

Why Drain ?

Fact Sheet # 1

Effect of Excessive Soil Water

In a fertile soil the balance between air and water must be suitable for healthy root development in order to maintain economic crop production. Some crops are particularly sensitive and can be killed even during periods of saturation as short as 24 hours.

Excessive soil water will :

Restrict aeration of the soil. This denies the soil micro-organisms and plant roots the oxygen needed for respiration, and induces the accumulation of toxic substances which are harmful to the plant.

Retard the rise in soil temperature in spring, a critical growth stage, when all crops respond to warmer soil temperatures.

Lower the bearing capacity of the soil. This can result in either cultivations being delayed or soil being damaged by cultivation under the wrong conditions. In addition soil structure is damaged by pugging.

Aggravate nitrogen deficiency in crops and pastures.

Limit depth of root penetration, thereby reducing the crop's resistance to drought.

The Need For Artificial Drainage

In naturally well drained soils, good permeability allows water to move freely through the soil, allowing excess water to escape. In soils which have physical limitations restricting permeability, such as clayey soil, or where the water table rises too near the surface, it is necessary to provide control by artificial drainage.

Field drainage systems are **designed to control the soil water regime to the limits appropriate to the soil type and the range of crops grown.**



more grass less mud ... guaranteed

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