

FILTER STRIP

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 393



FILTER STRIP

A filter strip is an area of vegetation established for the purpose of removing sediment, organic material, and other pollutants from runoff and waste water.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Filter strips are generally located at the lower edge (s) of a field. This will vary somewhat with land use, topography and objectives.

A filter strip removes pollutants from runoff before the material enters a body of water. It also serves as a buffer between water and the fields above the water so that pesticides and other chemicals are not applied directly adjacent or into the water body. Filter strips also reduce sedimentation of streams, lakes and other bodies of water.

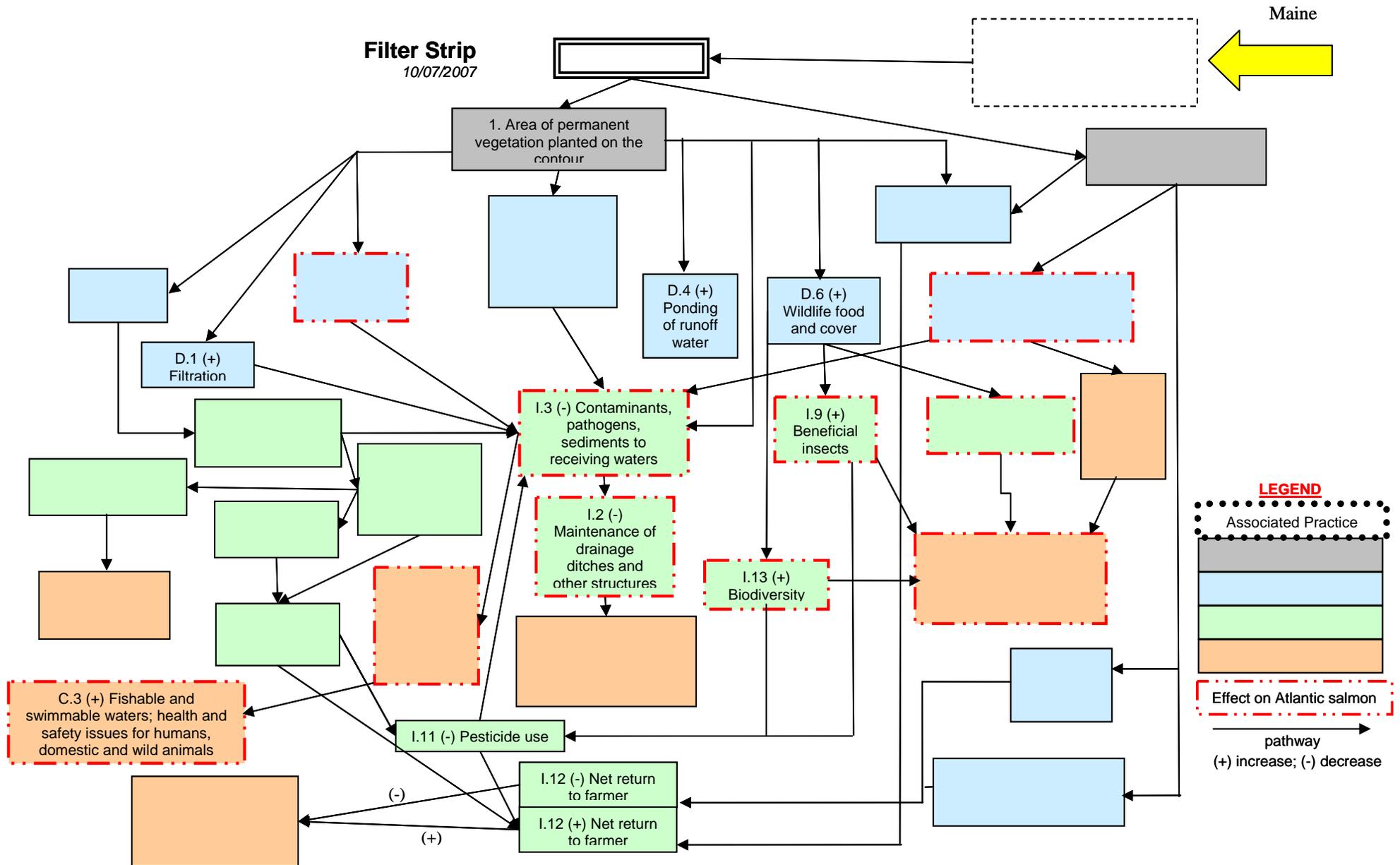
Plant species selected for planting in a filter strip requires careful planning. There may be multiple objectives that can be accomplished by proper plant selection.

In addition to the above functions, filter strips can be designed to provide one or more of the following secondary benefits:

1. Improved fish and wildlife habitat.
2. Improved aesthetics
3. Improved equipment operations such as field access and turn rows or head lands.
4. Improved recreation opportunities.
5. Improved livestock forage source.

Specifications for design and installation of this practice are contained in the USDA/NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

The following page identifies the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.



The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.