

Cross Wind Trap Strips

New Jersey Conservation Practice Job Sheet

589



Definition

Cross wind trap strips are areas of herbaceous cover resistant to wind erosion, established in one or more strips across fields and perpendicular to the prevailing wind erosion direction.

Purpose

Cross wind trap strips reduce soil erosion by wind, induce deposition and reduce transport of wind-borne sediment and sediment-borne contaminants downwind, protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

Where used

Cross wind trap strips are located on land where crops are grown. Trap strips are applicable wherever it is desirable to trap wind-borne sediment and where conservation objectives include wildlife food, cover, and travel corridors. Strips are located within cropland fields that are susceptible to wind erosion or wind erosion damage, including locations adjacent to watercourses, water bodies, drainage ditches, and other sensitive areas that need protection from wind-borne sediment.

Resource management system

Cross wind trap strips are normally established concurrently with other practices as part of a resource management system for a conservation management unit. Examples include the residue management practices and cross wind ridges. Practicing residue management within the field can help reduce the movement of wind-borne soil particles and allow a greater distance between trap strips. Cross wind ridges can help reduce the movement of soil particles by creating a rough soil surface that is resistant to erosion by wind.

Cross wind trap strips also can function as an important mitigation technique for other conservation practices, such as pest management. Plant species selected for effective trap strips can function as habitat for beneficial insects and birds, thus reducing pest problems in adjacent crops.

Wildlife

Cross wind trap strips provide excellent opportunities to improve wildlife habitat by creating travel lanes that connect important habitat areas or infield escape cover. For wildlife habitat benefits, select native or other adapted plant species that provide wildlife both food and cover.

Operation and maintenance

Cross wind trap strips must be inspected periodically for health and effectiveness. Weeds and other pests need to be controlled to enhance the establishment and longevity of the desirable species. Soil fertility must be monitored and fertilizer added as needed. Mowing, grazing, or burning of trap strips must be managed to insure effectiveness of the strips during the critical period(s) for which they were designed. Trap strips may need to be relocated periodically because of sediment accumulation. It may also be necessary to reestablish or relocate the trap strips periodically to maintain the desired plant density and height.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are illustrated on the job sketch sheet. Spacing of the erosion-susceptible strips is determined using the current NRCS wind erosion prediction technology. Specifications included in this job sheet are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C).

Cross Wind Trap Strips – Job Sheet

Landowner _____ Field number _____

| Purpose (check all that apply) | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce soil erosion by wind | <input type="checkbox"/> Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Induce deposition and reduce transport of sediment and contaminants | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide food and cover for wildlife |

| Individual Trap Strip Layout and Plant Materials Information | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Vegetation type: <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial | |
| Planned vegetation height (inches): | Trap strip width (feet): |
| Plant species: | |
| Seeding rate (pure live seed - lbs/ac): | |
| Seeding date: | Seeding depth (inches): |
| Additional requirements: | |

| Trap Strip System Layout | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Distance between trap strips (feet): | Total number of trap strips: |
| Total area in trap strips (acres): | Total amount of seed required (pure live seed - lbs): |

| Trap Strip Establishment |
|-------------------------------------|
| Site preparation and seeding: |
| Seedbed: <i>Firm and weed free.</i> |
| Fertilizer: |
| Mulching: |
| Other: |

| Operation and Maintenance |
|---------------------------|
| Pest management: |
| Other: |

Practice Checkout:

Amount completed: _____ units

Mark as-built location on plan map and attach photos.

Remarks _____

This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications

Yes

No

Check out completed by: _____ Date: _____

Certified by: _____ Date: _____

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Valid September 2012 - August 2015