

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**  
**Vegetated Treatment Area (635)**  
**Tennessee**

Landowner/Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Location: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspections and maintenance are required to achieve the intended function, benefits, and life of the practice. The landowner/operator is responsible to establish and implement an inspection and maintenance program. Items to inspect and maintain during the 10-year design life of the practice include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Inspect after significant storm events and at least annually to identify repair and maintenance needs. Complete needed repairs as soon as possible. Maintenance activities shall be conducted only when the treatment strip is dry and moisture content in the surface soil layer will not allow compaction.
2. Protect the vegetated treatment area from damage by farm equipment, traffic, and livestock.
  - a) Limit access and do not use as a roadway.
  - b) Prevent livestock grazing of treatment strips.
  - c) Avoid operations that displace soil, compact soil, damage vegetation, or alter design flow depth.
  - d) Avoid damaging vegetated treatment areas with herbicides. When spraying for grass control on adjoining cropland, spray only when drift is away from vegetated treatment area.
3. For maximum nutrient removal from the water to be treated, vegetation must be maintained in a vigorous condition. Grass stems must remain upright during design flow. Re-seed areas where vegetation fails. Periodic mowing and harvesting of the forage is required.
  - a) Fertilize according to a soil test, as necessary.
  - b) Routinely de-thatch and/or aerate treatment strips used for treating runoff from livestock holding areas in order to promote infiltration.
  - c) Maintain vegetative plant density by the design. It may require overseeding or other management methods such as clipping and harvesting to promote an adequate density of plant stems.
  - d) Mowing and/or vegetation harvest must be performed on a regular basis to stimulate growth, maintain an upright growth habit, plus provide for removal of nutrients that are contained in the plant tissue. Vegetation height after mowing should not be less than 6 inches. In the first three years mow frequently to achieve the desired stem density.
4. Development of rills and small channels from erosion, equipment, or other means within the vegetated treatment area must be minimized. Needed repairs must be made immediately to reshape the area and reestablish sheet (overland) flow. Rake rock checks in vegetated treatment area channels at least annually to keep them level and remove any build-up of deposited materials. For overland flow vegetated treatment areas, a shallow furrow on the contour across the vegetated treatment area can be used to reestablish sheet flow.
5. Brush and weeds are undesirable and must be controlled with herbicides or mowing. Use only those pesticides that are labeled for the specific use.

**SIGNATURES**

Landowner/Operator: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

February 2016

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