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EC165 Revised 1950 Grass Down Field Waterways

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Grass Down Field Waterways

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The Soil Conservation Service, U.S.D.A., The Extension Service,
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United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating
November, 1950

E.C. 165 (Revised)

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



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Grass Down Field Waterways

in the Bromegrass Area of the State

D. E. Hutchinson and O. J. McDougal, Jr.

PREPARE THE WATERWAY



Smooth the steep banks of the gully with a blade, plow or disc. Harrow diagonally with a spike-tooth harrow. Shape the bottom in a broad curve. If smoothing is not necessary, subtile or disc. Make the waterway 2 to 5 rods wide.

Build dikes with a plow or blade along the sides to keep out runoff water until grass is established. If possible, make the dike by throwing the dirt up from below.



MANURE

Apply manure to the waterway and disc it into the seedbed.

SEED

On good land, drill or broadcast 25 to 30 pounds of brome grass, 4 to 6 pounds of alfalfa and 2 pounds of red clover per acre.

On sloping and badly eroded land, plant 25 to 30 pounds of brome grass and western wheatgrass or brome grass and intermediate wheatgrass, and 4 to 6 pounds of alfalfa and 2 pounds of red clover per acre. Include small amounts (1 to 2 pounds) of Reed's canarygrass and switchgrass on wet or poorly drained areas. The switchgrass should be seeded in the spring.

Seed August 1 to September 15 (fall seeding), or March 15 to April 15 (spring seeding), on a firm, manured seedbed.



PACK AND MULCH



Use a land roller or treader after seeding and apply a mulch of corn cobs, manure or straw.





REPAIR WITH SOD

The best and cheapest way to control small gullies is to repair damage with chunks of sod as shown at the left. Set the sod pieces well so that the grass roots can grow and tie the sod down. Sloughgrass or Reed's canarygrass sod is desirable.

MAINTAIN

Control weeds by mowing 4 to 6 inches high, and often.

Raise tillage implements when crossing the waterway.

Repair at once by sodding or reseeding any breaks that occur in the grass.

Level the dikes with a blade, plow, or disc when the grass is established.

Do not use waterways for roads or stock lanes.

Harvest the grass for hay or seed.

When waterway is completed, it will serve as a terrace outlet.

Top dress annually with nitrogen fertilizer or manure in the late fall or early spring.

