MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Geologic Resources Management Division

Environmentally Sound And Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures

Agricultural Irrigation Water Conservation Practices

Prior to the registration of a Zone C water withdrawal, certification is required by the property owner that environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures will be implemented. Please check all boxes that represent conservation practices that you deem reasonable and that will be used on your farm.

System Management

- ☐ Determine all water applications accurately.
- ☐ Monitor pumping plant efficiency.
- ☐ Evaluate the irrigation system uniformity.
- ☐ Maintain the irrigation system in good working condition.
- ☐ Operate sprinkler systems to minimize drift and off-target application.
- ☐ Ensure sprinkler nozzle/drip applicator flow rates are matched to the infiltration rate of the soil.

Record Keeping

- ☐ For each crop irrigated, keep records on the crop type and location.
- ☐ Keep records on the source of the water used.
- ☐ Record date and amount of each irrigation water application.
- ☐ Keep records on all system inspections and repairs that influence uniformity and leaks.
- ☐ Regularly calibrate fertigation and chemigation equipment, if used, and maintain records.
- ☐ Keep records of the results each time the sprinkler system uniformity is evaluated.

Irrigation Scheduling

- ☐ Know the available soil water for each unit scheduled.
- ☐ Know the depth of rooting for each crop irrigated.
- ☐ Use container capacity in scheduling irrigation for container grown nursery or greenhouse crops.
- ☐ Know the allowable soil/substrate moisture depletion at each stage of crop growth.
- ☐ Measure, estimate, or use published evapotranspiration data to determine crop water use.
- ☐ Measure rainfall in each field irrigated and adjust irrigation schedule/amount accordingly.

Application Practices

- ☐ Choose irrigation application amounts that will avoid surface runoff under sprinkler irrigation.
- ☐ In the case of container irrigation, runoff is managed through recycling or proper disposal systems.
- ☐ Assure that sprinkler application rates are below the soil/substrate infiltration rate.
- ☐ When irrigation is used, split nitrogen fertilizer applications.
- ☐ Incorporate appropriate backflow-prevention safety devices if a chemigation/fertigation system is used.
- ☐ Avoid applying more water than needed to replace the soil/substrate moisture deficit.

Print Name Signature Date

Registration Number

Please return completed form (including signature), to Hannah Arnett at ArnettH2@michigan.gov or P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan, 48909-7756.

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