

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Vegetated Treatment Area (635)

An area of permanent vegetation used for agricultural wastewater treatment.

Practice Information

Vegetated treatment areas are used to improve water quality by reducing loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with animal manure and other wastes and wastewater by treating agricultural wastewater and runoff from livestock holding areas. More than one treatment strip may be needed.

For the wastewater treatment strip to work properly, discharge to and through it must be in the form of sheet flow so that the discharge does not concentrate into channels. Some means, such as a ditch, curb, or gated pipe, is provided to disperse concentrated flow and ensure sheet flow across the width of the treatment strip.

Permanent herbaceous vegetation, consisting of a single species or a mixture of grasses, legumes, and/or other forbs adapted to the soil and climate, is established in the treatment strip. The vegetated treatment area must receive regular maintenance for it to operate as planned.



Common Associated Practices

Vegetated Treatment Area (635) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Waste Storage Facility (313), Waste Utilization (633), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Critical Area Planting (342), Nutrient Management (590), and Solid/Liquid Separation Facility (632).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.