

STRIPCROPPING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 585



STRIPCROPPING

Stripcropping is growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips across the field to reduce soil erosion by water and/or wind.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used on cropland and certain recreation and wildlife lands where field crops are grown. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a clean tilled strip or a strip with less protective cover. Generally the strip widths are equal across the field. On sloping land where sheet and rill erosion are a concern, the strips are laid out on the contour or across the general slope. Where wind erosion is a concern, the strips are laid out as close to perpendicular as possible to the prevailing erosive wind direction.

Stripcropping is a multi-purpose practice that has one or more of the following effects:

1. Reduced sheet and rill erosion.
2. Reduced wind erosion
3. Increased infiltration and available soil water.
4. Reduced dust emissions into the air.
5. Improved water quality.
6. Improved visual quality of the landscape.
7. Improved wildlife habitat

Additional information, including standards and specifications for this practice, are on file in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.