	5 years
Precision Application Equipment	60%	5 years
Water Table Observation Well	75%	1 year
Soil Moisture Monitoring Devices	60%	3 years

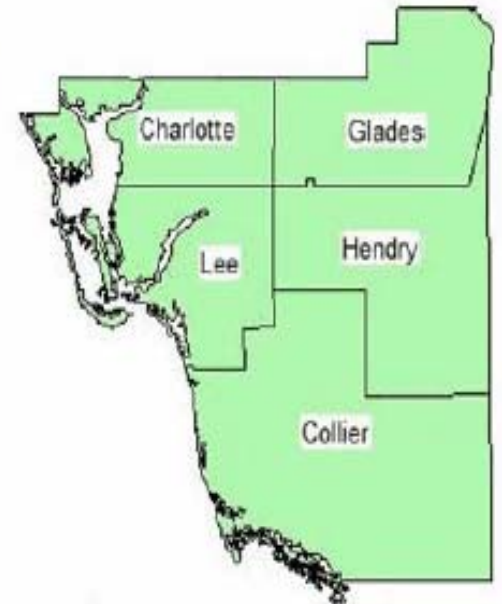
**Application Procedure**

1. The applicant should schedule a pre-application meeting with staff of the local delivery organization (Southwest Florida RC&D).
2. Complete an Application for Cost Share and submit the application to the Southwest Florida RC&D (application forms available on line at: <http://citrusbmp.ifas.ufl.edu> (Gulf Citrus Section)).
3. If the applicant is eligible, the applicant should consult with the local NRCS office (or contractor of their choice) to develop a project plan that includes the design, cost estimate, and an operation and maintenance (O&M) schedule. The plan should then be submitted to the Southwest Florida RC&D.
4. A cost share agreement (to be provided by Southwest Florida RC&D) will be signed by the applicant and executed by the Southwest Florida RC&D. Execution of the contract shall serve as authorization to proceed with practice implementation in accordance with the agreement.
5. Participants must notify Southwest Florida RC&D program staff of project completion and schedule an inspection to verify that the practice has been installed or constructed in accordance with the plan.
6. Participants should submit a Request for Payment, (with copies of applicable receipts for work completed) to the Southwest Florida RC&D.
7. The applicant must follow the O&M schedule provided for each practice. Southwest Florida RC&D program staff will periodically conduct site visits to verify that the O&M schedule is being followed. Program participants will be required to reimburse the state on a pro-rated basis for cost-share funding received for any practice that is improperly maintained, removed, or destroyed before the end of the maintenance period.

**Applicant Eligibility**

To be eligible for funds under this program, grove owners must have all applicable permits and have filed a Notice of Intent to Implement BMPs on the property. The Parties recognize that the implementation of some BMPs may require regulation by the District through a Water Use Permit (WUP), a well construction permit (WCP), or trigger the requirement for an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) pursuant to Parts II, III, or IV of Chapter 373 F.S., respectively. The parties also recognize that implementation of some BMPs may qualify for agricultural statutory exemptions from ERP requirements pursuant to Section 373.403, F.S. Grove caretakers (who do not own the land where BMPs are to be implemented) are also eligible for cost share if they meet the eligibility criteria of the local delivery organization and file a Notice of Intent with the landowner's signature. Participation in this program is open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, and mental or physical handicap.

# Gulf Citrus Cost Share Procedures



## GULF CITRUS COST-SHARE PROCEDURES

### Purpose

This program has been established to promote agricultural BMPs in order to achieve water quality and quantity benefits in the Gulf Citrus Production Region in Southwest Florida. Through the program, FDACS will provide reimbursement for select agricultural practices that have potential water conservation, sediment control, and water quality benefits. It is anticipated that this program will provide Gulf Citrus growers with economic assistance that would facilitate their voluntary implementation of BMPs that would not otherwise be economically feasible.

### Eligible Practices

Aquatic weed barrier  
Chemigation infrastructure  
Conversion/ Repair of Flash Board Riser Water Control  
Conversion to low volume irrigation system  
Grade stabilization  
On-site water detention/retention  
Permanent agrichemical mixing/washdown station  
Portable agrichemical mixing station  
Precision application equipment  
Water table observation well  
Soil moisture monitoring

### **Aquatic Weed Barrier**

A structure installed upstream of outfall structures to reduce offsite discharge of aquatic vegetation and subsequent decay of plant debris and secondary release of nutrients. Accumulated vegetation should be physically removed periodically (do not treat chemically).

### **Chemigation Infrastructure**

This practice includes equipment (i.e. pumps, storage tanks, etc.) that can be used to facilitate the application of fertilizers and other appropriate chemicals through a microirrigation system. Chemigation can be used to improve water quality by minimizing the loss of fertilizer and pesticides during storm events.

### **Conversion / Repair of Flashboard Riser Water Control Structure**

Flashboard risers are used to facilitate water table control in citrus groves. As secondary benefits, flashboard risers also improve sediment control and water quality. Cost share is available for conversion to flashboard structures and for the replacement of existing flashboard structures that are no longer functioning properly.

### **Conversion to Low Volume Irrigation System**

Converting from high volume flood (or seepage) irrigation to low volume micro irrigation conserves water improves water quality. With microirrigation, water is distributed through lateral tubing and applied directly to the soil above the plant's root zone. Modifications to existing micro irrigation systems that can be expected to increase system efficiency and reduce offsite movement of nutrients, pesticides, and sediment are also eligible.

### **Precision Application Equipment**

Specialized equipment that allows nutrients and pesticides to be applied in a precise manner relative to the target of application. This includes sonic or optical sensors, devices that apply pesticides in a pre-defined, regulated manner, and equipment that uses GIS technology to allow application based on a pre-defined map. Precision application equipment often varies the rate of application, materials used, and location of application to achieve precise placement of the materials. Through this program, FDACS intends to cost share the precision elements of new equipment or retrofits to existing equipment that are needed to convert conventional machinery to precision application equipment.

### **Grade Stabilization**

This practice includes the use of structures, pipe, concrete, rock, vegetation, synthetic fabrics, and other materials to maintain the stability and integrity of soils in ditches, swales, water furrows, and other erosion prone areas. Also included is equipment for chemical mowing of ditch banks to promote the proliferation of grasses and exclusion of higher growing weeds and brush.

### **On-Site Water Detention/Retention**

This practice will provide for the attenuation of both the rate and volume of off-site water and sediment discharge following heavy storm events. The water may be stored for future use or released off-site later at reduced discharge rates.

### **Permanent Agrichemical Mixing/Rinsing Facility and/or Equipment Washdown Facility**

This practice provides for the construction of a permanent facility to contain and recover spillage or rinsate from a fertilizer or pesticide mix and load area or from an equipment washdown site. It is intended to prevent fertilizer or pesticide contamination of ground or surface waters. The facility may include a concrete containment pad, pesticide storage building, sump/pump, rinsate tank, mixing tank, holding tank, and removable or permanent roof.

### **Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station**

A portable device used in the field to prevent unintentional release of agrichemicals to the environment during mixing and loading of agrichemicals. The portable device must meet published standards and specifications (USDA-NRCS Field Office Technical Guide – Interim Standard, Code 703). The device can be used at more than one citrus grove.

### **Water Table Observation Well**

This practice facilitates observation of the water table in a citrus grove and will help the manager to determine when groundwater levels are optimal. This practice will also improve irrigation efficiency and conserve water within the watershed by providing growers with an empirical tool to more accurately determine irrigation scheduling needs.

### **Soil Moisture Measurement Devices**

Good irrigation management requires that the status of soil water be accurately evaluated to avoid excess soil moisture depletion and minimize water volume requirements during irrigation cycles. Included in this category are tensiometers, capacitance probes, time domain reflectometry (TDR), resistance probes, and other techniques that allow growers to schedule irrigations to minimize leaching of fertilizers and agrichemicals, and to achieve high water use efficiency. Portable systems (e.g. TDR probes) can be used to manually monitor several groves. Automated systems with radio links that allow continuous feedback and graphical depictions of soil moisture are especially useful in fine tuning irrigation and drainage management.

### **Cost-Share Rates**

Cost-share funds are available through this program for each of the practices listed in Table 1 at the designated cost-share rate. The FDACS cost-share rate represents the percentage of the eligible cost to be paid by Southwest Florida RC&D. The maximum cost-share rate given in Table 1 shall not to exceed \$50,000 per agricultural operation (individual or business) per fiscal year.

Cost-share may also be available through the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Participants are encouraged to utilize both programs when possible to complement funding provided by FDACS.

Eligible practices for cost-share funding will be reviewed and revised on an annual basis. Growers are encouraged to contact members of the Gulf Citrus BMP Implementation Committee to suggest changes and/or additions to the list of practices.

### **Eligible Costs**

Eligible costs consist only of the direct purchase expenses and the construction or installation costs for an eligible BMP. Some practices may require the purchase and installation of specialized equipment with no actual construction expenses. In these cases equipment and installation costs are considered implementation costs. Operation and maintenance costs, permit fees, design and consulting fees, etc. are not eligible for cost reimbursement.

The following is an example of a typical BMP project: (Agrichemical Mixing Station)

Total project cost \$120,000

Total eligible cost (construction and implementation) \$100,000

Permit Fees \$500

Design Fees \$500

Other costs \$19,000

Maximum cost-share amount is 60% (from Table 1 of handbook) of \$100,000 (eligible costs) equals \$60,000.

Maximum cost-share amount cannot exceed \$50,000.

Applicant is eligible for a cost-share amount of \$50,000

### **Selection Committee**

The Southwest Florida RC&D will establish a selection committee. The committee will hold public meetings to evaluate, rank, and allocate funds. The selection committee will rank eligible projects for funding based on the highest number of points descending to the lowest number received from the following table until all funds are exhausted. The point system ensures allocation of funds to those projects which enlist practices which will directly impact stated objectives for this cost share program.

### **Applicant Selection Process**

To be eligible for this cost-share program, growers must submit a Notice of Intent to Implement (NOI) the Best Management Practices for Gulf Citrus when adopted. All practices implemented must be maintained in accordance with Table 1. When a NOI is submitted, growers must agree to all terms of the manual including the implementation of practices selected and record retention requirements.

When funds are limited, applications will be evaluated based on the table below.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Points</b>
P1	Aquatic Weed Barrier	3
P2	Chemigation Infrastructure	5
P3	Conversion/ Repair of Flash Board Riser Water Control Structure	5
P4	Conversion to Low Volume Irrigation System	10
P5	Grade Stabilization	3
P6	On-Site Water Detention/Retention	10
P7	Permanent Agrichemical Mixing/Washdown Facility	9
P8	Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station	8
P9	Precision Application Equipment	8
P10	Water Table Observation Well	4
P11	Soil Moisture Monitoring Devices	3

Tiebreaker considerations:

When scores are equal between two or more applicants competing for limited cost-share funds, the following tiebreaker considerations will apply.

- a. Preference may be given to projects with greater potential to impact water quality.
- b. Preference may be given to applicants willing to contribute more than required amount listed in Table 1.

### **Contact Information**

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