Mole Drainage

Mole drainage refers to a mechanical process that is employed on heavy clay soils that have inherently low permeability. This technique allows these soils to be drained successfully and more economically than a pipe only drainage system.

A mole plough consists of a round steel bar, (foot), 50mm in diameter attached to a blade that allows the foot to be towed parallel to the surface 450mm deep. Directly behind the foot is 75mm diameter tapered section, (expander), that smoothes and compacts the channel.

The mole drains, spaced 2 metres apart, collect water from the surface and empty into collector drains with gravel backfill, spaced at intervals across the paddock. Although the principal is very simple, mole drainage requires strict adherence to certain rules if they are to be used successfully and efficiently in your drainage program.

The timing of installation of mole drains is critical. Late spring is generally best because of the plastic sub-soil for channel formation and the drier top soil for cracking. Grading and orientation of moles is site specific, but channels should always follow regular, even gradients and avoid flat or negative falls. Distance between collector pipes should be limited to 60 - 80 metres.

Well installed mole drains can have life spans in excess of 5 years.

For more information, contact Richard Gloyne on the numbers listed.

Cross section showing mole channel and leg slit to surface.

more grass  less mud ...  guaranteed

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