

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (608)

A surface drain, main or lateral is an open drainage ditch constructed to a designed size and grade that receives drainage waters from other drainage structures.

Practice Information

The purpose (s) of a main or lateral drainage ditch is to:

- dispose of excess surface and subsurface water,
- intercept and control groundwater levels,
- provide leaching of saline or alkali soils,
- provide a combination of these functions.

Sites for this practice are suitable for agriculture and have an outlet for the drainage water by either gravity or pumping.

This practice applies to ditches for disposal of surface and subsurface drainage water collected primarily by field ditches and subsurface drains.

A surface drain, main or lateral will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.



Common Associated Practices

A Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (608) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Surface Drain, Field Ditch (607), Subsurface Drain (606), Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), and Critical Area Planting (342).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.