

STRIPCROPPING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 585



STRIPCROPPING

Stripcropping is growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips in a field to reduce soil erosion, reduce particulate emissions into the air, and improve water quality.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used on cropland and certain recreation and wildlife lands where field crops are grown. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a clean tilled strip or a strip with less protective cover. Generally, the strip widths are equal across the field. On sloping land where sheet and rill erosion are a concern, the strips are laid out on the contour or across the general slope. Where wind erosion is a concern, the strips are laid out as close to perpendicular as possible to the prevailing erosive wind direction.

Stripcropping is a multipurpose practice that has one or more of the following effects:

- Reduced sheet and rill erosion
- Reduced wind erosion
- Increased infiltration, available soil water
- Reduced dust emissions into the air
- Improved water quality
- Improved visual quality of the landscape
- Improved wildlife habitat

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

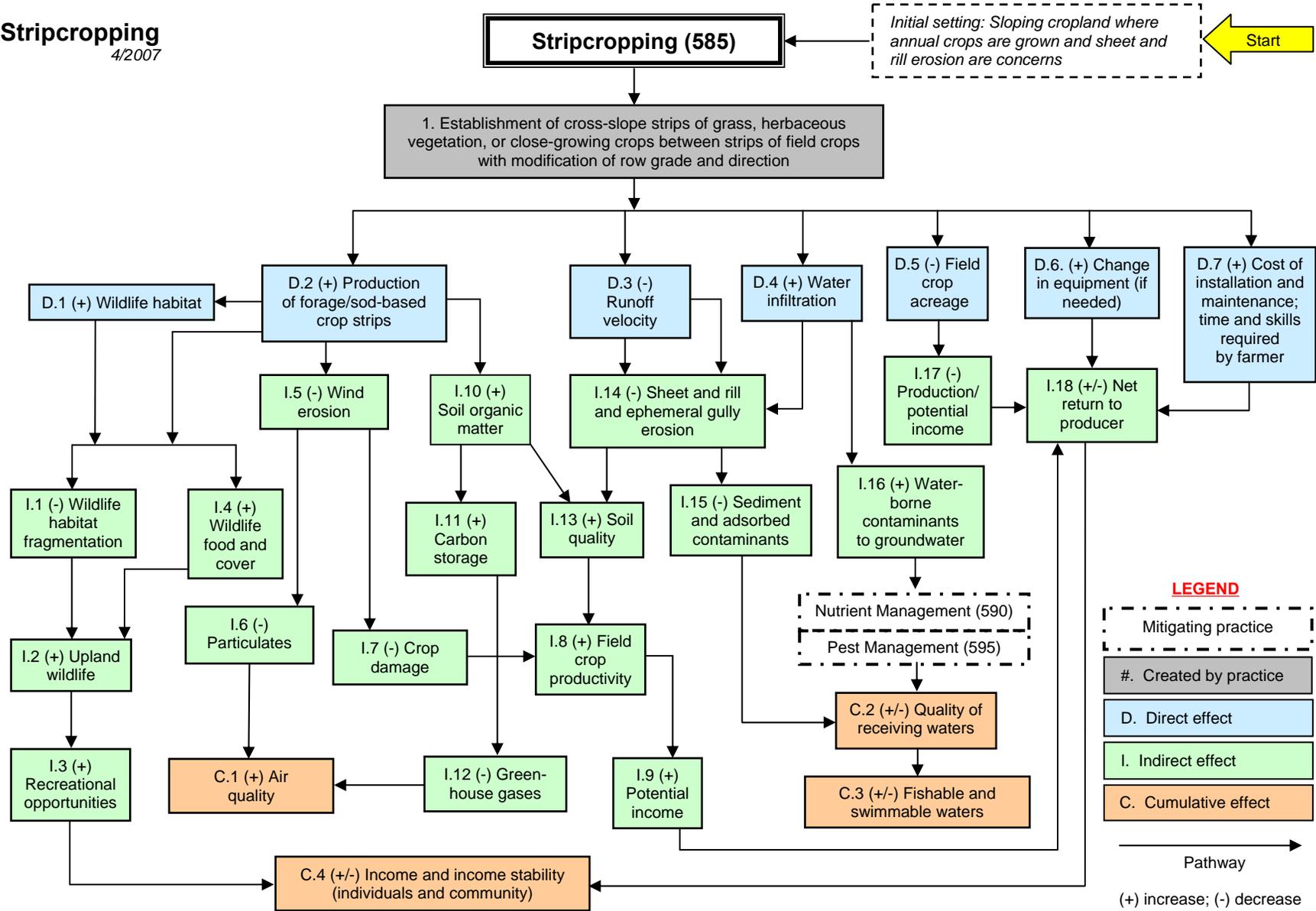
Stripcropping is commonly used as part of a Conservation Management System with Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), Diversion (362), Grassed Waterway (412), Underground Outlet (620), and other conservation practices.

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and job sheets.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.