



Water Quality Activity – ANM39 – Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Additional Criteria for Nebraska

An existing riparian forest buffer to be extended must be 35 feet wide measured outward and perpendicular to the stream from a point at the top of the bank adjacent to the stream. It is not necessary that the entire stream segment under the control of the cooperator be buffered by an existing 35 feet wide buffer. However, only that segment with the existing 35 feet buffer in place is eligible for this enhancement. The riparian forest buffer must be extended so that the total buffer is 60 feet or more wide.

Species planted to extend the riparian forest buffer must contain the following:

A minimum of 5 species of trees or shrubs must be used in combination to meet the [\(391\) Riparian Forest Buffer](#) standard. Any area planted to filter strip on the outer edge of the buffer must meet the [\(393\) Filter Strip](#) standard. This requires a minimum seeding rate of 40 PLS/ft² for grasses and 60% of the grass mixture shall consist of sod-forming, stiff-stemmed species. Acceptable grass species are located on the [“wildlife friendly” plant list](#).

- All trees and shrubs used within the riparian forest buffer planting must be native (by Vegetative Zone) and adapted to site conditions. (See Table 11 in FOTG Section II Windbreak Interpretations)
- Coniferous species are not acceptable to be used.
- One flowering shrub, identified in the pollinator enhancement [\(PLT15\)](#) must be used on the outer edge of all riparian forest buffers.
- At least 50% of the total number of trees/shrubs planted must be species that produce either a fruit or nut.
- The requirement that a majority of trees planted achieve heights of at least 60 feet and 60% canopy closure only applies to Vegetative Zone IV (southeastern Nebraska) since many species will not reach that height in other parts of the state.

All herbaceous seedings must contain forbs and/or legumes at a seeding rate of 10% to 25% of the grass mixture (4 PLS/ft² to 10 PLS/ft²). Acceptable species are located on the [“wildlife friendly” plant list](#).

Document recommended site preparation, planting method, tree/shrub species, seed mixture, seeding rates and other pertinent information on the Grass Seeding Job Sheet [\(NE-CPA-8\)](#) and/or the Tree Planting Job Sheet [\(NE-CPA-15\)](#) and associated attachments.

The following activities are allowed for operation/maintenance and management:

No haying or grazing is allowed within the zone planted to trees and shrubs.

Haying is permitted on filter strip areas which may be planted on the outermost zone up to one time per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15 and prior to September 1.

Grazing is permitted on filter strip areas which may be planted on the outermost zone up to one time per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15 and does not exceed a 30 day period during the growing season OR a 60 day period during the dormant season.

