

Vegetated Buffer Strips

Code of Practice

GUIDANCE FOR ACHIEVING GOOD PRACTICE

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This Vegetated Buffer Strips Code of Practice is designed to assist growers to make decisions related to installing and maintaining effective vegetated buffer strips.

Vegetated buffer strips on cultivated cropping land, also referred to as filter strips and riparian buffers (if next to a waterway), are a sediment mitigation measure generally suited to flatter land.

With proper implementation and maintenance, strips of vegetation – typically grass - can reduce the volume of soil moving off farm and into waterways. By increasing infiltration, reducing the velocity of runoff water, and filtration by plant material, buffer strips can reduce sediment loss. Buffer strips also can reduce nutrient and pesticide contamination in the receiving environment.

This buffer strip CoP steps through:

- Paddock assessment to evaluate erosion risk
- Recommends control measures based on the level of risk
- Details how to install and maintain buffer strips.

The buffer strip CoP includes links to the NZGAP environmental management system (EMS) and to the erosion rate calculator.

FIND OUT MORE

The Vegetated Buffer Strips code of practice is supported by a technical review. Both the CoP and the technical report are available on the VR&I website (vri.org.nz). It can easily be found under the 'Featured Research' page or by using the keyword search "buffer".