

**VEGETATED FILTER STRIP****DEFINITION AND PURPOSE:**

Vegetated buffers are areas of natural or established vegetation maintained to protect the water quality of neighboring areas. Buffer zones slow stormwater runoff, provide an area where runoff can permeate the soil, contribute to ground water recharge, and filter sediment. Slowing runoff also helps to prevent soil erosion and streambank collapse.

APPROPRIATE APPLICATIONS:

Vegetated buffers can be used in any area able to support vegetation. They are most effective and beneficial on floodplains, near wetlands, along streambanks, and on unstable slopes. Filter strips can be used adjacent to low or medium density residential areas on gently sloping ground.

CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE USE:

Type of Flow: Overland sheet flow only-cannot treat high velocity flows.

WHEN BMP IS TO BE INSTALLED:

Immediately after rough grading to trap sediment during construction and/or immediately after final grading as a permanent measure to control surface runoff.

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

Determine buffer widths after carefully considering slope, vegetation, soils, depth to impermeable layers, runoff sediment characteristics, type and amount of pollutants, and annual rainfall. Make sure buffer widths increase as slope increases. In areas where flows are more concentrated and fast, combine buffer zones with other practices such as level spreaders, infiltration areas, or diversions to prevent erosion and rilling. Fence off any undisturbed vegetated strips to be preserved. No activity, including parking/storing vehicles or equipment, shall be permitted in the vegetated/woody strip. If a grass filter strip is constructed, it must be completed and vegetated before construction in a contributing area is started.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES:

Inspect every week and after every ½” storm event. Remove sediment accumulation as it becomes noticeable. Fill and compact eroded areas and reseed, mulch and fertilize or establish other vegetation in the affected areas. After improvements are complete, regrade and reseed the top edge of the filter strip to remove sediment trapped during construction and prolong the effective use of the filter strip.

SITE CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL:

Not Applicable

TYPICAL DETAILS:

SC-1.1 and SC-1.2