



*Field Border of switch grass and shrubs bordering a cotton field.*

A field border is a band or strip of perennial vegetation established on the edge of a cropland field. It is used to reduce sheet, rill, and gully erosion at the edge of fields; protect water quality by trapping sediment, chemical and other pollutants; provide a turning area for farm equipment; and provide wildlife habitat. The field border should be established on the outside edges of the field, be a minimum of 20 feet wide, and be wide enough to allow turning of farm equipment.

Field borders are normally established as part of a conservation management system to address the soil, water, air, plant, and animal needs and the owner's objectives. A field border used with contouring, stripcropping, cross-slope farming patterns, or terraces eliminates the normal planting of end rows or headlands in uphill and downhill directions. It also provides a turning area for farm equipment, which reduces sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Field borders can also provide forage production and improve farm aesthetics. They are most effective when used in combination with other agronomic or structural practices to provide conservation benefits.

Field borders can enhance wildlife objectives. Benefits depend on the vegetative species used and management practiced. Consider using adapted native vegetative species that can provide food and cover for important wildlife. Increase width, if needed, to provide necessary protection for nesting animals from predators. Delay mowing of grassed area until after the nesting season for ground-nesting birds and animals.

Operation and maintenance of a field border involves the following: inspect and repair field borders after storms to fill in gullies, remove sediment, reseed disturbed areas, and take other measures to ensure the effectiveness of the border. Mow (and harvest if possible) field border vegetation during non-critical times for wildlife to encourage dense vegetation growth.

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and the Field Border practice standard (Code 386). This practice can be certified by completing the applied column in the site specific sheet.

**FL- 386 - Site Specific Sheet - 2**

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida

September 2011

**FIELD BORDER SITE SPECIFIC SHEET**

Client:		County:	Date:
Farm #:	Tract #:	Field # (s):	Contract #:

**Purpose/Needs (check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce erosion from wind and water	<input type="checkbox"/> Protect soil and water quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Manage pest populations	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide wildlife food and cover and pollinator habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase carbon storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve air quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):	

Field border layout	Field border 1		Field border 2		Field border 3	
	Planned	Applied	Planned	Applied	Planned	Applied
Border width (ft)						
Border length along edge of field (ft)						
Area (ac)						
Species #1						
Species #2						
Species #3						
Seeding rate (PLS) (lb/acre)						
Lime per Soil Test - (tons/acre)						
N Fertilizer per Soil Test - (lb/acre)						
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> Fertilizer per Soil Test - (lb/acre)						
K <sub>2</sub> O Fertilizer per Soil Test - (lb/acre)						

**Site Preparation**

Prepare firm seedbed. Apply lime and fertilizer according to recommendations.

Additional requirements:

**Planting Method(s)**

Drill grass and legume seed \_\_\_\_\_ inches deep uniformly over area. Establish stand of vegetation according to recommended seeding. If necessary, mulch newly seeded area with \_\_\_\_\_ tons per acre of mulch material. May seed small grain as a companion crop at the rate of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds per acre, but clip or harvest before it heads out.

Additional requirements:

