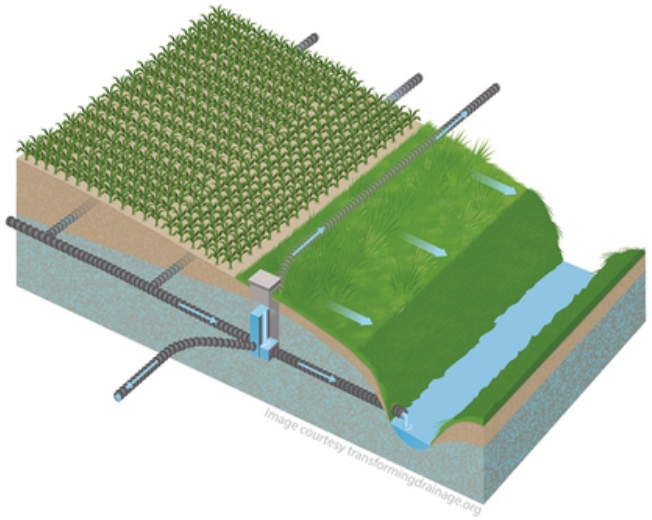
ADMC Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition

FACT SHEET

Saturated Buffer

ABOUT

Saturated Buffers utilize the organic matter in the soil profile of a vegetated filter strip located between a field edge and a stream to remove nitrogen from tile water. To accomplish this a control structure is used to divert a portion of the tile flow into a distribution tile that runs parallel to a stream.



Saturated Buffer Schematic

BASICS

Site requirements

Generally operate on drainage systems with

- 6-12 inch mains
- At least 30 feet of perennial vegetation
- At least 1.2% of soil organic matter
- No sand lenses or gravel layers
- Stable stream banks

Footprint

The control structure is installed on the main near the field edge in the filter strip. The below ground distribution line runs 500 - 1,000 ft.

Performance

- 45% average nitrate-N load reduction

Management

Saturated buffers require minimum maintenance as many sites do not require active management of stop logs. Flat sites may require changing the stop logs 2 - 3 times a year.

45% Average nitrate-N load reduction

Installation cost range from **$5,000-$8,000**

- Wildlife habitat
- Water storage

INTERACT WITH ADMC

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[NRCS CPS 604 Saturated Buffer]