

# USDA VEGETATIVE BARRIER

*Conservation Practice Jobsheet*

601

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

July 2009

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_



## WHAT IS VEGETATIVE BARRIER

Vegetative barriers are permanent strips of stiff, dense vegetation along the general contour of slopes or across concentrated flow areas. Vegetative barriers are usually narrower than the cultivated strips. Vegetation in strips consists of adapted species of stiff stemmed grasses or a mixture of grasses and legumes.

## PURPOSE

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce soil loss by causing deposition of eroded sediment on hill slopes.
- Facilitate benching of sloping topography.
- Disperse concentrated flow and reduce ephemeral gully development.
- Reduce sheet and rill erosion.
- Stabilize steep slopes

## CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to all eroding areas, including cropland, grazing land, forest land, farmsteads, mined land, and construction sites.

Other site considerations include the need for a suitable outlet below the barrier and the capacity to readily establish adapted perennial vegetation.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Vegetative barriers are normally established as part of a conservation management system to address natural resource conservation needs and landowner objectives. For this practice to be fully effective, it should be installed with other components of a resource management system that reduces sheet and rill erosion, such as conservation crop rotation, residue management, and contour farming.

## PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS

Practice specifications are provided to assure that this practice meets the resource needs and the producer's objectives. Specifications for the establishment of this practice shall be prepared for each field or treatment unit according to the criteria and considerations described in the standard.

## VEGETATIVE BARRIER – SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

Landowner/Cooperator \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office \_\_\_\_\_

Plan Number \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Field Area (ac) \_\_\_\_\_ Treatment Area (ac) \_\_\_\_\_ Precipitation (inches) \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce soil loss by causing deposition of eroded sediment on hill slopes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilitate benching of sloping topography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disperse concentrated flow and reduce ephemeral gully development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce sheet and rill erosion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stabilize steep slopes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trap sediment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

Site Conditions				
Plant Materials – Cultivar and Species (see note below)	Full Seeding Rate (lb/ac PLS)	Planned % of Seeding Mix	Planned Acres	Treatment Area Total lbs. of PLS Needed
<b>Totals</b>				
Transplants of Plant Materials Cultivars and Species	Spacing	Plants per Foot of Row	Planned Length of Rows	Total Plants Needed
<b>Totals</b>				
Note – Planner may attach copy of “Louisiana Seed Mixture Worksheet” if used to figure seed mixture.				

Vegetative Barrier Site Preparation and Establishment	
Site Preparation Activities:	
Planting/Seeding Method:	
Nutrient and Pest Management Planned:	

**Soil Amendments and Fertilization**

Soil Test Taken		Soil pH from Soil Test	
Other Important Factors (i.e., salinity, iron, etc.)			

	Low	Medium	High
Phosphorus			
Nitrogen			
Potassium			

**Site Conditions for Planning Vegetative Barrier Establishment**

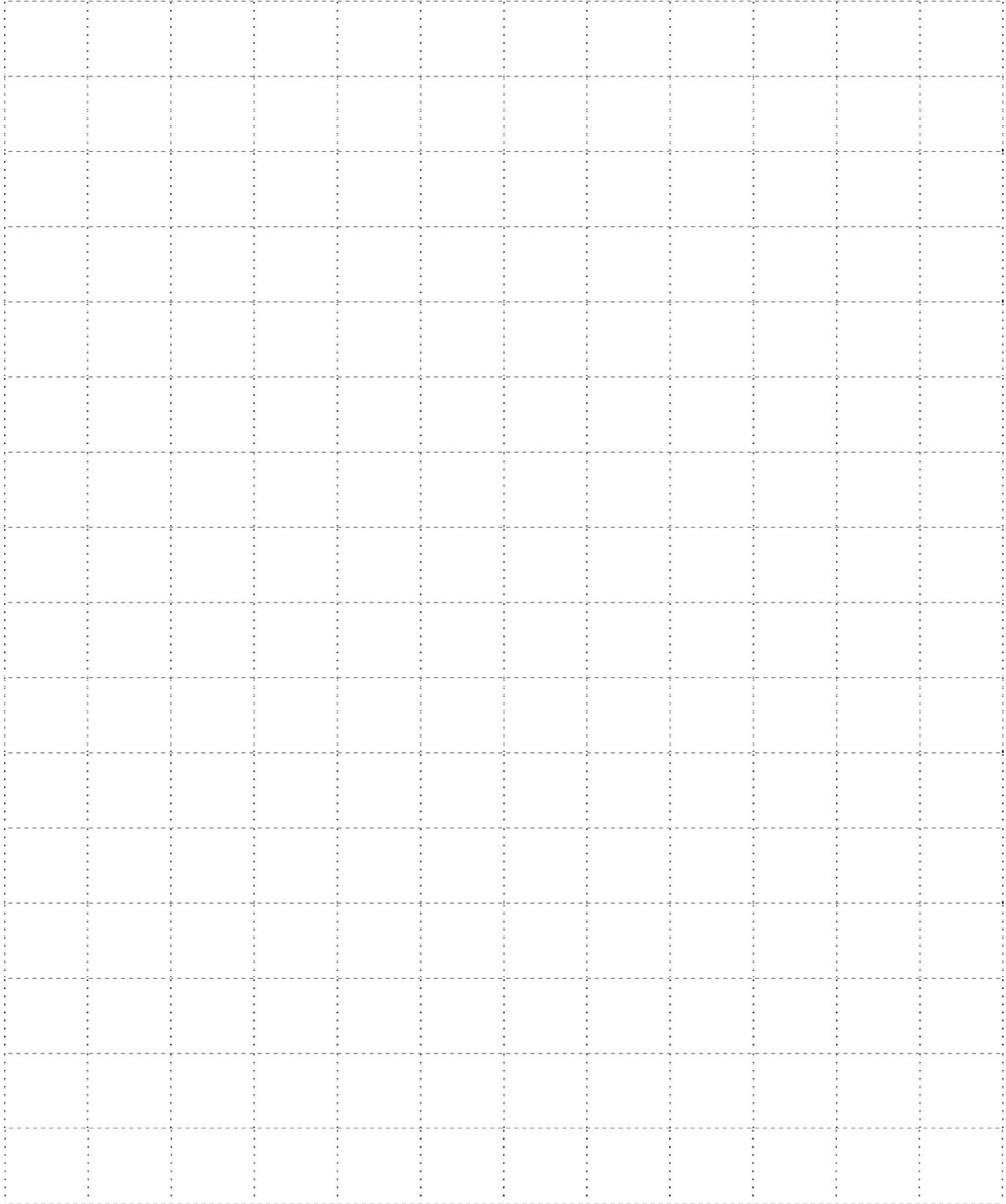
	Strip One	Strip Two	Strip Three	Strip Four
Dominant Soil Series				
Representative Slope %				
Cultivated Area Protected (acres)				
Barrier Width (feet)				
Barrier Length (feet)				
Fertility Requirements				

**Operation and Maintenance**

Item	Year 1 – Area Treated	Year 2 – Area Treated	Year 3 – Area Treated	Year 4 – Area Treated
Maintain appropriate vegetative density and height – mowing				
Fertilize – as needed to maintain stand density and health				
Weed Control – chemical, mechanical				
Renovation – reseed, re-establish, transplants				

If applicable, provide a site view of the practice design and application in area below or as an attached diagram. Location of other relevant information and complimentary practices may be included.

Scale 1"= \_\_\_\_\_ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



### Additional Specifications and Notes

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### Client's Acknowledgement (To be signed after jobsheet completed and before practice installation)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I:

- have reviewed the site specific installation, operation and maintenance requirements in this jobsheet and have an understanding of them;
- will install, operate, and maintain the conservation practice in accordance with the requirements;
- will make no changes to the requirements, without prior written approval of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- will obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the installation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practice, prior to the start of installation; and
- will assume responsibility for notifying all utilities affected by the installation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practice.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Design Certification (To be completed after jobsheet is complete and before practice installation)

By signing below, I certify that:

- the site specific requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice on the client's treatment unit, as recorded in this jobsheet, have been prepared in accordance with the 601 Vegetative Barrier Standard.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Installation Certification (To be completed after practice installation and check out)

By signing below, I certify that:

- The practice has been installed according to the site specific installation requirements

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**NRCS, LA**  
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