

## Conservation Practice Standard Overview

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### Cross Wind Ridges (588)

Cross wind ridges are formed by tillage, planting, or other operations; and aligned across the direction of erosive winds.

#### Practice Information

Best adapted to soils with sufficient amounts of clay to produce stable soil clods and ridges, cross wind ridges reduce wind velocity and turbulence near the soil surface.

Conservation benefits include:

- reduced soil erosion from wind
- protection of growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles
- reduced airborne particulate matter (dust)

Cross wind ridges are established and maintained by normal tillage and planting equipment such as chisel plows, drills with hoe openers, and similar implements that form effective ridges.

The ridges must be maintained through the major wind erosion season or until growing crops provide enough cover to protect the soil from wind erosion.

Ridges formed with soils such as sands, loamy sands, and certain organic soils will deteriorate quickly and shorten the protection



period and are therefore not well adapted to the establishment of cross wind ridges.

Specifications for establishment and maintenance of cross wind ridges vary by soil, climate, crop, and crop management operations.

#### Common Associated Practices

Cross Wind Ridges (588) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Conservation Cropping Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (346), and Residue Management, Seasonal (344).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.