

Stripcropping



Definition

Growing row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in a systematic arrangement of equal width strips across a field.

Purpose

- Reduce soil erosion from water
- Reduce transport of sediment and other waterborne contaminants
- Reduce soil erosion from wind
- Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles where crops are grown.

Where used

This practice applies on cropland or other land where crops are grown. This practice is less effective in achieving the purpose(s) of the practice on slopes exceeding 15 percent.

The practice has the greatest impact where cropped or fallow strips having less than 10 percent cover are alternated with close grown and/or grass/legume strips or strips of where practice *Residue Management, NoTill/Strip-Till* is applied with 75 percent or greater surface cover.

Criteria

A stripcropping system consists of two or more strips.

All tillage and planting operations will follow the strip line established.

Vegetation in a stripcropping arrangement consists of crops and/or forages grown in a planned rotation.

No two adjacent strips shall be in an erosion susceptible condition at the same time during the year. However, two adjacent strips may be in erosion-resistant cover at the same time.

Erosion-resistant strips shall be crops or crop residues that provide the needed protective cover during periods when erosion is expected to occur.

Acceptable protective cover includes a growing crop, including grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures, standing stubble, residue with enough surface cover to provide protection, or surface roughness sufficient to provide protection.

A vegetative cover shall be selected that is tolerant of the anticipated depth of sediment deposition.

When the erosion-resistant strip is in permanent vegetation, the species established shall either be tolerant to herbicides used on the cropped strips or protected from damage by herbicides used on the cropped strips.

Base the strip widths on the planning objective while using the current approved erosion prediction technology.

Erosion-susceptible strip widths shall not exceed: 50 percent of the slope length used for erosion prediction or 150 feet whichever is less.

Strip boundaries shall run parallel to each other and as close to the contour as practical.

The maximum grade of rows shall not exceed 5 percent or 0.50 times the up and down hill slope percent used for erosion prediction, whichever is less.

Considerations

The practice is not well suited to rolling topography having a high degree of slope irregularity.



Operation and maintenance

Sediment accumulations along strip edges shall be smoothed or removed and distributed over the field as necessary to maintain practice effectiveness.

Maintain the headlands, end row areas, and field edges in permanent vegetative cover (grasses or grass/legume mix) unless the end rows or field edge is relatively flat or not an erosion concern.

When headlands are in permanent cover, renovate as needed to keep ground cover above 65 percent. No-till renovation of headlands is recommended but in any case should only include the immediate seedbed preparation and reseeding to a sod-forming crop with or without a nurse crop. Maintain full headland width to allow turning of farm implements at the end of a tilled strip to double back on the same strip.

Conduct all farming operations parallel to the field strip baselines.

Follow the planned rotation to ensure alternating strips contain the grass or a close growing crop.

Stripcropping Job Sheet

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the Vermont NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Information contained in this document is considered part of the conservation plan.

Client Name:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Designed By:	Date:
Approved By:	Date:
Total Acres:	

Purpose: Check all that apply	
Reduce soil erosion from water	Reduce soil erosion from wind
Reduce transport of sediment and other waterborne contaminants	Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles where crops are grown.
Other:	

Stripcropping Details (Site 1)	
Field #(s):	
Acres:	
Planned Number Of Strips:	
Field Slope %:	
Maximum Planned Strip Width:	
Maximum Planned Row Grade:	
Planned Crop Rotation:	
Planned Tillage:	
Erosion-Resistant Strips Vegetation Type or Management:	
Non-Erosion Resistant Strips Vegetation Type or Management:	

Stripcropping Details (Site 2)	
Field #(s):	
Acres:	
Planned Number Of Strips:	
Field Slope %:	
Maximum Planned Strip Width:	
Maximum Planned Row Grade:	
Planned Crop Rotation:	
Planned Tillage:	
Erosion-Resistant Strips Vegetation Type or Management:	
Non-Erosion Resistant Strips Vegetation Type or Management:	

Notes:

