

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION

GRASSED WATERWAY
(feet)
CODE 412

SCOPE

These specifications cover the installation of grassed waterways. Construction shall be in accordance with the plans and these specifications.

INSTALLATION

Clearing. All trees, brush, stumps and other obstructions shall be disposed of in a manner consistent with environmental concerns, and such that no interference with excavating, shaping, smoothing, or proper functioning of the waterway occurs.

Shaping. The waterway shall be shaped to the lines and grades set in the field or to the dimensions shown on the plans. Topsoil shall be stockpiled and respread where necessary to provide a seedbed for the grass.

Excavation and fill. All soil removed and not needed in construction of the waterway shall be spread or disposed of where it will not interfere with flow into the waterway. Material spread on fields shall be smoothed to blend with the existing ground. The filling of gullies shall be compacted in layers of 4-6 inches to prevent unequal settlement.

Smoothing. Waterways shall be smoothed sufficiently to allow seedbed preparation to proceed without further grading.

Vegetation. Waterways shall be established to grass as soon as practicable after construction. Grass species, planting time and method, and fertilizer shall be as shown on the plans. If irrigation is recommended on the plans for the establishment of vegetation, it should be continued for 2-6 months or until the vegetation is well established.

If necessary, excess water shall be diverted away until vegetation is established. Any protective works shall then be removed, and the disturbed areas that are not farmed shall be seeded to permanent grass.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Waterways shall be mowed frequently to maintain a 6- to 12-inch grass height and control weeds. Bare areas and washouts will be replanted as soon as they appear. The waterway should not be used extensively as a roadway. Cattle and equipment are to be excluded when the waterway is wet.

SAFETY

Landowners or operators, sponsoring organizations, and contractors are liable for damage to utilities and damage resulting from disruption of service caused by construction activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes no representation on the existence or nonexistence of any utilities. Absence of utilities on plan drawings is not assurance that no utilities are present at the site.

It is the responsibility of the landowner or operator to determine if there are buried or overhead utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work. They should take proper procedures to insure that the utilities will not be jeopardized and that equipment operators and others will not be injured during construction operations.