

# Grass Strips and Waterways

## Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

**Grass Strips or Waterways** involve the establishment of perennial forages in water runs, saline areas, or saline recharge zones. This project type can protect against erosion, increase productivity, reduce the size of saline areas, and increase soil carbon.

## HOW TO IMPLEMENT GRASS STRIPS AND WATERWAYS

- Seed the area with tame or native forage seed.
- An inoculant may be used to improve germination success.
- Soil testing can improve management and outcomes.
- If warranted and backed up by soil testing, you may apply 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

- Minimizes soil erosion caused by water runoff.
- Protects valuable topsoil, preserving soil structure and fertility.

### Water Quality Improvement

- Grass strips and 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.
- Supports local biodiversity.

### Reduced Input Costs

- Grass 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 topography, soil type, and drainage patterns at the site.
- 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**

