

Filter Strip

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

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Definition

A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow.

Criteria

Locate the filter strip along the downslope edge of a field or disturbed area.

Ensure overland flow entering the filter strip is a uniform sheet flow.

Ensure the drainage area above the filter strip has a slope greater than 1% but less than 10%.

The filter strip slope will be equal to or less than the slope of the drainage area, but must not exceed 5%.

Place the filter strip on the contour to the extent possible. The placement should not vary from the contour more than one-half the up and down filter strip slope percent.

Grazing of the filter strip is not allowed.

Establish permanent herbaceous vegetation in the filter strip.

Do not plant state-listed noxious plants in the filter strip. Do not use filter strips as a travel lane for equipment or livestock.

Use the *Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia* when selecting species to plant.

Select plant species that are:

- Able to withstand partial burial from sediment deposition and
- Tolerant of herbicides used on the area that contributes runoff to the filter strip.

Select species with stiff stems and a high stem density near the ground surface.

Select species for seeding or planting that are suited to current site conditions and intended uses. Selected species will have the capacity to achieve adequate density and vigor within an appropriate period to stabilize the site sufficiently to permit suited uses with ordinary management activities.

Specify species, rates of seeding or planting, minimum quality of planting stock, such as PLS or stem caliper, and method of establishment before application. Only use viable, high quality seed or planting stock.

Perform site preparation and seeding or planting at a time and in a manner that best ensures survival and growth of the selected species. Specify what constitutes successful establishment, e.g. minimum percent ground/canopy cover, percent survival, stand density, etc. before application.

Schedule planting dates during periods when soil moisture is adequate for germination and/or establishment.

Virginia Filter Strip – Practice Certification

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Producer _____ Farm # _____ Tract # _____

Field Office _____ Contract # _____

Planting Date _____

Producer's Purpose			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in irrigation tailwater.			
Practice Specifications			
Layout	Strip 1	Strip 2	Strip 3
Strip width (feet)			
Strip length (feet)			
Area in strip (acres)			
Field slope (%)			
Plant Materials (species/cultivars)	Seeding Rate (lbs/acre of pure live seed)		Seeding Date
Strip 1:			
Strip 2:			
Strip 3:			
Soil Amend. and Fertilization	Strip 1	Strip 2	Strip 3
Lime per Soil Test (tons/acre)			
N Fertilizer per Soil Test – (lbs/acre)			
P ₂ O Fertilizer per Soil Test – (lbs/acre)			
K ₂ O Fertilizer per Soil Test – (lbs/acre)			
Site Preparation			

Planting Methods

Drill grass and legume seed _____ inches deep uniformly over area or broadcast at the following rate _____. Establish vegetation according to the specified seeding rate. If necessary, mulch newly seeded area with _____ tons per acre of mulch material. A small grain crop may be needed as a companion crop at the rate of _____ pounds per acre (clip or harvest before it heads out). Additional requirements:

Operation and Maintenance

For the purposes of filtering contaminants, permanent filter strip vegetative plantings shall be managed as appropriate to encourage dense growth, maintain an upright growth habit and remove nutrients and other contaminants that are contained in the plant tissue.

Control undesired weed species, especially state-listed noxious weeds.

If prescribed burning is used to manage and maintain the filter strip, an approved burn plan must be developed.

Inspect the filter strip after storm events and repair any gullies that have formed, remove unevenly deposited sediment accumulation that will disrupt sheet flow, reseed disturbed areas and take other measures to prevent concentrated flow through the filter strip.

Apply supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of the filter strip.

Periodically re-grade and re-establish the filter strip area when sediment deposition at the filter strip-field interface jeopardizes its function. Reestablish the filter strip vegetation in these regraded areas, if needed.

If haying is used to harvest vegetation from the filter strip, ensure the integrity and function of the filter strip is not adversely affected.

Planner Certification

This Filter Strip plan meets the requirements of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 393.

Signature Title Date

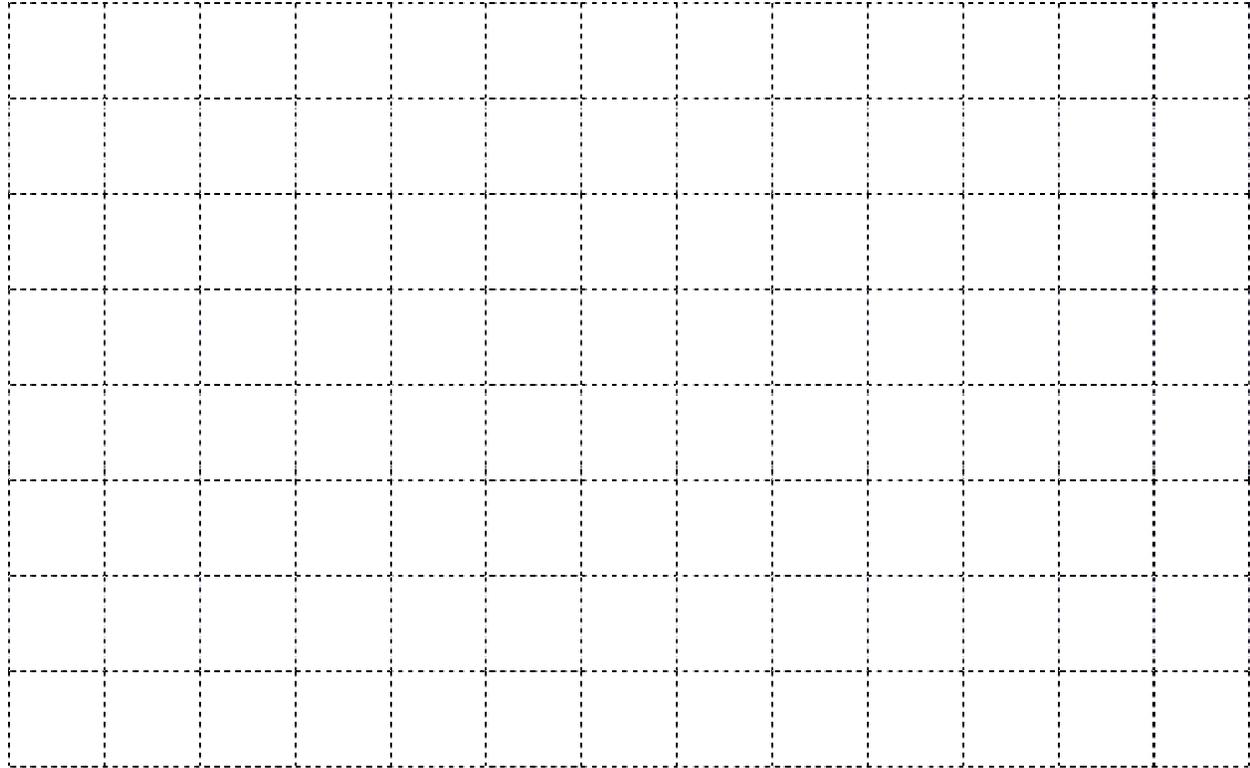
Certification of Practice Completion

This Filter Strip practice has been completed and maintained according to NRCS plans and specifications. (Indicate in Practice Specifications if there were any changes to the planned practice and acreage.)

Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications 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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