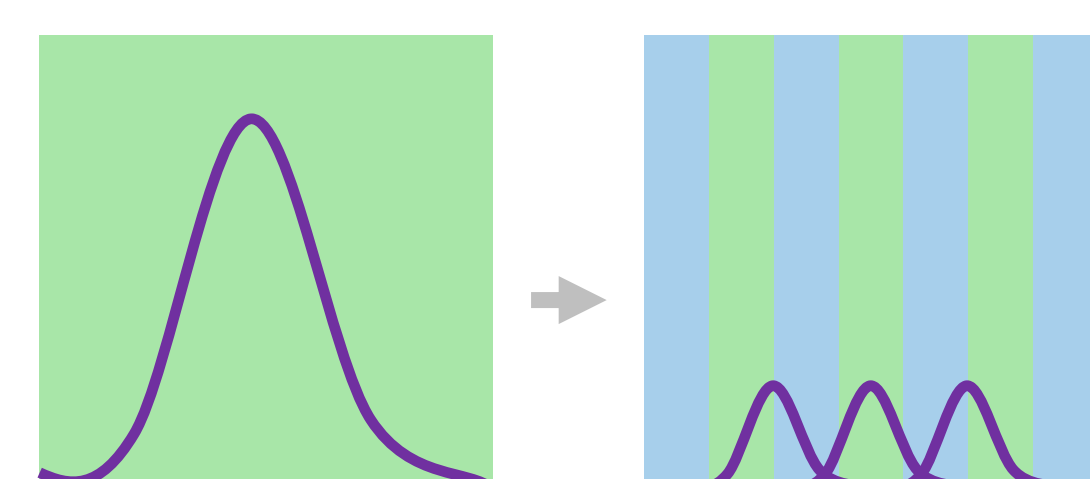
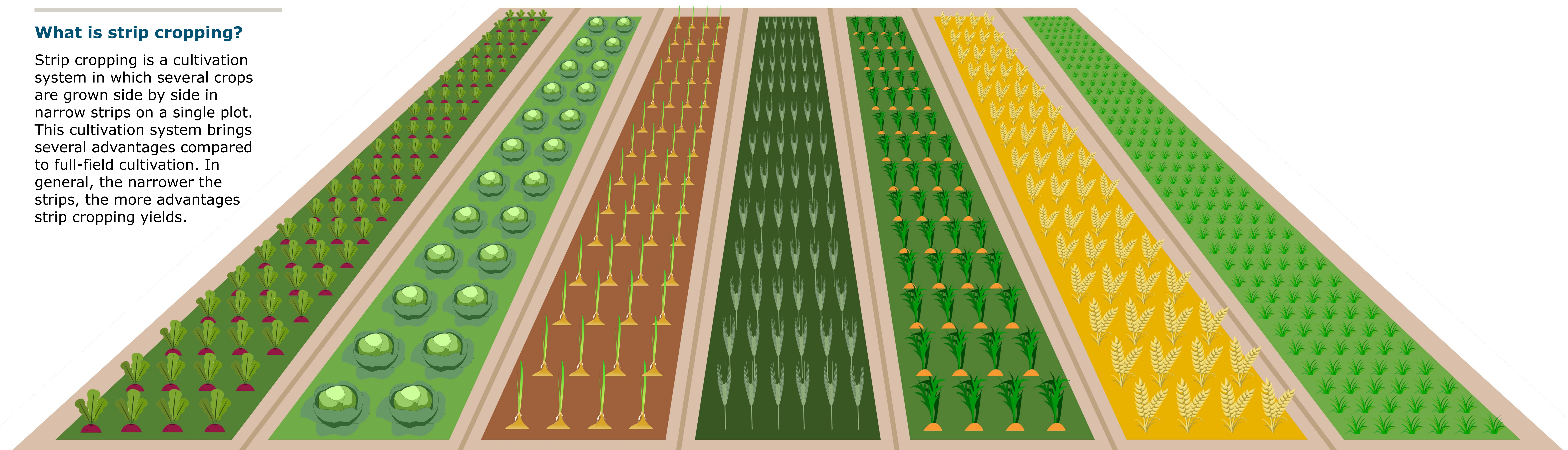


Advantages of strip cropping

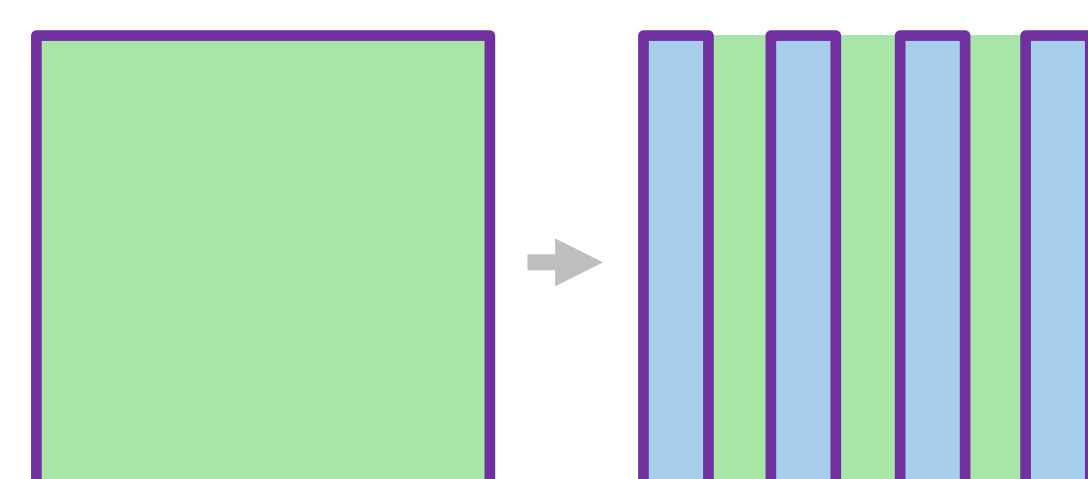
What is strip cropping?

Strip cropping is a cultivation system in which several crops are grown side by side in narrow strips on a single plot. This cultivation system brings several advantages compared to full-field cultivation. In general, the narrower the strips, the more advantages strip cropping yields.



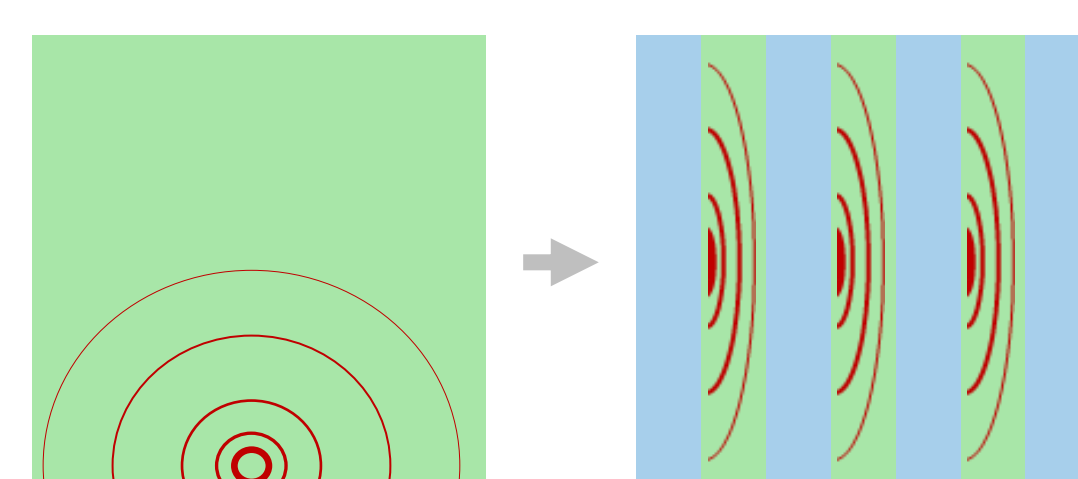
Robust crops

By growing multiple crops on one plot, you spread production risks. The result is less variable yield and therefore a more robust crop.



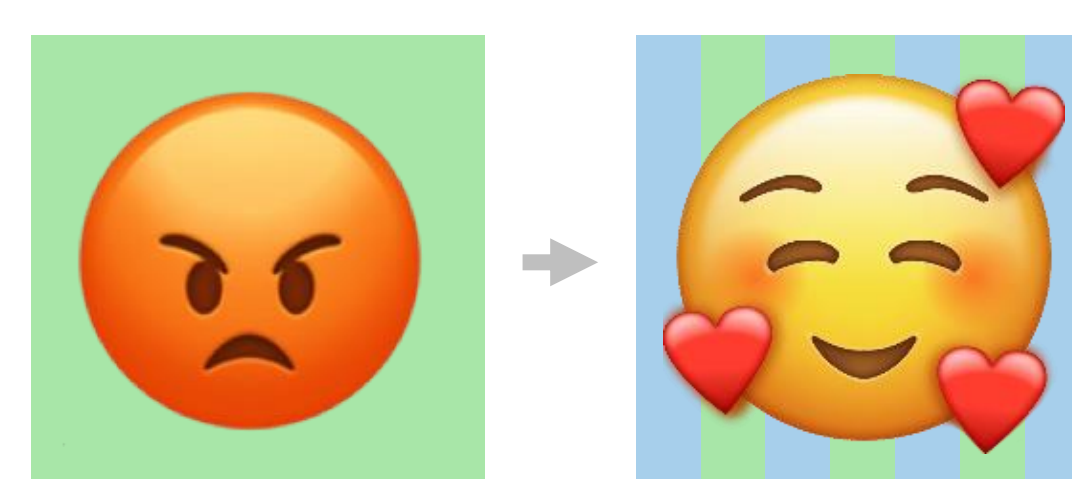
Biodiversity

Crop diversity in strip cropping increases biodiversity in the field. In strip cropping, crops in the field are sown and harvested at different times, so there is always food and shelter for birds, insects and other animals.



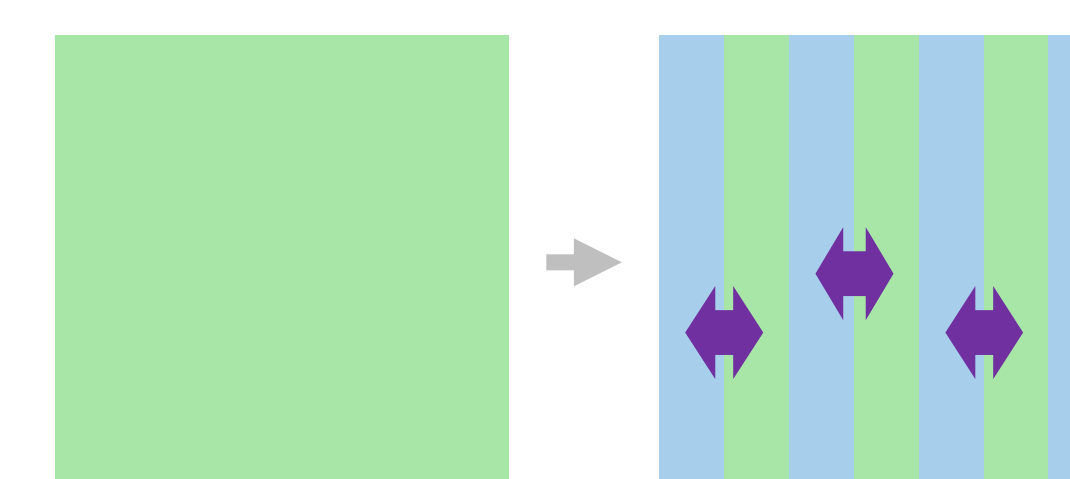
Natural pest control

In full-field cultivation, natural enemies of pests have to come from the field edges. It then takes a long time for them to cover the whole field. In strip cropping, natural enemies can migrate from a neighbouring strip to the strip with a pest. This provides faster natural pest control and less pest pressure.



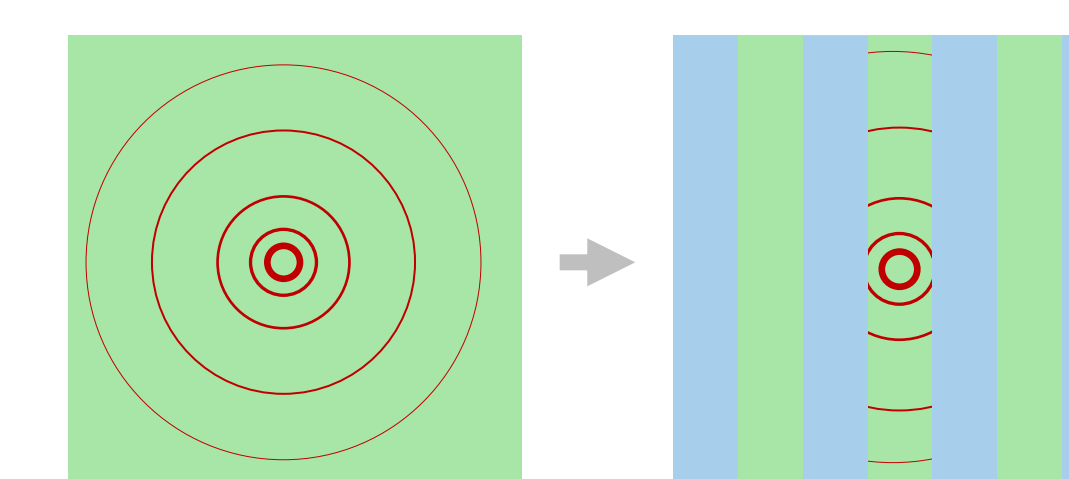
Society

The variety of crops in one field looks nice. There is always something to see. Farmers often get positive comments about their strip cropping plots, for instance from consumers and passers-by. This creates a connection between producers and consumers.



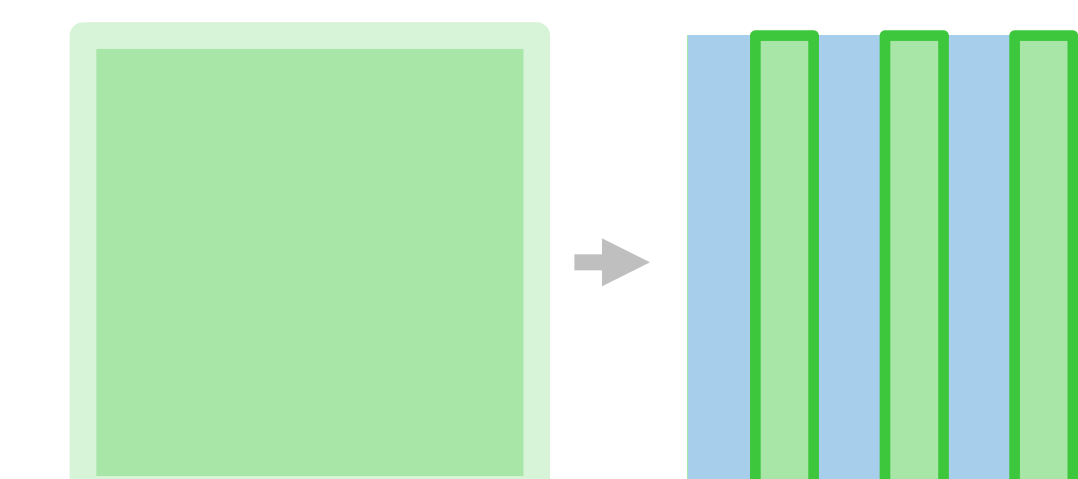
Soil & mechanisation

Over het algemeen is de gebruikte mechanisatie in strokenteelt lichter, wordt de grond minder intensief bewerkt (bv. niet ploegen) of kan er gereden worden over naburige stroken met begroeiing (denk aan grasklaver of graanstoppel). Deze maatregelen hebben een positief effect op bodemverdichting en het bodemleven.



Disease management

Alternating susceptible and non-susceptible crops in one field ensures slower spread of diseases through the field. Non-susceptible crops form a barrier to the pathogens. The pathogens still spread within the strip, but more slowly between strips.



Yield

Especially in very narrow strips, the strong crop interaction can provide higher crop yields. In wider strips, yields are similar to full-field cultivation. However, for some crops such as faba beans and organic potatoes, higher yields have also been measured in wider strips.

