

Water Runs and Saline Areas *Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)*

Establishment of perennial forages in water runs, saline areas, or saline recharge zones can protect against erosion, increase productivity, reduce the size of saline areas, and increase soil carbon.

HOW TO START A WATER RUN OR SALINE AREA PROJECT

- Seed the area with tame or native forage seed.
- You may consider using an inoculant to improve germination success.
- You may consider doing soil testing to support your management plan.
- If testing shows that it's warranted, you may consider using Ag Lime.

Note: You may wish to consult an accredited technical advisor (e.g. Professional Agrologist, P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor, CCA) to develop or support your management plans.

Management Benefits

Salinity Management

- Deep-rooted grasses absorb excess soil moisture, lowering the water table and mitigating salinity.
- Enhances the soil's ability to retain nutrients by preventing leaching.

Erosion Control

- The establishment of grassed waterways and strips minimizes soil erosion caused by water runoff.
- Protects valuable topsoil, preserving soil structure and fertility.

Water Quality Improvement

- Filter strips and grassed waterways act as natural filters, reducing sediment and pollutants in runoff.
- Improves the quality of water entering streams and water bodies.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

- Native grasses provide habitat and food sources for various wildlife species.
- Contributes to the promotion of biodiversity on the farm.

Stabilization of Water Channels

- Grassed waterways stabilize water channels, reducing the risk of channel erosion during heavy rainfall.
- Prevents gullies and enhances overall waterway stability.

Key Considerations

Site Assessment

- Conduct a thorough assessment of the farm's topography, soil type, and drainage patterns.
- Identify areas prone to salinity and erosion to determine suitable locations for grassed waterways or strips.

Species Selection

- Choose grass species adapted to the local climate, soil conditions, and water availability.
- Select deep-rooted varieties for effective salinity management and erosion control.

Seeding Methods

- Determine the most appropriate seeding method, whether broadcast seeding, drilling, or other techniques.
- Ensure good seed-to-soil contact for optimal germination and establishment.

Maintenance and Monitoring

- Establish a maintenance plan for ongoing weed control and erosion prevention.
- Regularly monitor the health and effectiveness of grassed areas, making adjustments as needed.

Start a Project Today

1-866-310-RALP
info@RALP.ca



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