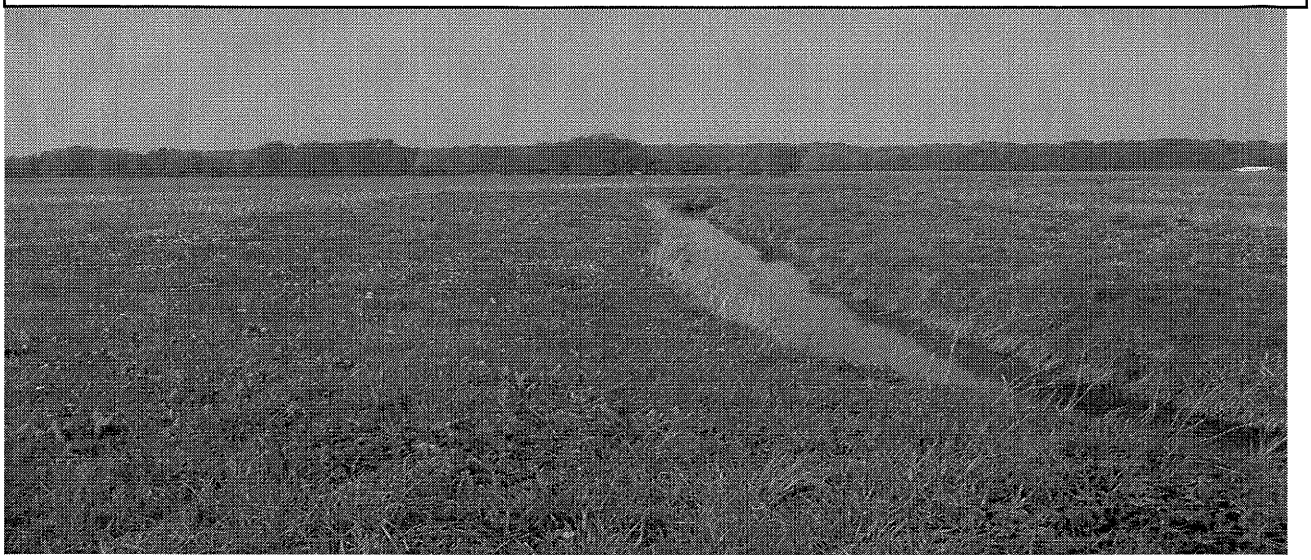
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

FILTER STRIPS
CRP Seeding & Management

Conservation Practice Job Sheet (393) CRP Seeding & Management



Landowner: _____ Tract:_____ County: **Vanderburgh**

Filter Strip Specifications:

Field # _____	Width: _____	Length:_____	Acreage: _____
Field # _____	Width: _____	Length: _____	Acreage:
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Field # _____	Width: _____	Length: _____	Acreage: _____
Field # _____	Width: _____	Length: _____	Acreage: _____

Seeding Mixture:

All seeding mixtures will be completed according to the Indiana FOTG, Section IV, Practice Standard 393.

Grass Mixture	Rate (lbs PLS*/Ac)	Seeding Dates
Orchard Grass	**8**	**March1 10 May 1 or August 1 to September 15**
Timothy	**1**	**March1 10 May 1 August 1 to September 15**
Other:		

Legumes	Rate (lbs PLS*/Ac)	Seeding Dates
Annual Lespedeza	**4**	**March 15 to May 1 or Frost seed by February 20**
Other:		

***To figure percent Pure Live Seed (PLS) rates, multiply the percent purity by the percent germination. Divide the seeding rate by the %PLS to find the bulk seed needed per acre. Example: 98% Purity X 60% Germination = .588 PLS, 10 lbs per acre/.588 PLS = 17 lbs of bulk seed per acre.**

FILTER STRIPS
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Definition: A filter strip is an area of grass or other permanent vegetation used to reduce sediment, organics, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminants from runoff and to maintain or improve water quality.

Purpose: To remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystem of the waterbody.

Site Preparation:

Conventional Seeding:

1. Shape site to spread water flow and prepare a firm seedbed.
2. Apply lime according to needs determined by a recent soil test or apply a minimum of 2 tons per acre when a soil test is not available. (soil pH should be approximately 6.5 – 7.0)
3. Apply fertilizer according to soil tests or fertilizer history provided by landowner (DO NOT fertilize warm season grasses during the establishment year).
4. Incorporate fertilizer and lime into the soil to a depth of 2-3 inches with a harrow, disk or rake operated across the slope as much as possible and prepare a firm seedbed with a cultipacker or comparable equipment.

No-till Seeding:

1. Surface apply soil amendments according to soil test or fertilizer history.
2. Use a no-till drill that will seed the grasses being used. (a special drill is needed for most warm season grasses)

Planting methods:

1. Seed in fall when possible to avoid competition with annual grasses in the spring. (except switchgrass)
2. Apply seed with a grassland drill, a no-till drill, cultipacker type seeder, or broadcasting where cultipacking is done to cover seed.
3. Plant to a depth of 1/8 to 1/4 inch.
4. Firm the seedbed following seeding except when a cultipacker type seeder is used

Operation and Maintenance:

1. The cover established for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be maintained for the life of the CRP contract. Management of the conservation cover may include liming and fertilizing when needed, mowing, weed or brush eradication, and other locally acceptable practices to maintain and enhance the desired species in the CRP planting(s).

   WEED CONTROL DURING ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD: Producers may mow or spray as needed during the first three years of a CRP contract, or until NRCS certifies establishment, to control competing weeds. Producers are strongly encouraged to complete these activities outside the wildlife-nesting period of March 1 through July 15. They are not prohibited from mowing or spraying during this period. Grass stands will be mowed as high as practical to control weeds but still protect wildlife and young grass seedlings. Spot spraying is strongly encouraged rather than whole field spraying when conditions warrant.

   WEED CONTROL AFTER ESTBLISHMENT PERIOD: Producers may not mow or spray during the wildlife-nesting period of March 1 through July 15. There is one exception: Producers may petition the Farm Service Agency County Committee for permission to mow or spray during the wildlife nesting period to control NOXIOUS weeds. Spot spraying will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
2. Protect filter strip from traffic, machinery, and damage from herbicides. Do not use as a roadway. Maintain established widths.
3. Control noxious and other undesirable weed species.
4. THERE WILL BE NO COSMETIC OR WHOLE FIELD MOWING. Mow cool season grasses no closer than 6" and warm season grasses no closer than 10".
5. Use herbicides on areas that can't be mowed. Follow all local, state and federal regulations and product label.
6. Control erosion where filter strips outlet into the watercourse.
7. Inspect and repair after storm events. Fill in gullies, remove flow disrupting sediment accumulation, reseed disturbed areas, and take other measures to prevent concentrated flow in the filter strip.