

# Best Management Farming Practices for Water Quality Protection

## Underground Outlet (620) Fact Sheet

**BMP: Divert water to a stable outlet.**

### NRCS Practice Standard: Underground Outlet 620

Runoff waters will be collected from avenues, swales and constructed erosion control diversions to be piped to appropriate protected discharge locations or water spreading devices.



### Underground Outlet (NRCS Conservation Practice Code 620)

**Definition:** A conduit or system of conduits installed beneath the surface of the ground to convey surface water to a suitable outlet.

#### Purposes:

- To prevent damage from erosion or flooding by conveying to protected discharge points concentrated runoff from diversions, terraces, detention or sediment basins, waterways, surface drains or other similar structures
- To collect excess surface runoff before it can concentrate and produce gullies
- To minimize potential entry of sediment and attached nutrients to surface waters
- To protect vineyard avenues, swales and other terrain where runoff may begin to concentrate
- To spread discharged waters to the maximum extent possible

For more information contact your local NRCS office or visit our website at <http://efotq.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>

#### **CONSIDER THIS:**

*Minimize installation of conduits that may deliver high volumes of runoff to single-discharge locations.*

*Design underground outlets with adequate capacity to handle design storm peak flows.*

*Design runoff control structures to spread discharge to multiple locations in smaller increments to the extent feasible. Convey discharges to protected outlets.*

*Provide inlets with appropriate trash guards to ensure that trash or other debris entering the inlet passes through the conduit without plugging.*

*Design and locate basins following the guidelines of Napa County Conservation Regulations, as specified by NRCS and Napa County RCD.*

*Seek assistance from a licensed engineer or other qualified professional.*

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