

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION**

IA-600 TERRACES

1. SCOPE

The work shall consist of terrace construction as shown on the drawings or staked in the field.

2. MATERIALS

Earth materials used in constructing the terraces shall be taken from areas adjacent to the terrace alignment or other approved sources. The fill material shall be free from brush, roots, sod, frozen material, stones over 6 inches in diameter, or other objectionable material.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The terraces shall be constructed according to the staked alignment, grade, and cross section with the specified overfill for settlement and the channel graded to drain.

Channel blocks shall be built to the full design height of the terrace unless otherwise specified. Blocks must be compacted and farmable with side slopes of 5 horizontal to 1 vertical or flatter unless otherwise specified. Cuts and fills should be made in such a manner that topography will be enhanced. Cuts should not be made in depressions to secure borrow to build the terrace ridge through those areas, since this increases field slopes. Borrow for large fills across depressions shall be taken from the adjacent ridges.

The surface of the finished terrace shall be reasonably smooth and present a workmanlike finish. Borrow areas shall be uniformly graded. Cuts shall be blended with existing topography so that the finished area is farmable. Any ditch or depression at the bottom of the backslope shall be filled and smoothed so that drainage will be away from the terrace and not parallel to it. Excavation for grassed-back, farmable front slope and narrow-base terraces shall be taken from the downhill side of the terrace except as specified by the NRCS. See the "Minimum Dimensions" sketches in section 7 for definitions and terrace types.

4. FOUNDATION PREPARATION

All dead furrows, ditches or gullies shall be filled before or during the construction of the terraces. All old terraces, fence rows, hedge rows, trees, and other obstructions shall be removed, as necessary, to install a farmable system.

The total disturbed area of the terrace shall be cleared, grubbed, and stripped a minimum of 6 inches to remove vegetation and other unsuitable materials. Smooth surfaces where fill material is to be placed shall be scarified to insure bonding.

5. PLACEMENT

Fill material shall not be placed on sod or on a frozen foundation. The moisture content of terrace fill material shall be such that a ball formed with the hands does not crack or separate when struck sharply with a pencil and will easily ribbon out between the thumb and finger. Material that is too wet shall be dried, and material that is too dry shall have water added or work shall be stopped until moisture conditions are satisfactory.

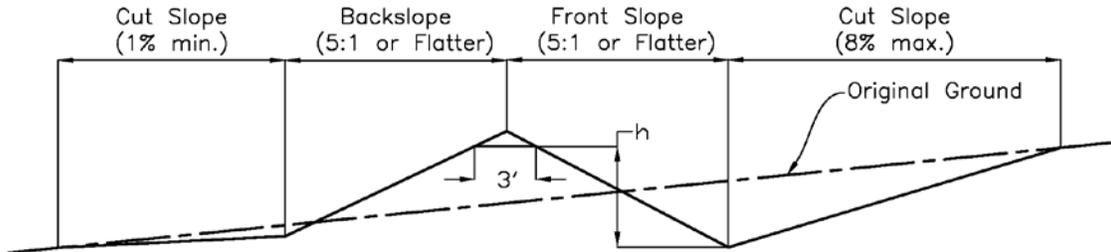
Fill material shall be placed so that the entire terrace receives compactive effort of the construction equipment on the fill. When the base width of the fill exceeds 12 feet, the fill shall be placed in lifts not exceeding one foot with each lift compacted with the construction equipment.

If specified, topsoil shall be stockpiled and spread over borrow areas and the terrace embankment.

6. TERRACE OUTLETS

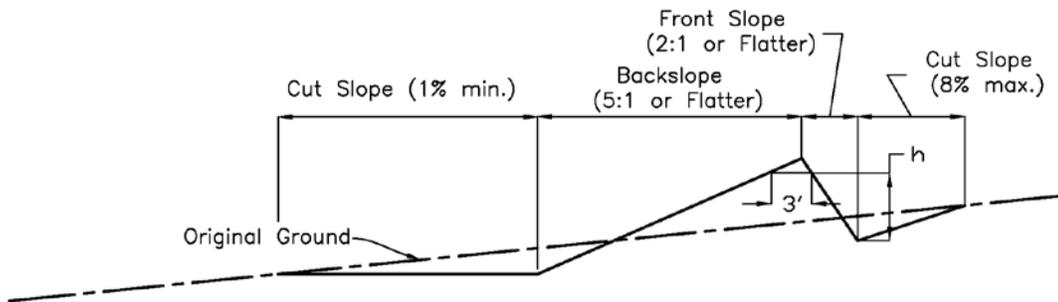
Conduits shall be embedded and backfilled throughout the base width of the terrace ridge. Friable soil material shall be placed in 6 inch layers and hand tamped to a depth of approximately 18 inches over the pipe. The sides of the remaining trench shall be sloped no steeper than 3 horizontal to 1 vertical and backfill placed in 6 inch layers and machine compacted. The materials used for the inlet, outlet, and conduit shall be as specified.

7. MINIMUM DIMENSIONS



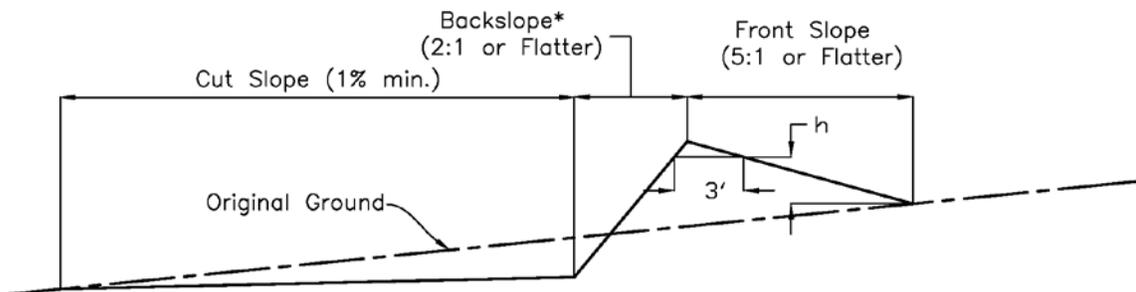
Length of front slope and backslope shall be in increments of machinery width but not less than 15 feet
 h = Design height of the terrace

BROADBASE TERRACE CROSS SECTION



Length of backslope shall be in increments of machinery width but not less than 15 feet
 h = Design height of the terrace

GRASSED FRONT, FARMABLE BACKSLOPE TERRACE CROSS SECTION

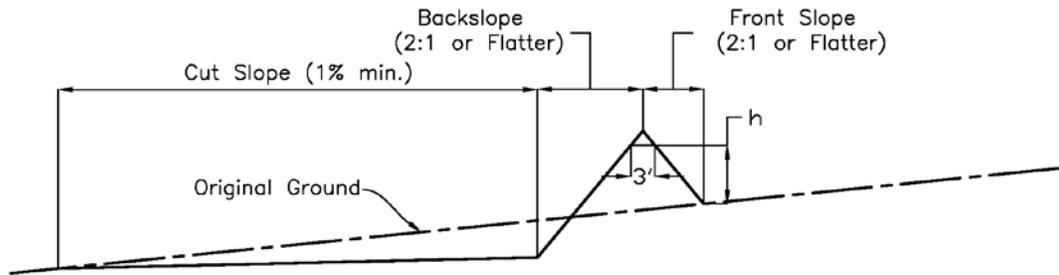


Length of front slope shall be in increments of machinery width but not less than 15 feet

*The backslope shall be no steeper than 2:1 except when built on Ida and Monona soil series types which may have the backslope constructed no steeper than 1.5:1

h = Design height of the terrace

GRASSED-BACK, FARMABLE FRONT SLOPE TERRACE CROSS SECTION



h = Design height of the terrace

NARROW-BASE TERRACE CROSS SECTION

8. SEEDING

Grassed-back, farmable front slope terraces shall have the entire backslope seeded. Narrow-base terraces shall have both the front slope and backslope seeded. Grassed front, farmable backslope terraces shall have the front slope seeded. A protective cover of vegetation shall be established on these areas. Seeding operations shall begin as soon as possible after the terrace earth work has been completed. Seedbed preparation and seeding, liming, fertilizing and mulching rates shall be in accordance with the IA-CPA-4, Seeding Plan, and Construction Specification IA-6, Seeding and Mulching for Protective Cover.

9. SPECIAL SPECIFICATIONS