

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

FIELD BORDER

1. Scope

The work shall consist of furnishing all materials and placing them on all designated areas to the limits as shown on the drawings, or as staked in the field, and performing cultural operations to establish a field border. Procedures, technical details, and other information listed provide additional guidance for carrying out selected components of this practice. This material supplements the requirements and considerations therein.

2. Specifications

Field borders shall be a minimum of 20 feet and no more than 100 feet in width. The design width shall be determined to the extent needed to meet the primary purpose of the practice and the producer's objectives.

Wind erosion. When wind erosion is a primary purpose for applying the field border practice the minimum width will be 20 feet. A field border adjacent to an elevated roadbed and downwind of the prevailing wind direction will be an additional 10 feet wider for every one foot of roadbed elevation difference.

Example: The field border will be planted on the west side of a field adjacent to an elevated roadbed. The roadbed is 2 feet above the field. Prevailing wind direction is from the southwest or northwest.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \mathbf{20\ feet} & \mathbf{+} & \mathbf{20\ feet} & \mathbf{= 40\ feet\ field\ border\ width} \\
 \mathbf{(minimum\ width)} & & \mathbf{(2\ feet\ difference\ in\ elevation} & \\
 & & \mathbf{x\ 10\ feet/foot\ of\ elevation\ difference)} &
 \end{array}$$

Water erosion. When water erosion is a primary purpose for applying the field border practice the minimum width will be 20 feet.

Wildlife food and cover. When wildlife food and cover is a primary or secondary purpose for applying the field border practice, the minimum width will be 30 feet. Increased widths provide higher quality wildlife habitat. Plant species diversity will also increase quality.

Linkage to other vegetative practices, equipment turnarounds and travel areas. When providing linkage to other vegetative practices, as well as an area for equipment turnaround and travel is a primary purpose for applying the field border practice, the minimum width will be 20 feet.

3. Site Preparation and Establishment

Field borders shall be planted to permanent grasses and/or legumes determined by the producer's objectives. Conservation Practice 512, Pasture and Hayland Planting, or 550, Range Planting, will be used for establishing vegetation in field borders. On areas where the field border will exceed two times the tolerable soil loss prior to planting the vegetation, refer to Conservation Practice 342, Critical Area Planting. Where wildlife is the primary or secondary purpose for establishing this practice, refer to Conservation Practice 645, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

4. Operation and Maintenance

Vegetation management. Vegetation established in field borders may be hayed or grazed. Management will be in accordance with Conservation Practice 511, Forage Harvest Management, or 528, Prescribed Grazing.

Fertilization will be done in accordance with Conservation Practice 590, Nutrient Management.

Pest control will be done in accordance with Conservation Practice 595, Pest Management, or 338, Prescribed Burning.

Wildlife habitat management. Field borders planted with the primary or secondary purpose of wildlife habitat will be planted to native grass mixtures. Forbs and/or legumes may be added to enhance the native grass plantings. Native grass mixes utilizing large quantities of bunchgrasses and diverse species of forbs will provide the highest quality habitat for nesting birds. Flowering trees and shrubs may be added to enhance native plantings for pollinators. Where wildlife is the primary or secondary purpose, refer to Conservation Practice 645, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, for operation management options.

5. Documentation

Field border specifications and planting guidance will be documented on Forms KS-ECS-4, Grass Seeding, and/or KS-ECS-5, Tree/Shrub Planting.