



Plant Materials Fact Sheet

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Temple, TX

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CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS CONSERVATION PRACTICE 589C



DEFINITION

Cross wind trap strips (CWTS) are areas of vegetation planted in strips across a field perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. Grasses, legumes and forbs planted in various width strips can be used for CWTS.

PURPOSE

CWTS is a type of conservation buffer used to reduce soil erosion, intercept and trap wind borne materials and pollutants, protect crops from wind-borne soil, and provide wildlife habitat. These strips act as a barricade for wind blown soil particles, trapping them before they are allowed to reach sensitive areas or bodies of water.

Other practices that are closely related to and complement CWTS are crop residue management, contour buffer strips, field borders, filter

strips, grassed waterways and windbreaks/shelterbelts.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

- | Identify what you are trying to accomplish with this practice. (erosion control, crop protection, etc.)
- | Identify the season of use. (spring, summer, fall, winter, all year), The season(s) of use has an effect on whether cool season plants, warm season plants or a mix of both will give the best protection.
- | Identify environmental factors that will have an effect on installation. (soils, topography, precipitation, and seasonal temperatures)
- | Identify adapted plants that are available.

MANAGEMENT

Before establishment apply fertilizer and other soil amendments according to a soil test. Plant into a firm, weed-free seedbed. Inspect CWTS periodically to insure unwanted weed do not become a problem. Mowing or grazing should be scheduled to accommodate wildlife and to allow regrowth to a planned height before the critical wind period occurs. Trapped materials need to be removed and vegetation reestablished as necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the practice.

plant species and their use in cross wind trap strips.

The chart below identifies various plant materials and their use in CWTS.

Contact your local conservation district office for additional information related to the installation and management of each plant type and others that may be locally adapted.

The Plant Materials program has looked at several

PLANT SPECIES	WILDLIFE USE FOOD(F),COVER(C)	GROWING SEASON	RECOMMEND USES (SEE CODES BELOW)
Switchgrass	F,C	Warm	1,2,3,4,5,6
Eastern Gamagrass	F,C	W	1,2,4,5
Big Bluestem	C	W	1,2,4,5
Sideoats grama	F/C	W	1,2,3,4,9,10
Indiangrass	C	W	1,4,10
*Bermudagrass	C	W	1,2,3,4,5,6
*Old World Bluestem	C	W	1,4
*Tall Fescue	C	Cool	1,3,6
*Tall Wheatgrass	F,C	C	1,2,3,4,6
Maximillian sunflower	F,C	W	1,2,5
Canada Wildrye	F,C	C	1,2,5
Virginia Wildrye	F,C	C	1,2,5
*Bahigrass	C	W	1,5,9
Plains Bristlegrass	F,C	W	3,6,10
*Dallisgrass	F,C	W	1,2,4,5,8
Partridgepea	F/C	W	1,2,4,10,11
Illinois Bundleflower	F	C	1,5,6,10
Wheat	F	C	1,11
Oats	F	C	1,11
Millet	F,C	W	1,10,11

* Denotes an introduced species.

*1 - Different ecotypes of the same species may have different use codes check local guides for final use.

Recommended Use Codes

- 1 = Nitrogen Uptake
- 2 = Phosphorus Uptake
- 3 = Saline/Alkaline Soils

- 4 = Sediment Retention
- 5 = Adapted for Use Along Streams
- 6 = Adapted to High Water Tables
- 7 = Flood Tolerant
- 8 = Shade Tolerant
- 9 = Resistant to Traffic
- 10 = Drought Tolerant
- 11 = Annual Crop



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