Vegetative Barrier (601)

Vegetative barrier is a permanent strip of stiff, dense vegetation established along the general contour of slopes.

Practice Information

Vegetative barriers are used to reduce sheet and rill erosion, manage water flow, stabilize steep slopes, and trap sediment.

This practice applies to all eroding areas, including cropland, grazing land, forest land, farmsteads, mined land, and construction sites. A suitable outlet is needed below the barrier. Barriers are most effective on slopes of less than 10 percent.

Recommended plant species must be adapted to local soil and climate conditions; be easily established, long-lived, and manageable.

Common Associated Practices

Vegetative Barrier (601) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Integrated Pest Management (595), Nutrient Management (590), Crop Rotation (328), and Residue Management Practices.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.