

FILTER STRIP

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 393



FILTER STRIP

A filter strip is an area of vegetation established for the purpose of removing sediment, organic material, and other pollutants from runoff and waste water.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Filter strips are generally located at the lower edge (s) of a field. This will vary somewhat with land use, topography and objectives. A filter strip removes pollutants from runoff before the material enters a body of water. It also serves as a setback buffer between water and the fields above the water so that pesticides and other chemicals are not applied directly adjacent or into the water body. Filter strips also reduce sedimentation of streams, lakes and other bodies of water.

Plant species selected for planting in a filter strip requires careful planning. There may be multiple objectives that can be accomplished by proper plant selection.

In addition to the above functions, filter strips can be designed to provide one or more of the following secondary benefits:

1. Improved fish and wildlife habitat.
2. Improved aesthetics
3. Improved equipment operations such as field access and turn rows or head lands.
4. Improved recreation opportunities.
5. Improved livestock forage source.

Specifications for design and installation of this practice are contained in the USDA/NRCS Field Office Technical Guide