



Conservation Practice Standard Overview

September 2016

Constructed Wetland (Code 656)

An artificial wetland ecosystem with hydrophytic vegetation for biological treatment of water.

Practice Information

Constructed wetlands are used to treat wastewater and contaminated runoff from agricultural processing, livestock, and aquaculture facilities or for improving the quality of storm water or other water flows.



For the constructed wetland to work properly, inlet control is provided to prevent debris from entering the wetland, and outlet control is provided to maintain appropriate water depths for wetland vegetation and the design hydraulic retention time.

For waste management systems, a constructed wetland is considered a discharging practice, and therefore, the discharge must either be captured elsewhere in the wastewater treatment system or discharged to the ecosystem in a manner consistent with discharge permit requirements.

Wetland plants are established that are suitable for local climatic conditions and tolerant of the contaminated flow the wetland is designed to attenuate. Invasive or nonnative species that could become a problem in the native habitat are not used.

A constructed wetland will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

Constructed Wetland (Code 656) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Waste Storage Facility (Code 313), Waste Recycling (Code 633), Nutrient Management (Code 590), and Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (Code 632).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.