



### EQIP 391-Riparian Forest Buffer PRACTICE GUIDELINES

#### EQIP FY 2009 Scenario:

- Site prep, plant trees/shrubs (for riparian forest buffer); or,
- Site prep, plant trees/shrubs w/staked tree tubes (for riparian forest buffer)

Practice Life: 15 years

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

EQIP Contract Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Reduce excess amounts of sediment, organic material, nutrients and pesticides in surface runoff and reduce excess nutrients and other chemicals in shallow ground water flow.

#### Conditions for practice eligibility:

- Riparian forest buffer(s) will be applied adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams, ditches, wetlands, or other water bodies on crop, pasture, or hay land to improve surface water and/or shallow groundwater quality.

#### Minimum Practice Requirements:

- Practice must meet North Carolina NRCS Riparian Forest Buffer (391) standard
- Review of riparian forest buffer planting and site preparation specifications by a professional forester is required, if the planner does not have appropriate design or construction job approval authority.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least \$1000.

#### Considerations

- Tree and shrub species, which may be alternate hosts to undesirable pests, should be avoided. Species diversity should be considered to avoid loss of function due to species-specific pests. Native trees are preferred.
- Allelopathic impacts of selected plant materials should be considered.
- The location, layout and density of the buffer should complement natural features, and mimic natural riparian forests.
- For sites where continued function of tile drains is desired, woody root penetration may eventually plug the underground tile. Drain tile lines should be replaced with rigid non-perforated pipe.
- Buffer widths may be increased to enhance wildlife benefits. **(The maximum width for buffers shall not exceed 180 feet).**
- Continuous CRP/CREP should be considered during the planning phase, if the EQIP participant's objectives and resource concerns meet those program requirements.

#### EQIP Practice Certification

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ acres (nearest 0.1 ac.) of Riparian Forest Buffer have been completed per these practice guidelines and NC NRCS 391-Riparian Forest Buffer standard.

Designated Conservationist \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Certification/Comments
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