



Operation & Maintenance Plan Grassed Waterway (Code 412)

Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 10 year(s).

Follow the operation and maintenance plan below to keep your grassed waterway functioning as intended:

- Establish a maintenance program to maintain waterway capacity, vegetative cover, and outlet stability. Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, or erosion must be repaired promptly.
- Protect the waterway from concentrated flow by using diversion of runoff or mechanical means of stabilization, such as silt fences, mulching, hay bale barriers, etc., to stabilize grade during vegetation establishment as necessary.
- After vegetation is established, remove any temporary measures, such as diversions or silt fences, that were installed so as to not interfere with design flow.
- Inspect grassed waterway regularly, especially following heavy rains. Fill, compact, and reseed damaged areas immediately. Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of grassed waterway.
- Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, or erosion must be repaired promptly.
- Minimize damage to vegetation by excluding livestock whenever possible, especially during wet periods. Permit grazing in the waterway only when a controlled grazing system is being implemented.
- Avoid use of herbicides that would be harmful to the vegetation in and adjacent to the waterway area.
- Avoid using waterways as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations. Maintain constructed width by lifting or disengaging tillage equipment properly. Avoid farming operations along the direction of the waterway, which can hinder water entry.
- Mow or periodically graze vegetation to maintain capacity and reduce sediment deposition. The designed height of the vegetation is from _____ inches to _____ inches. Conduct mowing to avoid peak nesting seasons and reduced winter cover.
- Apply supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of the waterway.
- Control noxious weeds.
- Do not use the waterway as a field road. Avoid crossing with heavy equipment when wet.
- Repair all broken subsurface drain lines adjacent to or in the waterway.

Specific Site Requirements