

# Harvestable Buffer Fact Sheet

**Harvestable  
Buffers  
Provide Both  
Farming and  
Environmental  
Benefits**



Orchardgrass and alfalfa harvestable buffer planted by Century Acres. Photo taken May 4, 2023.

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## What is a Harvestable Buffer?

A harvestable buffer is a strip of vegetation that can be harvested and utilized for farming while also protecting waterways through the capture of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides.

## Why Plant a Harvestable Buffer?

Oftentimes, fields along waterways are too wet for adequate planting and growth of cash crops. By planting grass vegetation in these areas instead, there can be a reduction in soil and nutrient loss from the adjacent field and a decrease in the amount of runoff getting into streams, lakes, wetlands, and other sensitive areas. The vegetation planting can then be harvested while keeping valuable land in production.

## Things to Consider When Planting a Harvestable Buffer

- Identify areas along your waterways that may be under producing compared to other areas/fields
- Determine what harvestable vegetation would also benefit your farm