

## CONTOUR BUFFER STRIP CODE 332

### Maryland Conservation Practice Implementation Requirements and Certification

<b>Cooperator Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Planner</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Farm/Tract/Field(s)</b>	<b>Program/Contract No. (if applicable)</b>		<b>Amount Planned</b>  AC

<b>Purpose</b>			
Reduce sheet and rill erosion	Improve surface water quality by reducing transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants		
Enhance wildlife habitat			
<b>Description of Work</b>			
<b>Associated Practices (must be implemented in combination with this practice)</b>			
<b>Soil Map Unit</b>	<b>Critical Slope Length (ft)</b>	<b>Minimum Row Grade (%)</b>	<b>Maximum Row Grade (%)</b>
<b>Number of Strips</b>	<b>Average Width (ft)</b>	<b>Minimum Width (ft)</b>	<b>Spacing between Strips (ft)</b>
<b>Acceptable Uses for Buffer Strip</b>			

BUFFER STRIP VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT	
<b>Site Preparation (Type and Timing)</b>	
<b>Planting Date(s)</b>	<b>Expected Establishment Date</b>
<b>Seeding Depth</b>	<b>Lime and Fertilizer</b>
<b>Planting Method</b>	

<b>Weed Control Measures During Establishment (Timing and Methods)</b>
<b>Additional Establishment Instructions</b>

*Notify the NRCS or SCD office when the planting is completed.*

<b>SEED MIXTURE</b>				
<b>Location(s)</b>	<b>Species and Cultivar or Mix<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Seeding Rate</b>	<b>Total Seed Quantity</b>

<sup>†</sup> If specifying only a mix, attach a copy of the mix.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Once the planting has become established, follow these prescriptions for maintaining the planting.

- Maintain the buffer strip according to the specifications below:

<b>Maintenance (Method, Timing, Frequency)</b>

- Inspect the buffer strip at least annually for vegetation condition, erosion, insects and diseases, and to ensure proper functioning. Take corrective action if necessary.
- When tilling or spraying adjacent fields, take care to avoid damage to the buffer strip. Avoid creating any furrows that could become gullies. Spot seed or renovate areas that are damaged by herbicide drift.
- Perform all tillage and planting operations parallel to the strip boundaries, except on end rows that have gradients flatter than the maximum allowable grade (see above). If the gradient is steeper than the maximum allowable grade, maintain at least 65 percent residue cover or maintain the end row in permanent sod.

- Maintain sheet flow entering the buffer strips. Repair all rills and small channels within the buffer strips
- Smooth or remove sediment accumulations along strip edges before they reach a height of 6 inches. Redistribute the sediment over the field as necessary to maintain effectiveness.
- Where wildlife is a concern, do not disturb the planting during the primary nesting season of April 15 – August 15, except if recommended for control of noxious and invasive plants.
- Control noxious weeds and other invasive plants by spot treatment using mechanical methods or approved herbicides. If it becomes necessary to control noxious weeds during the nesting season, contact your local weed control specialist for recommendations.
- If undesirable woody vegetation starts to encroach on the planting, targeted herbicide applications may be necessary for control. Refer to applicable Brush Management (Code 314) Implementation Requirements or contact your local University of Maryland Extension or Soil Conservation District office for more specific information.

<b>Additional Operations and Maintenance</b>

<b>CERTIFICATION (FOR AGENCY USE ONLY)</b>	
<b>Supporting Documentation (for file)</b>	
Map showing practice locations and widths	Recommended seed mixture
RUSLE2 worksheets	
<b>Planning Certification</b> This practice was planned according to NRCS standards and specifications.  Job Class: _____  _____ Signature by individual with appropriate JAA      Date	<b>Implementation Certification</b> This practice was applied according to NRCS standards and specifications.  Amount: _____      Date: _____  _____ Signature by individual with appropriate JAA      Date
<b>Reporting Checklist</b>	
CPA-06 Notes	Report in Toolkit
File copy of completed IR sheet	Other reporting tools (optional)
Post-treatment photos (optional)	