

TECHNICAL NOTES

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CONSERVATION BUFFERS IN ORGANIC SYSTEMS

The attached guide, *Conservation Buffers in Organic Systems*, is designed to provide assistance with the implementation in organic systems of a number of NRCS conservation practices that are considered under the general category of conservation buffers. It is not intended to replace or contradict existing practice-specific documents, but should be used to supplement them. Buffers in certified or transitioning organic systems will be similar to those in other types of agricultural landscapes, but the purpose of the buffer may be different. The guide was developed for conditions in the western U.S., and so addresses the challenges that can be associated with establishing perennial vegetation in arid environments. Purpose-specific design, establishment, and maintenance of various types of vegetative buffers are described.

The guide was authored by Rex Dufour, (National Center for Appropriate Technology NCAT); Sarah Brown, Ben Bowell and Carrie Sendak (Oregon Tilth); Jennifer Miller (Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides); Mace Vaughan, Eric Mader, Jessa Guisse, Jolie Goldenetz Dollar, and Brianna Borders (Xerces Society).