United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Stripcropping (585)

Stripcropping is growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips in a field to reduce soil erosion, reduce particulate emissions into the air, and improve water quality.

Practice Information

This practice is used on cropland and certain recreation and wildlife lands where field crops are grown. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a clean tilled strip or a strip with less protective cover. Generally, the strip widths are equal across the field. On sloping land where sheet and rill erosion are a concern, the strips are laid out on the contour or across the general slope. Where wind erosion is a concern, the strips are laid out as close to perpendicular as possible to the prevailing erosive wind direction.

In addition to its primary purpose of reducing soil erosion and improving water quality, the practice is also effective in increasing infiltration and available soil water, and improving wildlife habitat.

Common Associated Practices

Strip Cropping (585) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Residue Management (329, 345, and 346), Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), and Grassed Waterway (412).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.