

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

GEORGIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA

CODE 635

Landowner/Operator _____

Practice Location _____

County _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

Inspections and maintenance are required to achieve the intended function, benefits, and life of the practice. The landowner/operator is responsible to establish and implement an inspection and maintenance program. Items to inspect and maintain during the 10-year design life of the practice include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Inspect after significant storm events and at least annually to identify repair and maintenance needs. Complete needed repairs as soon as possible.
- Protect the vegetated treatment area from damage by farm equipment, traffic, and livestock.
- Do not use as a roadway.
- Avoid operations that displace soil, compact soil, damage vegetation, or alter design flow depth.
- Avoid damaging vegetated treatment areas with herbicides. When spraying for grass control on adjoining cropland, spray only when drift is away from wastewater treatment strip.
- Limit access and control grazing.
- For maximum nutrient removal from the water to be treated, vegetation must be maintained in a vigorous condition. Grass stems must remain upright during design flow. Re-seed areas where vegetation fails. Periodic mowing and harvesting of the forage is required.
- Fertilize according to a soil test, as necessary.
- Maintain vegetative plant density of _____ stems per square foot as required by the design. It may require overseeding or other management methods such as clipping and harvesting to promote an adequate density of plant stems.
- Mowing and/or vegetation harvest must be performed on a regular basis to stimulate growth, maintain an upright growth habit, plus provide for removal of nutrients that are contained in the plant tissue. Vegetation height after mowing should not be less than 6 inches.
- Where livestock grazing is planned to harvest the vegetation, only allow the livestock access to the wastewater treatment strip when soil moisture conditions are low enough that damage will not occur from tracking and compaction. Also limit the livestock access to the time needed to harvest the vegetation.

- Development of rills and small channels from erosion, equipment, or other means within the wastewater treatment area must be minimized. Needed repairs must be made immediately to reshape the area and reestablish sheet (overland) flow. Rake rock checks in wastewater treatment strip channels at least annually to keep them level and remove any build-up of deposited materials. For overland flow wastewater treatment strips, a shallow furrow on the contour across the wastewater treatment strip can be used to reestablish sheet flow.
- Brush and weeds are undesirable and must be controlled with herbicides or mowing. Use only those pesticides that are labeled for the specific use. Refer to University of Georgia Extension publications and specific label instructions for guidance on pesticide selection and use.
- Additional operation and maintenance requirements specific to this plan
