

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

STRIPCROPPING, FIELD

(acre)

CODE 586

DEFINITION

Growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips or bands across the general slope (not on the contour) to reduce water erosion. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or a close-growing crop is alternated with a clean-tilled crop or fallow.

PURPOSE

To help control erosion and runoff on sloping cropland where contour stripcropping is not practical.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On sloping cropland and on certain recreation and wildlife land.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and ground-water recharge.

2. Variability of practice's effects caused by seasonal weather variations.
3. Potential for a change in plant growth and transpiration because of changes in the volume of soil water.

Water Quality

1. Filtering effects of vegetation on movement of sediment and dissolved and sediment-attached substances.
2. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.
3. Potential for development of saline seeps or other salinity problems resulting from increased infiltration near restrictive layers
4. Effects on the visual quality of downstream water resources.

SPECIFICATIONS GUIDE

Specify width of strips for different crops, percentage of slopes, and soils.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.