



**Tennessee Job Sheet  
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)  
CP15B – Establishment of Permanent  
Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips),  
on Terraces**



Photo courtesy NRCS

**Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to establish strips of permanent vegetative cover on terraces to enhance water quality and reduce erosion. This practice is only applicable on terraces that are no longer under practice lifespan (older than 10 years) to ensure that the long term functions of the terrace are maintained. The purpose of this practice is not to develop or establish wildlife habitat, but wildlife concerns may be addressed in the established plant cover.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for this practice the land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 1996 – 2001). This practice shall be installed on terraces that NRCS determines are properly functioning but are no longer protected by practice lifespan to maintain the terrace, and not currently in a vegetative cover.

**General Provisions**

This practice is eligible in the Continuous CRP. Producers can enroll any time landowner and land eligibility requirements are met. Length of contract is 10 years.

Payments include annual rental payment based on a soil rental rate, an annual maintenance payment, and 50% cost share for installation of the practice.

**Specifications**

**SIZE REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum size for buffer strips on terraces will be the minimum size necessary to protect the terrace. The

minimum permanent vegetative cover area will include the terrace and terrace channel. Depending on the need and feasibility as determined by NRCS, a 10 foot buffer upslope of the bottom of the terrace channel and a 10 foot buffer down slope from the terrace toe of the backslope may be included in the cover establishment area.

The maximum width of this practice per terrace is 60 feet, including the allowed 20 foot of buffer areas.

**ESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Either introduced or native grass/legume mixtures may be established. A list of approved planting mixtures is available at the local USDA Service Center.

Temporary cover may be required to provide erosion control outside of planting dates or allow for locating seed sources.

Cost share will be based on a required current soil test (within 24 months). Native grass plantings do not require nitrogen fertilizer, or lime when soil pH is 5.5 or higher.

The no-till method of planting is recommended when applicable. If conventional tillage is used, a firm seedbed should be prepared by plowing or disking, rolling or cultipacking, broadcasting or drilling, and rolling or cultipacking again. Do not plant native grass seed deeper than ¼ inch deep and do not disk to cover seed that has been broadcast. Broadcast seeding of native fluffy seeds will require the use of a carrier such as cracked corn, pelleted lime or granular phosphorus or potassium.

Follow University of Tennessee recommendations for application of herbicides and pesticides.

The established planting must be maintained by the producer for the duration of the contract. Normal maintenance usually includes rotational mowing outside the primary nesting season (April 15-July 1), and may include periodic liming and fertilizing, spot spraying of noxious or competing weeds or trees, controlling herbicide drift when spraying crops, or other treatments required to maintain the established stand. Terrace breaks occurring during the contract period will require the re-establishment of the cover without cost share following terrace repair.

No mid-contract management treatments are required for this practice.