

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Row Arrangement (557)

Row arrangement is a system of crop rows established on planned grades and lengths for erosion control and/or water management.

Practice Information

The purpose of this practice is to establish rows in the appropriate direction, grade, and length to provide adequate drainage, reduce erosion, control runoff water, and permit optimum use of rainfall and irrigation water.

Row arrangement utilizes furrows to slow runoff and allow more moisture to infiltrate the soil. Arranging rows on the contour can increase erosion if the rainfall amount exceeds the ability of the contours to control runoff. Therefore, this practice is usually planned in conjunction with other practices needed for support in the event that runoff exceeds the carrying capacity of the contours.

Local standards and specifications generally cover the alignment requirements when planned and applied with common associated practices; alignment requirements when contour farming is applied without protection from supporting practices; and established tolerance for deviation from true contour, row grade, and row length.



Row arrangement will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

Row Arrangement (557) is commonly applied with conservation practices, such as Grassed Waterway (412), Underground Outlet (620), Lined Waterway or Outlet (468), Terrace (600), and Diversion (362).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.