

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION GUIDE SHEET

CONTOUR BUFFER STRIPS

(ac.)
CODE 332

GENERAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL PURPOSES:

Criteria for establishment (plant suitability, seedbed preparation, seeding depth, weed control, etc.) of vegetation will be consistent with South Dakota Range Technical Note No. 4 (Refer to Table 4 for species adaptability and Table 2 -Full Seeding Rates -South Dakota Range Technical Note No. 4). The species composition (minimum of two grass species) and seeding rates will be selected from Table 1 of this specification guide sheet.

Plant species must be selected according to the type and quantity of pollutant contained in the run-on and to the growth condition during the time of the year that the pollutant can be expected to move as overland flow. (An example of proper species selection would be to select atrazine tolerant species if atrazine is applied to the contributing watershed.)

Plants selected for buffer strips should be actively growing during the expected run-on period.

The selected plant species must be compatible with other objectives of the land user.

TABLE 1
332 – CONTOUR BUFFER STRIP
SEEDING COMPOSITION AND RATES ^{1/}

	Number of seeds per PLS Pound
Native Grasses	
Big bluestem	176,000
Indiangrass	193,000
Reed canarygrass	530,000
Sand bluestem	113,000
Switchgrass	390,000
Western wheatgrass	112,000
Prairie cordgrass	224,000
Native Legumes	
Illinois Bundleflower	60,000
Purple prairieclover	290,000
White prairieclover	278,000
Canada milkvetch	266,000
Introduced Grasses	
Creeping foxtail	750,000
Intermediate wheatgrass	88,000
Pubescent wheatgrass	88,000
Tall wheatgrass	79,000
Introduced Legumes	
Alfalfa	210,000
Alsike clover	680,000
Birdsfoot Trefoil	418,000
Cicer milkvetch	134,000
Sainfoin	22,000

^{1/}The composition of a seeding will be at a minimum of two grass species with the exception of Reed canarygrass or Creeping foxtail which may be seeded as a single species.

The minimum amount of a grass species in any mix is 10 percent.

Legumes will not occupy more than ten percent in any mix.