



Cross Wind Trap Strips

Conservation Practice Job Sheet FL-589C-JS

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida

July 2006



Definition

Herbaceous cover resistant to wind erosion established in one or more strips across the prevailing wind erosion direction.

Purposes

- Reduce erosion from wind
- Induce deposition and reduce transport of wind-borne sediment and sediment borne contaminants downwind
- Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles
- Provide food and cover for wildlife

Where Used

Cross wind trap strips are located on land where crops are grown. Trap strips are applicable wherever it is desirable to trap wind-borne sediment and where conservation objectives include wildlife food, cover, and travel corridors. Strips are located within cropland fields that are susceptible to wind erosion or wind erosion damage, including locations adjacent to watercourses, water bodies, drainage ditches, and other sensitive areas that need protection from wind-borne sediment.

Resource Management System

Cross wind trap strips are normally established concurrently with other practices as part of a resource management system for a conservation management unit. Examples include the residue management practices and cross wind ridges.

Practicing residue management within the field can help reduce the movement of wind-borne soil particles and allow a greater distance between trap strips. Cross wind ridges can help reduce the movement of soil particles by creating a rough soil surface that is resistant to erosion by wind.

Cross wind trap strips also can function as an important mitigation technique for other conservation practices, such as pest management. Plant species selected for effective trap strips can function as habitat for beneficial insects and birds, thus reducing pest problems in adjacent crops.

Plans and Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Spacing of the erosion-susceptible strips is determined using the current NRCS wind erosion prediction technology. Specifications included in this job sheet are prepared in accordance with the Florida NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Cross Wind Trap Strips, Code 589C.

Wildlife

Cross wind trap strips provide excellent opportunities to improve wildlife habitat by creating travel lanes that connect important habitat areas or infield escape cover. For wildlife habitat benefits, select native or other adapted plant species that provide wildlife both food and cover.

Operation and Maintenance

Cross wind trap strips must be inspected periodically for health and effectiveness. Weeds and other pests need to be controlled to enhance the establishment and longevity of the desirable species. Soil fertility must be monitored and fertilizer added as needed. Mowing, grazing, or burning of trap strips must be managed to insure effectiveness of the strips during the critical period(s) for which they were designed and installed. Trap strips may need to be relocated periodically because of sediment accumulation. It may also be necessary to reestablish or relocate the trap strips periodically to maintain the desired plant density, diversity, and height.

CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS JOB SHEET

Certification

Certification of this practice can be done by completing Table 2.

CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS SITE SPECIFIC SHEET

Land User:	County:	Date:
Farm #:	Tract #:	Field # (s):
Purpose (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce erosion from wind	<input type="checkbox"/> Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles	
<input type="checkbox"/> Induce deposition and reduce transport of sediment and contaminants	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide food and cover for wildlife	
Individual Trap Strip Layout and Plant Materials Information		
Vegetation type: <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial		
Planned vegetation height (inches):	Trap strip width (feet):	
Seeding rate (pure live seed - lbs/ac):		
Seeding date:	Seeding depth (inches):	
Additional requirements:		
Trap Strip System Layout		
Distance between trap strips (feet):	Total number of trap strips:	
Total area in trap strips (acres):	Total amount of seed required (pure live seed – lbs):	
Trap Strip Establishment		
Site preparation and seeding:		
Seedbed:		
Fertilizer:		
Mulching:		
Other:		

CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS SITE SPECIFIC SHEET

Operation and Maintenance
Pest management:
Other:
Additional Specifications and Notes:

Table 2 – Certification of Cross Wind Trap Strips

Field #	Grass (seeded)	Grass (vegetative)	Legume	Other
Type				
Planting Rate				
Vegetation height (inches)				
Trap Strip width (feet)				
Date Applied				
Total area in trap strips (acres)				

As applied does this practice meet NRCS specifications? Yes No

Certified By:	Date:
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