

# HERBACEOUS WIND BARRIERS

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 603



### HERBACEOUS WIND BARRIERS

Herbaceous wind barriers are narrow strips of grass or other non-woody species established at designed intervals across the field and perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used primarily on cropland but may be applicable on wildlife, recreation, or other landuses where crops are grown.

Herbaceous wind barriers are multi-purpose and provide one or more of the following:

1. Reduce soil erosion from wind.
2. Protect growing crops from damage by wind and wind blown soil.
3. Manage snow to increase plant available moisture.
4. Provide food and cover for wildlife.

The barriers may consist of perennial or annual plants. Specie selection are based on the following characteristics:

1. Adaptation to the site.
2. Erect non-spreading growth habit.
3. Resistance to lodging.
4. Good leaf retention characteristics.
5. Compatibility and minimum competition with adjacent crops.

The barriers may consist of a single row providing no significant gaps are present after establishment. Generally, two or more narrow spaced rows are planted to provide extra support. Barrier height and spacing is based on the specie to be planted and the purpose of installing the practice. For this practice to be fully effective, a site specific plan, design, and set of specifications are needed.