

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Riparian herbaceous cover is establishment and maintenance of grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

Practice Information

This practice is used on lands along water courses or at the boundary of water bodies or wetlands where the natural or desired plant community is dominated by herbaceous vegetation; the ecosystem has been disturbed and the natural plant community is missing, changed, or has been converted to agricultural crops, lawns, or other high maintenance vegetation; or invasive species dominate.

The purposes of this practice include:

- provision of food, shelter, shading substrate, access to adjacent habitats
- nursery habitat and pathways for movement by resident and nonresident aquatic, semiaquatic, and terrestrial organisms,
- improvement and protection of water quality,
- stabilization of streambanks and shorelines, and
- increased net carbon storage in the biomass and soil.



Common Associated Practices

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Conservation Cover (327), Fence (382), Use Exclusion (472), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Prescribed Grazing (528), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580), Stream Crossing (578), and Watering Facility (614).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.