EC63-145 What is Wind Strip Cropping?

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Advantages of Strip Cropping

1. Reduces wind erosion.
2. Helps to maintain soil productivity.
3. Makes possible a summer fallow system of farming in areas which could not otherwise be profitably farmed.
4. Aids in preventing crops from being blown out.
5. Increases moisture for crops by trapping winter snow and checking runoff.

Where Is Wind Strip Cropping Done in Nebraska?

In the western and northern parts of the state.

Conservation Education Publications

The following circulars form the conservation education series.
EC 63-139 What Causes Soil Erosion?
EC 63-140 Kinds of Erosion
EC 63-141 What Causes Gullies?
EC 63-142 Can Gullies Be Controlled?
EC 63-143 What Is a Terrace?
EC 63-144 What Is a Grassed Waterway?
EC 63-145 What Is Wind Strip Cropping?
EC 63-146 How Should Farm Ponds Be Managed?
EC 63-147 Conservation Practices in Eastern Nebraska
EC 63-148 Conservation Practices in Western Nebraska
EC 63-149 Conservation Practices in the Sandhills
EC 63-150 Shelterbelts?
EC 63-151 Who Helps Nebraskans With Soil and Water Conservation?
EC 63-152 Grass in Soil and Water Conservation
EC 63-153 Stubble Mulch
EC 63-154 Conservation Rotation
EC 63-155 Bench Leveling

What Is Wind Strip Cropping?

By Harold H. Gilman

Wind strip cropping consists of long, rather narrow strips of crops planted crosswise of the direction of the prevailing winds. Example:
1st strip—corn
2nd strip—wheat or fallow
3rd strip—corn
4th strip—wheat or fallow
What Is the Purpose of Wind Strip Cropping?

1. To control wind erosion.

How Wide Is Each Strip?

1. It depends on the type of soil. On sandy soil strips may vary from 5 to 8 rods wide (less than one half of a city block). On loam and clay soils strips may be wider, 8 to 15 rods (about two thirds of a city block).

Are Any Other Conservation Practices Used With Wind Strip Cropping?

1. Stubble mulch farming should always be used. Don’t burn or plow under small grain stubble but keep as much as possible of the crop residue on or near the surface of the soil.

2. Field shelterbelts are sometimes used with field strip cropping.