

### Reference 11

Zheng, YL; Wang, HY; Qin, QQ; Wang, YG 2020 Effect of plant hedgerows on agricultural non-point source pollution: a meta-analysis ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLLUTION RESEARCH, 27(20), 24831-24847. 10.1007/s11356-020-08988-7

### Background and objective

Plant hedgerow is an important measure to prevent soil erosion and reduce agricultural non-point source pollution. To explore the influence of plant hedgerows on soil nutrients.

### Search strategy and selection criteria

The authors conducted a detailed screening of research papers published in peer-reviewed journals from 1980 until March 2020 by searching the keywords "hedgerow" or "barrier strip" or "living hedge" or "buffer strip" or "filter strip" and "soil," on the Web of Science, China National Knowledge Internet and Wanfang Data. 1) At least one plant hedgerow was used to control agricultural agricultural non-point source pollution (NPSP); 2) The same response variables were compared between the treatments with or without plant hedgerows (control); 3) The treatment with plant hedgerows and the control were performed under the same environmental conditions; 4) The number of replicates was reported; 5) If the data were repeatedly stated, only one of the values was selected; 6) data on soil organic matter (SOM), total N (TN), total P (TP), total K (TK), alkali N (AN), available P (AP), and readily available K (AK) were available for the treatments with or without plant hedgerows.

### Data and analysis

Analyses were conducted in the Stata 15.1 statistical software, with the mean, SD and sample size as inputs. The confidence interval (CI) was set to 95%, and the standardized mean difference (SMD) was used as the statistical indicator of the effect. Before combining the analysis of SMD, the chi-square Q-test and statistic I<sub>2</sub> are usually used for the heterogeneity test.

| Number of papers | Population | Intervention | Comparator   | Outcome  | Quality score |
|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--|---------------|
| 53               | Croplands  | Hedgerows    | No hedgerows | Metric: Soil organic matter content; Effect size: Standardized difference of the considered metrics between intervention and control | 81.25         |

### Results

- The combined effect size is 1.46 (95% CI 1.12 – 1.80 > 0). Thus, plant hedgerows can effectively increase SOM content.
- This analysis featured differences in terms of the study areas, plant hedgerow types, slopes and experimental and statistical methods.

### Factors influencing effect sizes

- No factors influencing effect sizes to report

### Conclusion

Plant hedgerows can effectively increase soil organic matter content.