

FILTER STRIP

A filter strip is an area of grass or other permanent vegetation used to intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other contaminants from overland flow.



UPPER DELAWARE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BENEFITS:

- Does not interfere with farming operations, low maintenance
- Provides vegetative medium to filter surface water from field run-off
- Supplies additional forage to livestock when flash-grazed
- Improved field access

DESCRIPTION

Filter strips are areas of vegetation, established for removing sediment, organic material, and nutrients from surface water run-off and wastewater. These vegetative strips are located downslope, within lower edge(s) of a crop field, or livestock area.

Vegetation of the strip can be comprised of turf grasses (warm and cool season), forbs, woody vegetation, trees, and shrubs.

TECH NOTES

- Work with your local Conservation District to establish a site specific filter strip design and plan.
- Filter strips can be designed as grass filters, forest buffers or a combination of both, depending on site specific considerations.
- Recommended minimum width is between 20 to 30 feet.
- Filter strips are useful in restoring or enhancing a herbaceous habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects and pollinators.

MAINTENANCE

- Inspect after intense rainfall events that could result in areas of erosion, and replace or replant desired vegetation in eroded area.
- Mow or graze as needed. Vegetation should remain above a height of six feet.
- Control invasive and noxious weeds within the vegetative area.
- Periodic soil testing.
- Renovate filter strip to maintain full vegetative cover.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

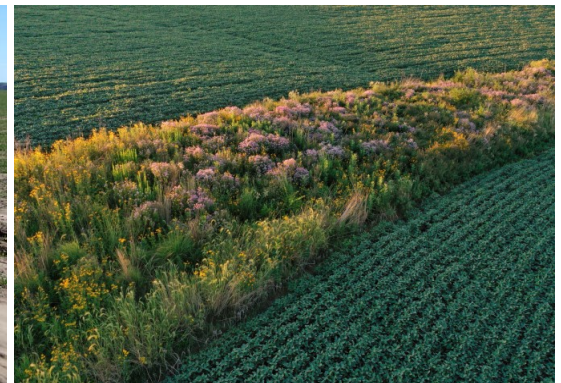
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Soil erosion



Vegetated filter strip in soybean field