

Field Border – orchardgrass & clover

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

386(d)



Definition

Field borders are strips of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field. Vegetation consists of adapted grasses, legumes, and/or shrubs.

Purpose

A field border is used to reduce soil erosion from wind and water, protect soil and water quality, manage harmful insect populations, provide wildlife food and cover, increase carbon storage in biomass and soil and/or improve air quality.

Where used

Field borders are located at the edges of crop fields and can connect to other buffer practices within fields. They may also apply to recreational land or on other land where agronomic crops are grown.

Conservation Management System

Field borders are normally established as part of a conservation management system to address the soil, water, air, plant, and animal needs, including wildlife, and the owner's objectives. Field borders used with

contouring, contour stripcropping, cross-slope farming patterns, or terraces eliminate the normal planting of

end rows or headlands in uphill and downhill directions.

Field borders also provide a turning area for farm equipment, which reduces sheet, rill, and gully erosion. In addition, field borders can provide forage production and improve farm aesthetics. They are most effective when used in combination with other agronomic or structural practices to provide conservation benefits. **If enrolled in WHIP or CRP, borders shall not be used for forage, turn rows, roads, or for storage of crops or equipment.**

Wildlife

Field borders can enhance wildlife objectives. Benefits depend on the vegetative species used and management practiced. Use natural regeneration to provide food and cover for important wildlife species. Increase width, if needed to provide necessary protection for nesting animals from predators. Also increase width to protect wildlife if a (a non-CRP or WHIP) portion of the field border will be used for equipment movement or turn rows. Avoid mowing field borders between April 15th and August 15th which is the primary nesting season for ground-nesting birds and animals. When managing field borders for wildlife, never disturb (such as burning or disking) more than 50 percent of the field borders surrounding a field in any one year.

Specifications

Field borders are a minimum of 35 feet wide. Site-specific requirements including are listed on page 4 of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and the Virginia Field Border practice standard (386).

This mixture is specifically designed to benefit quail and turkey broods.

Planting Specifications

1. Legume mixtures will be seeded between February 1st and March 31st

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2. This legume mixture will include 10 lbs Korean lespedeza plus 1 lb partridgepea. 1 to 2 lbs ladino clover can be substituted for 1 to 2 lbs Korean lespedeza if pH is greater than 6.0.
3. Seed will conform to minimum state standards for purity, germination and other features. Seed tags and other information may be requested by NRCS representatives to verify contract compliance.
4. Soil amendments, when planned, shall be made according to Virginia Tech fertilizer recommendations. Nitrogen is not recommended on these plantings for field borders.
5. Competition control, seedbed preparation and seeding shall be done according to the following:

Competition Control Before Planting

Competition control is critical to ensuring a good stand of legumes. Conventional seedbed preparation, herbicide application or both may be used to control competition prior to planting.

Several steps are required to get successful competition control when using herbicide, especially on fescue stands. The first step in killing fescue is to mow the area in late summer for a fall herbicide burn down for a fall herbicide burn down. If possible after mowing and prior to herbicide application, remove the hay or prescribed burn to provide a better seed bed and allow for better herbicide contact with vegetation. (Hay removal is not allowed if the area is currently under a CRP contract.)

Seeding

Broadcast seeding in February or March is acceptable; however No-till establishment is the preferred method since soil disturbance is minimum, thus reducing weed competition and soil erosion. Conventional seeding may be used for establishment on areas that have been recently cropped where weedy competition will be lessened and on areas where the risk of soil erosion is minimal.

Operation and maintenance

Maintain in a legume mix border by spot treating invading woody plants.

Half of the borders should be light disked each year to stimulate seed set and reduce encroachment of undesirable plants.

Inspect and repair field borders after storms to fill in gullies, remove sediment, reseed disturbed areas, and take other measures to ensure the effectiveness of the border.

If the field border is being established under a program, the participant must follow management requirements as outlined in the program specific Management and Maintenance Job Sheet that is attached.



Table 1. This table contains several options for controlling competing, non-desirable vegetation during natural regeneration. If two burn downs are planned, records should indicate that the herbicide was applied to the field twice. All herbicides shall be applied and used according to label recommendations and may slightly differ from that listed below.

Option	Current Condition	Timing	Method
1 Single Burn Down	Grassland Or Cropland	Spring	<p>(This option should not be used when tall Fescue or Orchardgrass is the predominant cover. Two herbicide burndowns are required when Fescue is the predominant cover.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove excess vegetation in fall or winter. 2. Apply tank mixture after vegetation has grown 4 to 6 inches. <u>Tank Mixture: per acre in April – June</u> Apply 1.5 quarts glyphosate base product. May be tanked mixed with a glyphosate/imazameth mixture at a rate of 10.7 oz/acre. <p>If imazameth alone is available, it can be applied instead of the glyphosate/imazameth mixture at a rate of 4-8 oz per acre. Follow all label instructions.</p>
2 Two Burn Downs	Grassland	Fall And Spring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove excess vegetation in late summer (Aug./Sept.). 2. Apply tank mixture after vegetation has actively grown to 4 to 6 inches. <u>Tank Mixture: per acre in Sept./Oct.</u> 1 to 2 quarts glyphosate based product. Follow all label instructions. <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Apply tank mixture just prior to planting and after remaining vegetation grows 4 to 6 inches <u>Tank Mixture: per acre in April-June</u> Apply 1.5 quarts glyphosate based product. May be tank mixed with glyphosate/imazameth mixture at a rate of 10.7 oz/acre. If imazameth alone is available, it can be applied instead of the glyphosate/imazameth mixture at a rate of 4-8 oz per acre. Follow all label instructions.
3 Two Burn Downs	Grassland	Spring And Spring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove excess vegetation in fall or winter 2. Apply tank mixture after vegetation has actively grown 4 to 6 inches. <u>Tank mixture: per acre in April</u> 1 to 2 quarts glyphosate based product. <p>IF green-up occurs two to four weeks after initial spraying:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Apply tank mixture just prior to planting and after remaining vegetation grows at least 4 to 6 inches. <u>Tank mixture: per acre in April-June</u> Apply 1.5 quarts glyphosate based product. May be tank mixed with glyphosate/imazameth mixture at a rate of 10.7 oz/acre. If imazameth alone is available, it can be applied instead of the glyphosate/imazameth mixture at a rate of 4-8 oz per acre. Follow all label instructions.

*NRCS does not require specific herbicides by trade name and recommendations on herbicides and specifications on rate and timing should come from an extension agent.

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Legume Mixture Job Sheet 386(a)

<i>Landowner:</i>	<i>Farm #:</i>
<i>Field(s):</i>	<i>Tract #:</i>
<i>Designed By:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Drawing No(s):</i>	<i>Signature:</i>

Field Number	Field Border Width (ft) (minimum 35 ft)	Pre-Planting Application(s) [Tentative Date]	Comments	Cover crop & Rate (year 1 only)

Installation shall be in accordance with the specified drawings, specifications, and special requirements. **No changes are to be made in the drawings or specifications without prior approval from the technical specialist developing the plan.**

Sketch of Layout

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