

Saturated Buffer Fact Sheet

ADMC
Agricultural Drainage Management
Coalition

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 transported 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.



45% Average
nitrate-N load
reduction



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



- Water quality
- Water storage
- Habitat

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

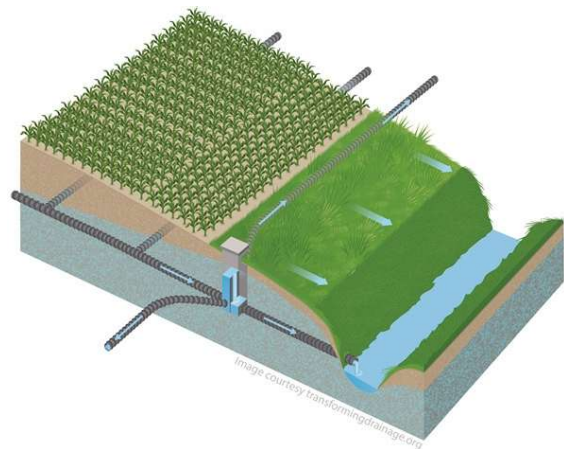
Footprint

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.

Maintenance

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.

Saturated Buffer Schematic



Interact with ADMC



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For more information visit us at
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