

Herbaceous Wind Barriers

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

603

Definition

Herbaceous vegetation established in rows or narrow strips in the field across the prevailing wind direction.

Criteria

Herbaceous barriers will be designed to reduce wind velocities to meet purposes and resource objectives.

Follow recommendations for planting rates, methods and dates obtained from the Virginia Plant Establishment Guide or other approved sources.

Vegetation. Herbaceous wind barriers may be composed of perennial or annual vegetation, living or dead. Plant materials shall be selected for the following characteristics:

- Adaptation to local soil and climate conditions.
- Stiff, erect non-spreading growth habit.
- Resistance to lodging.
- Good leaf retention.
- Tolerance to soil deposition
- Minimum competition with adjacent crops.

Barrier Direction, Spacing and Composition

The barrier direction, spacing, and composition needed to achieve the desired purpose shall be designed using the currently approved wind erosion technology.

Number of Rows. Barriers may consist of one row of plants; providing the required porosity can be achieved with a single row that contains no gaps and the previous criteria is met. When two or more rows are required to achieve the required porosity

and to avoid gaps, the rows shall be spaced no more than 36 inches apart.

Operation and Maintenance

Annual barriers will be managed so barriers are of sufficient height and condition to meet their intended purpose. Re-establish annual barriers each year by planting at recommended dates

Replant gaps in perennial barriers as soon as practical to maintain barrier effectiveness. After establishment, perennial barriers shall be fertilized as needed. Weeds shall be controlled by cultivation, spot treatment when using chemicals, or other acceptable methods.

Do not mow barriers composed of perennial vegetation to enhance wildlife habitat unless their height or width exceeds that required to achieve the barrier purpose, or they become competitive with the adjoining land use. When mowing of vegetation or prescribed burning is necessary, it should be done outside the primary nesting season (April 15-August 15) for grass-nesting birds.

Harvest of hay or seed from perennial barriers, grazing, burning, or mowing for weed control, shall be managed to allow regrowth to the planned height before periods when wind erosion or crop damage is expected to occur.

Wind-borne sediment accumulated in barriers shall be removed and distributed over the surface of the field as needed.

Re-establish barriers or relocate as needed.

Producer _____ Farm # _____ Tract # _____

Field Office _____ Contract # _____

Producer’s Purpose

- Reduce soil erosion from wind
- Reduce soil particulate emissions to the air
- Protect growing crops from damage by wind or wind-borne soil particles

Practice Specifications

For individual barriers:

- Vegetation type (annual perennial) Species _____
- Number of rows per barrier _____ and distance between barrier rows _____
- Seeding/planting rate _____; seeding/planting depth _____
- Planned effective barrier height _____; barrier width _____

For Barrier System:

- Number of barriers in the system _____; and distance between barriers _____
- Total area in barriers _____; total amount of seed/plants required _____

General:

- Site preparation requirements: _____
- Method of seeding/establishment: _____
- Fertilizer and soil amendments needed: _____
- Mulch material (if required): _____

Planner Certification

This Herbaceous Wind Barrier plan meets the requirements of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 603.

Signature Title Date

Certification of Practice Completion

This Herbaceous Wind Barrier 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. (N/A indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



Additional Specifications and Notes:

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