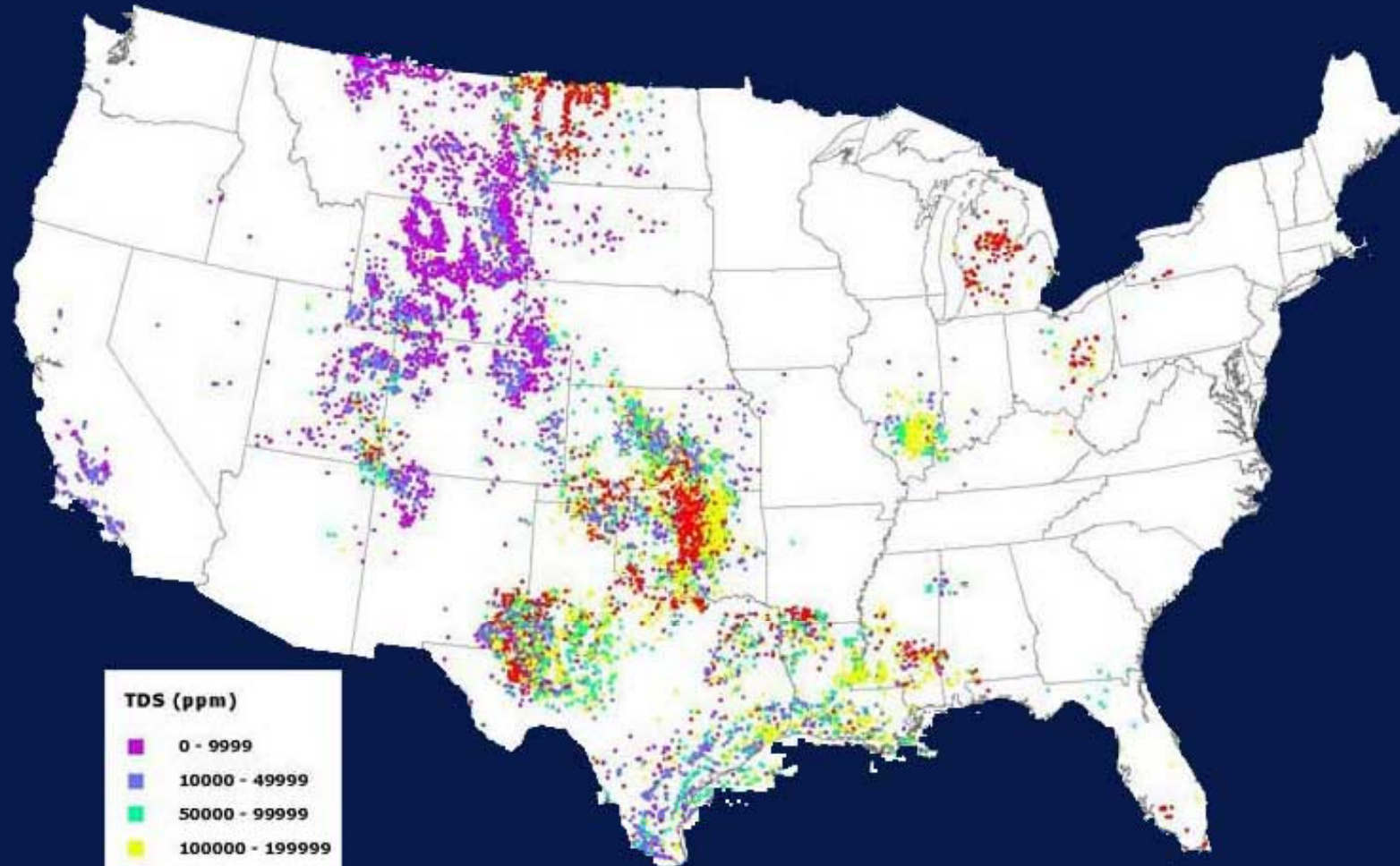


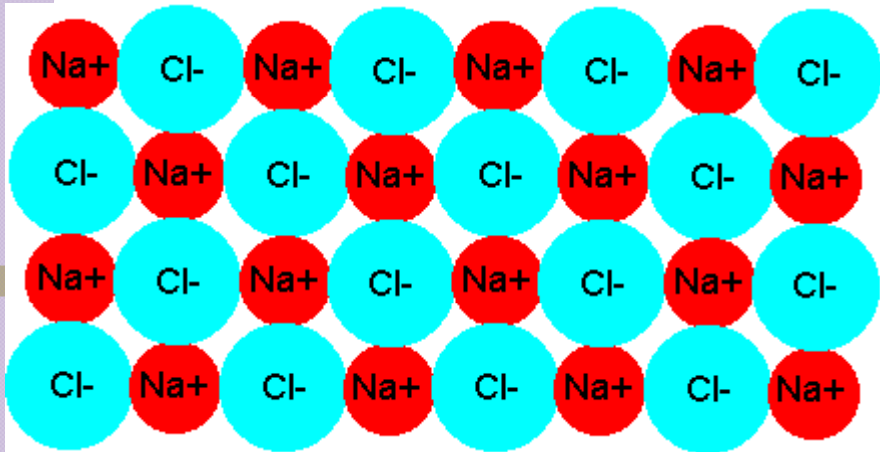
Remediation of Brine Impacted Soils



Most of the TDS (total dissolved solids) are salts

*Total Dissolved Solids from the Produced Waters Database
in the United States*

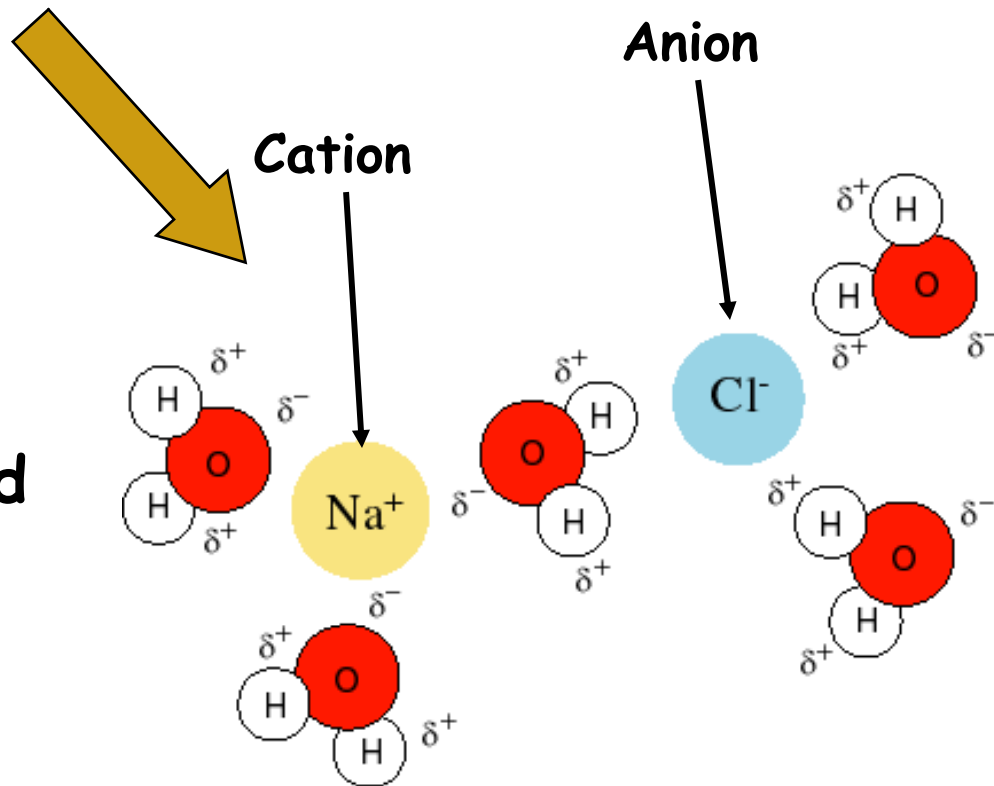




NaCl crystals



NaCl dissolved
in water as
ions



Principal cations and anions in produced water

Cations	Anions
Na ⁺ Sodium	Cl ⁻ Chloride
K ⁺ Potassium	HCO ₃ ⁻ Bicarbonate
Ca ⁺² Calcium	SO ₄ ⁻² Sulfate
Mg ⁺² Magnesium	

Most abundant cation

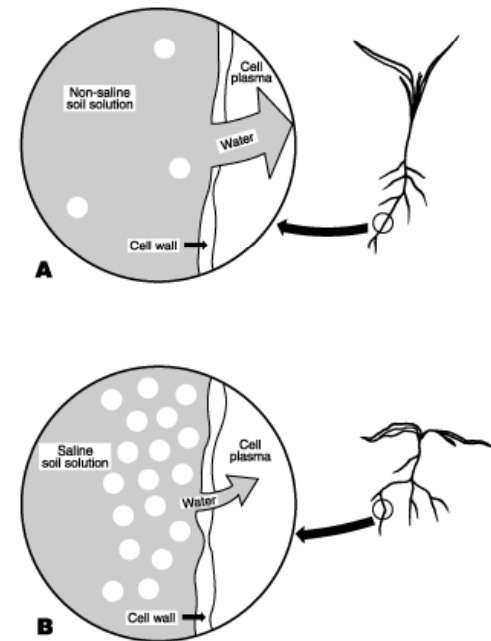
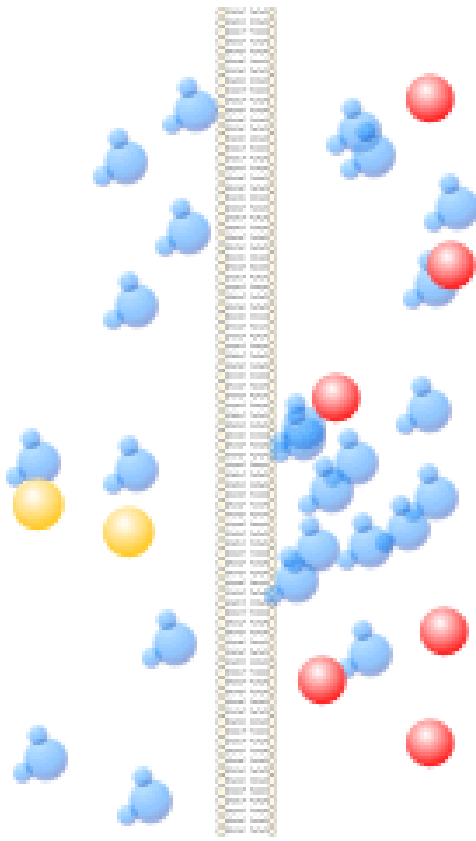
Salt or sodium chloride (NaCl) is principally responsible for the excess salinity in brine impacted soil.

Most abundant anion

Spills of produced water or brine on soil result in two types of damage:

Excess salinity

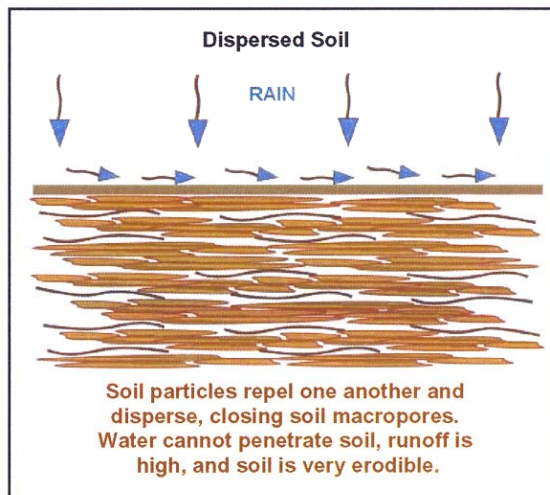
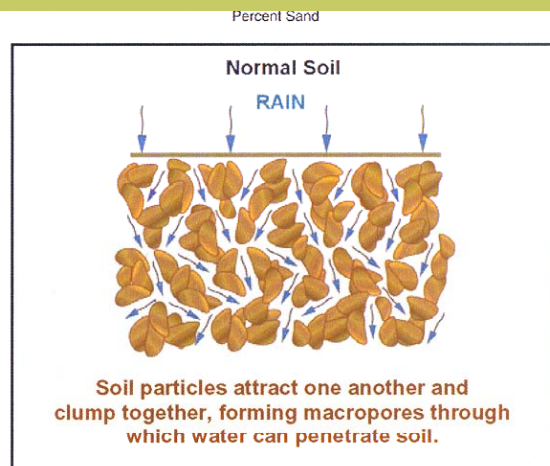
- Creates an osmotic imbalance that reduces water uptake by plant roots. Plants can go into drought stress even though there is plenty of water in the soil.



Three days following a brine spill



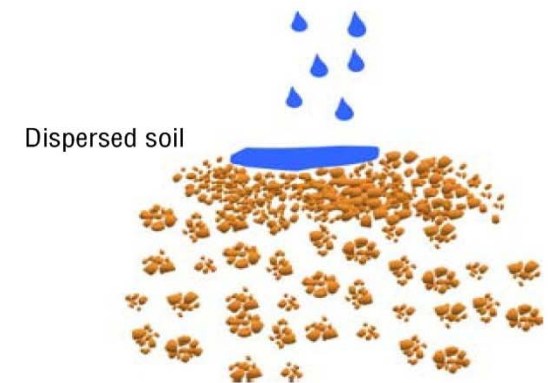
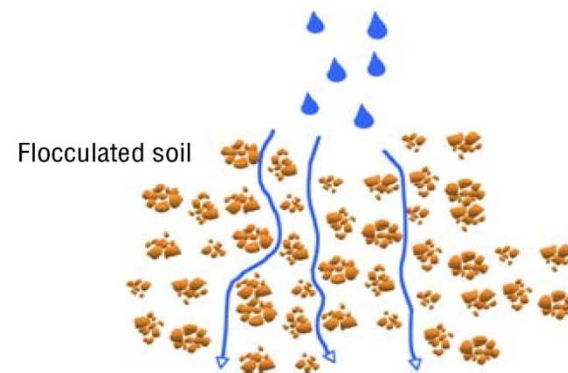
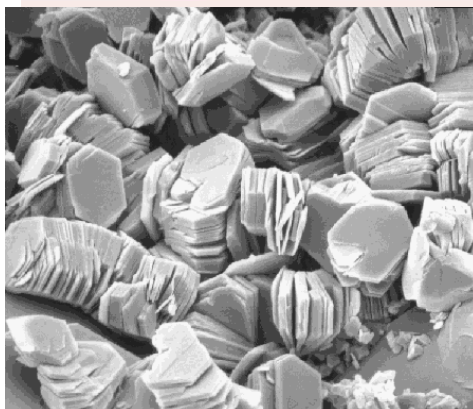
Spills of produced water or brine on soil result in two types of damage:



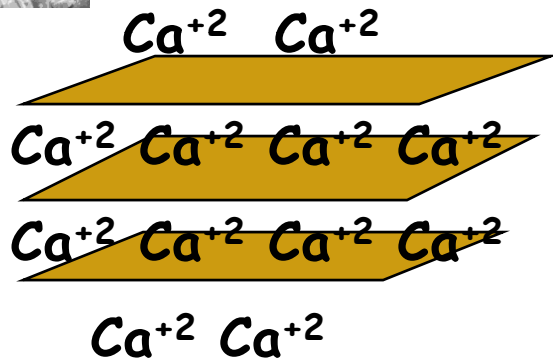
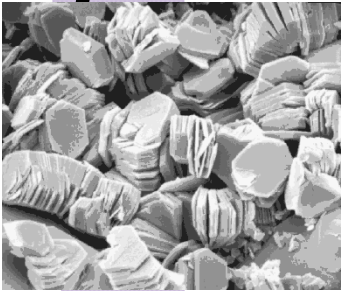
- # Excess sodicity (an excess of sodium)
 - Destroys soil structure by dispersing clays
 - Produces a hardpan that will not transmit water
 - Erosion

Both salinity and sodicity must be addressed in any successful remediation of a brine impacted site

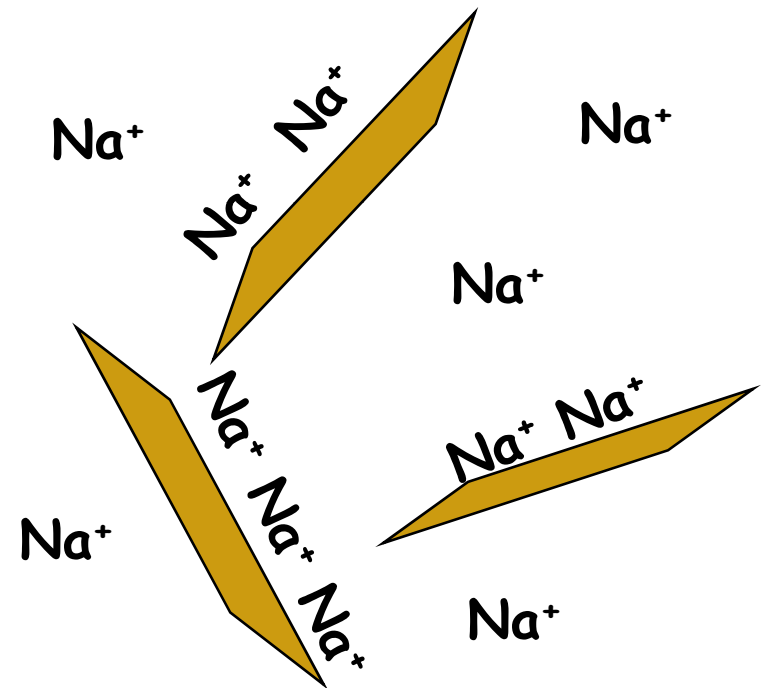
Clay dispersal in sodic soils



Sodicity and soil structure



Clay particles or platelets in soil are held together by Ca^{+2} ions



High concentrations of Na^{+} ions can displace the Ca^{+2} and cause the clay particles to disperse

Brine spill + 10 years



Brine spill + 60+ years

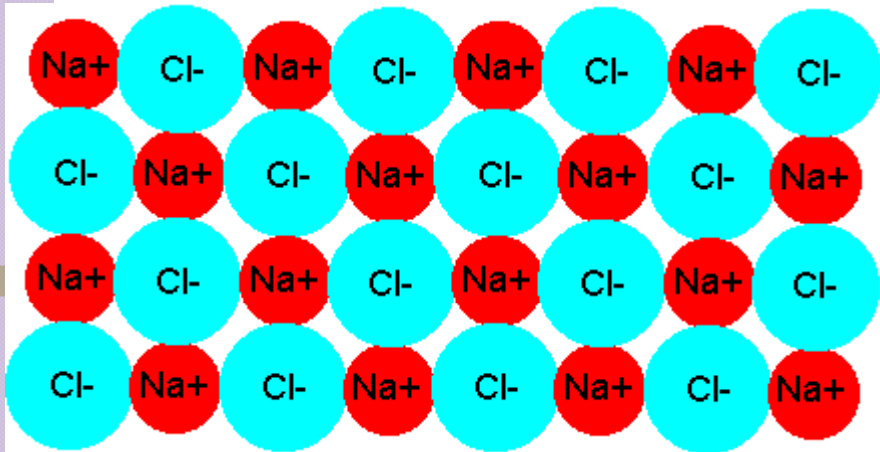


Key parameters in the remediation of brine impacted soils

- # Electrical conductivity of a saturated paste extract of soil (EC) - units: dS/m, mS/cm, μ S/cm, or mmhos/cm
- # Sodium adsorption ratio of the saturated paste extract (SAR) - no units
- # Cation exchange capacity of the soil (CEC) - units: meq/100 g of soil
- # Exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) - units: %

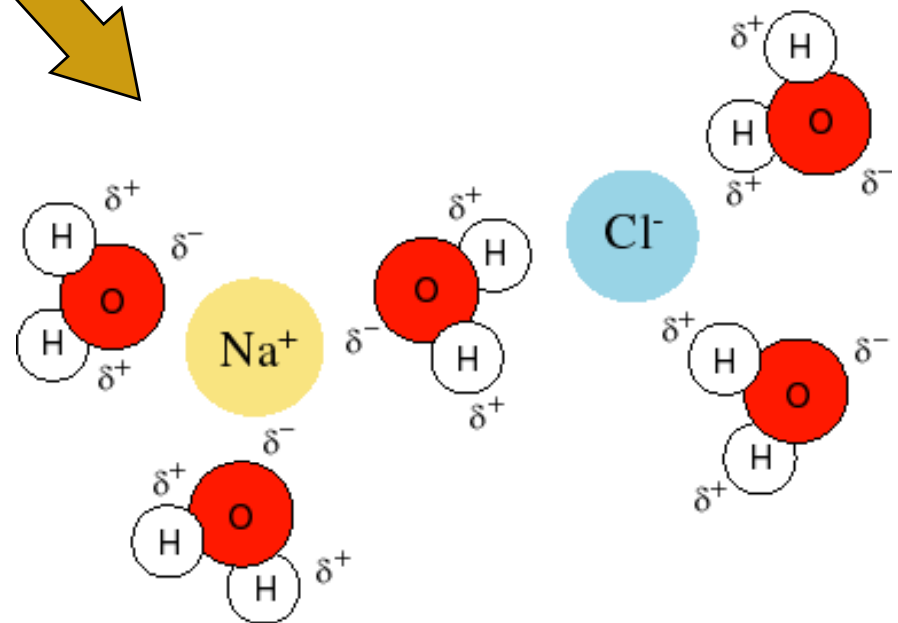
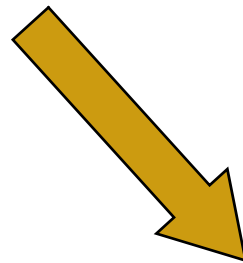
Key parameters in the remediation of brine impacted soils

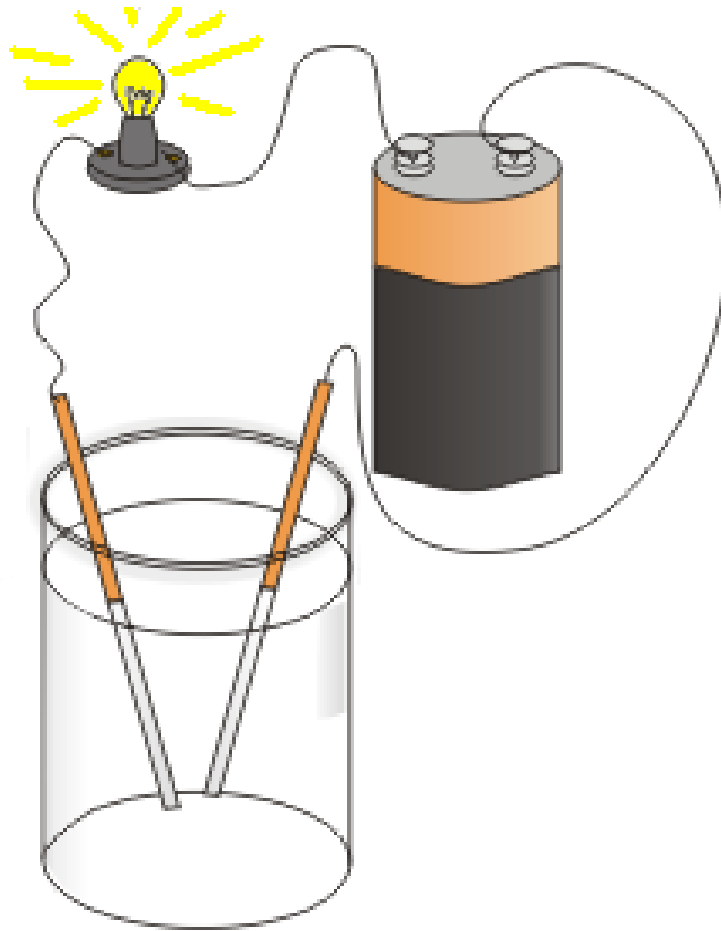
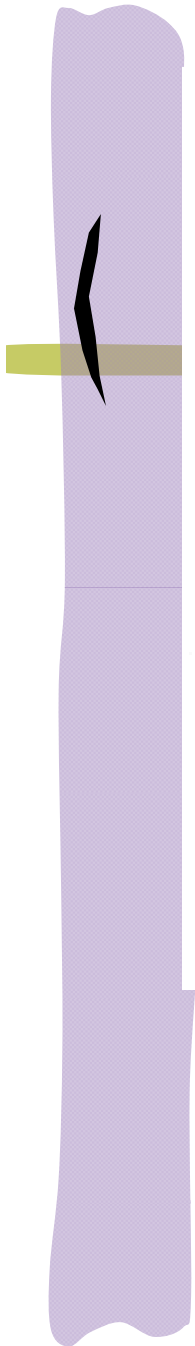
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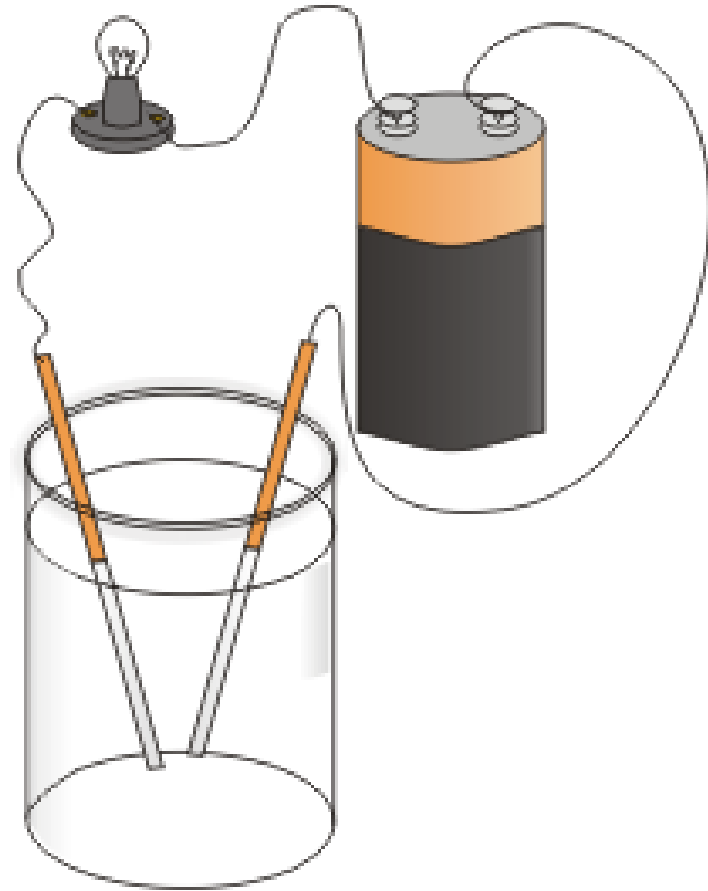
NaCl crystals

NaCl dissociates into ions in water making the water electrically conductive



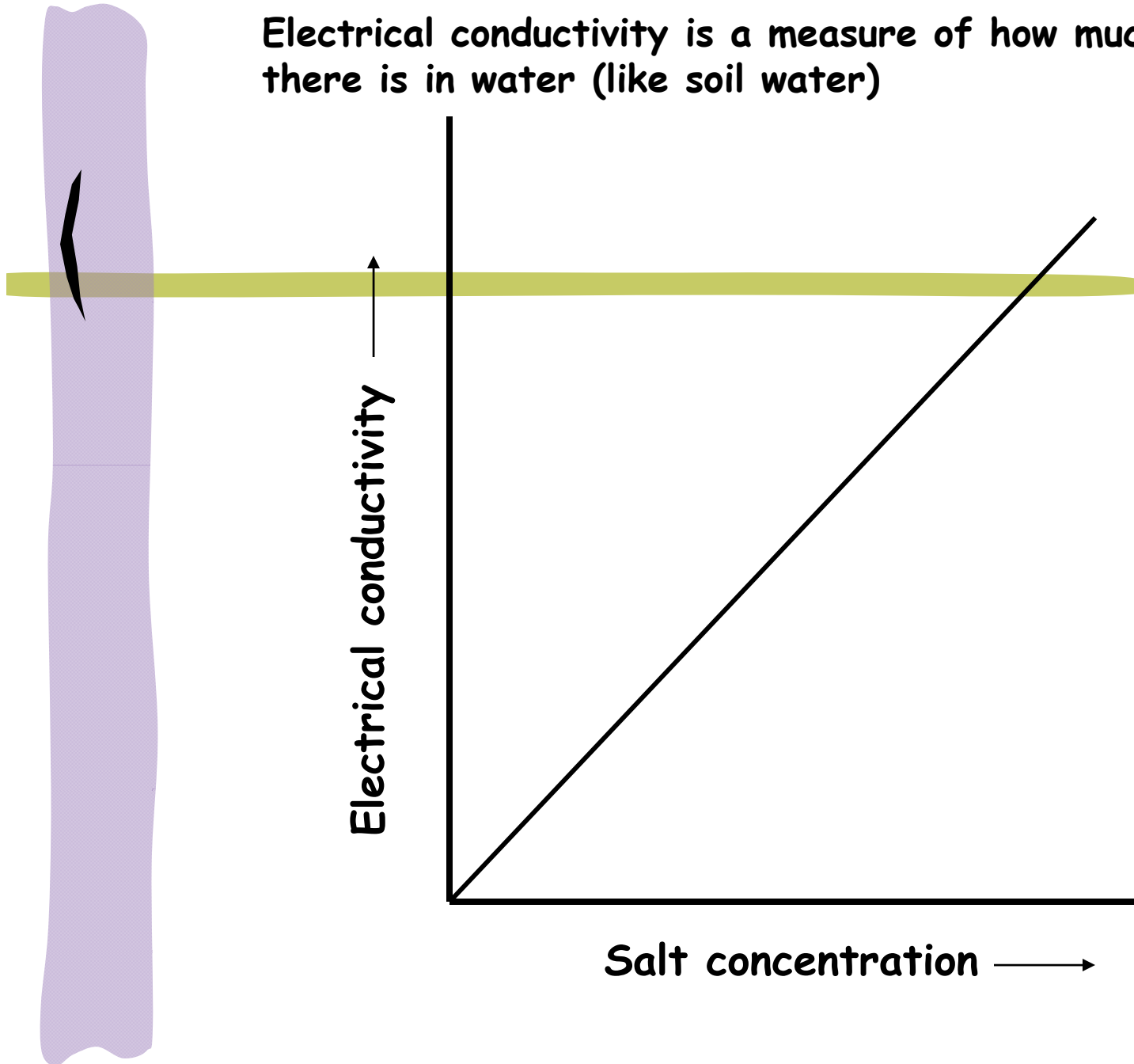


Salt solution



Pure water or solutions of compounds that do not dissociate into ions do not conduct electricity

Electrical conductivity is a measure of how much salt there is in water (like soil water)



Saturated paste electrical conductivity

(The standard way of reporting EC)

- # Soil sample is moistened with distilled water until all the soil pores are filled without any standing water on the surface. When the soil is saturated the top of the soil will glisten.
- # Extract water is recovered by vacuum filtration and the conductivity measured- this is the saturated paste EC.
- # Saturated paste EC is proportional to the concentration of soluble salts in the soil
- # Saturated paste EC reflects the salinity of the pore water when the soil is wet

Relationship between a saturated paste EC and EC of a 1:1 wt ratio (100 mL water + 100 g dry soil)

Soil Texture	USDA relationship between EC_s and $EC_{1:1}$ (mS/cm)
Coarse	$EC_s = 3.0(EC_{1:1}) - 0.06$
Medium	$EC_s = 3.0(EC_{1:1}) - 0.77$
Fine	$EC_s = 2.96(EC_{1:1}) - 0.95$

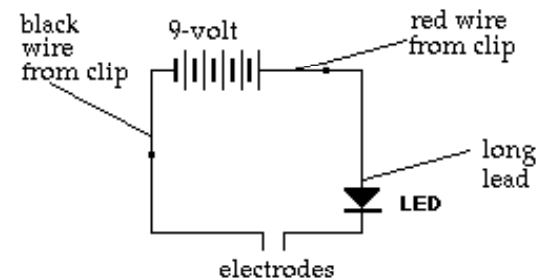
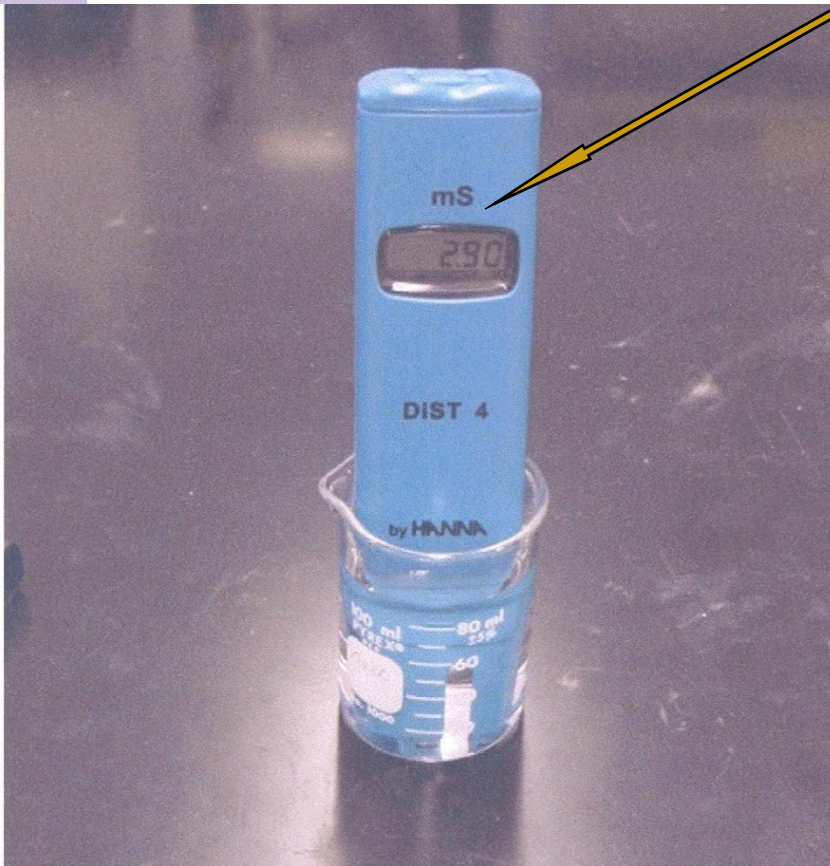
We can approximate a 1:1 wt. ratio of soil and water in the field

Measuring electrical conductivity

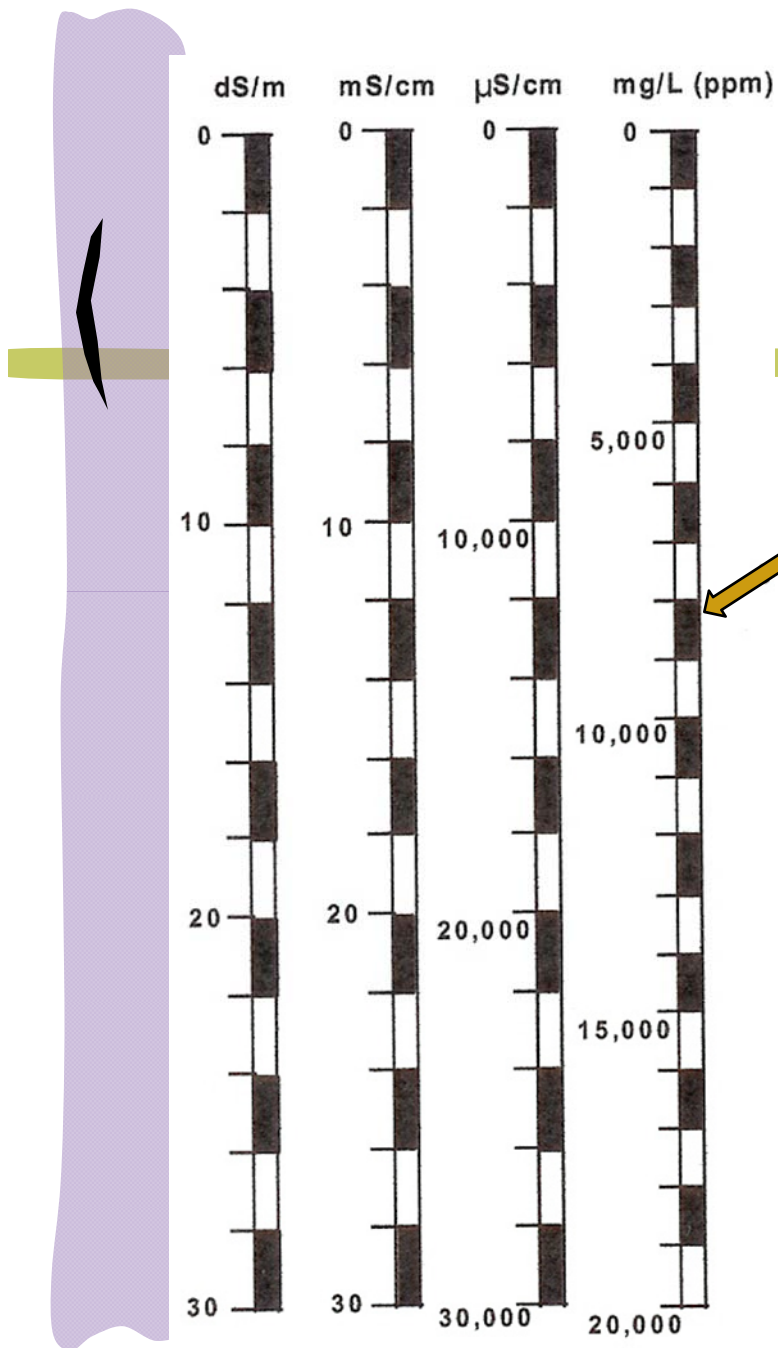
Field EC meter

EC is proportional to the concentration of soluble salts in the water

Typical units are dS/m, mS/cm, $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, or mmhos/cm



Schematic of Conductivity Tester



$$\text{mmhos/cm} = \text{mS/cm}$$

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)

Approximate relationships:

$$\text{EC (mS/cm)} \times 640 = \text{TDS (mg/L)}$$

$$\text{TDS (mg/L)} \times 0.61 = [\text{Chloride}], \text{ mg/L}$$

If equal weights of soil and water are used to produce the extract, then this chloride concentration is also the chloride concentration in the soil in units of mg/kg.

Key parameters in the remediation of brine impacted soils

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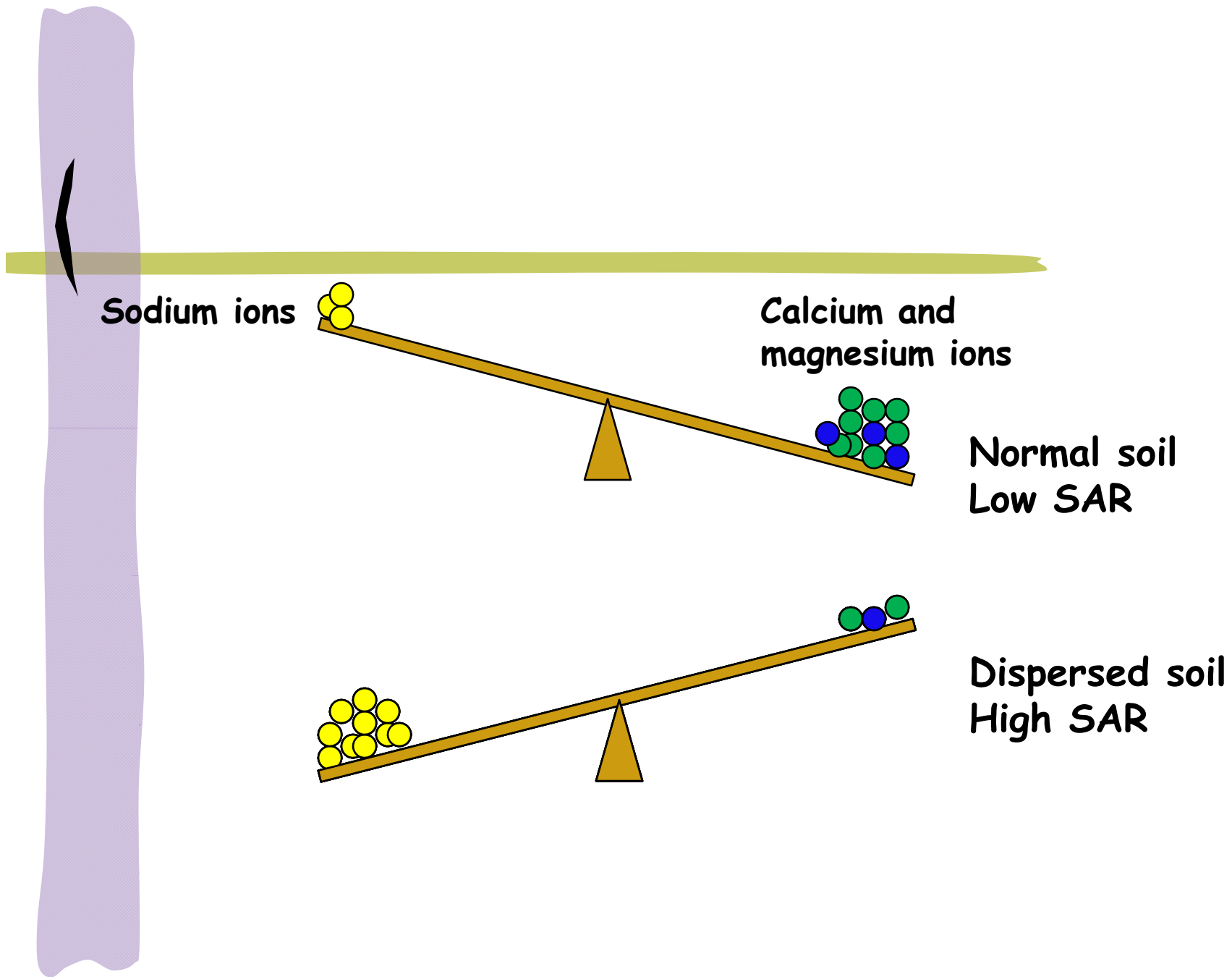
Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR)

$$\text{SAR} = \frac{[\text{Na}^+]}{\sqrt{\frac{[\text{Ca}^{+2}] + [\text{Mg}^{+2}]}{2}}}$$

Units are meq/L

SAR is typically measured by a laboratory analysis. There is no good way to determine SAR in the field.

The SAR is an index of sodicity - an excess of Na^+ in the soil compared to Ca^{+2} and Mg^{+2}

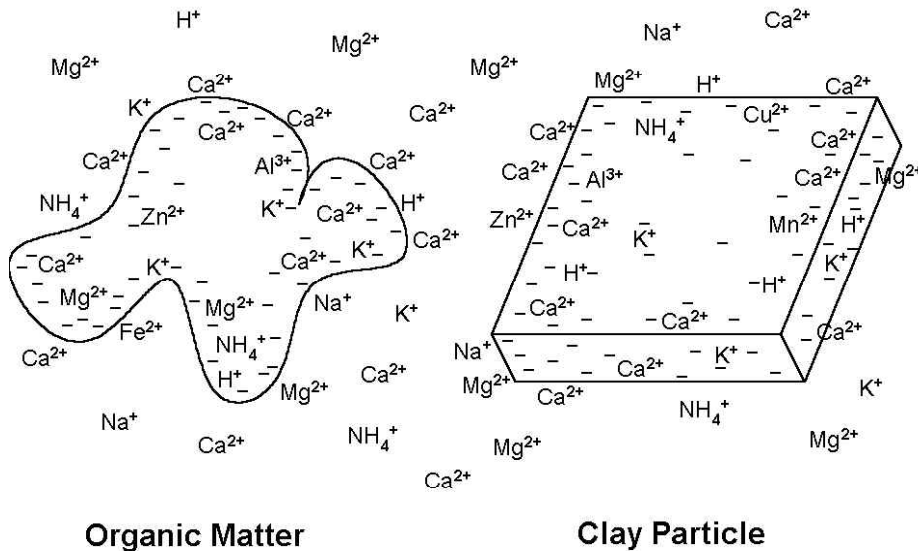


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- # Exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) - units: %

Soil cation exchange sites are associated with clays and soil organic matter

Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)



The CEC of a soil is the number of cation adsorption sites per unit weight of soil

CEC is another parameter that must be done by laboratory analysis

CEC will be reported in units of milliequivalents (meq) per 100 g of oven dry soil.

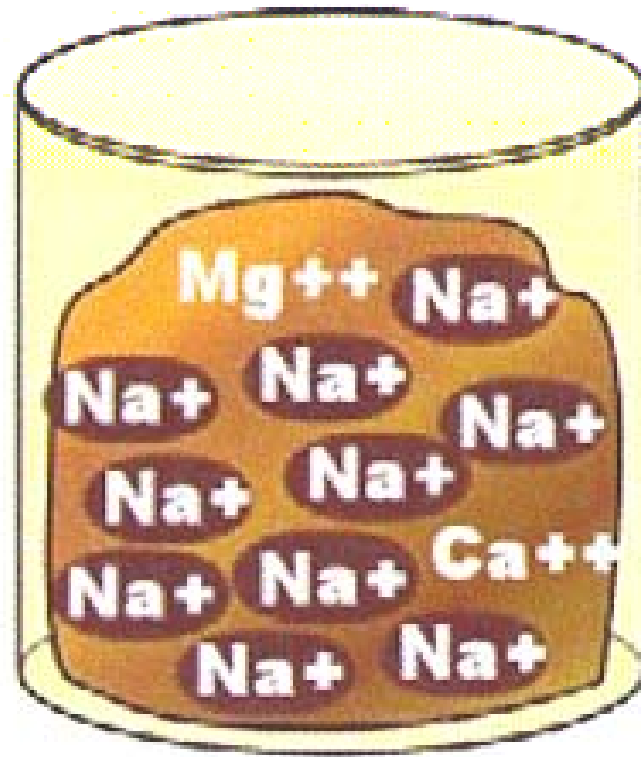
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- # Cation exchange capacity of the soil (CEC) - units: meq/100 g of soil
- # Exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) - units: %

The ESP is the fraction of the cation adsorption sites occupied by Na^+



Low ESP



High ESP

Exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP)

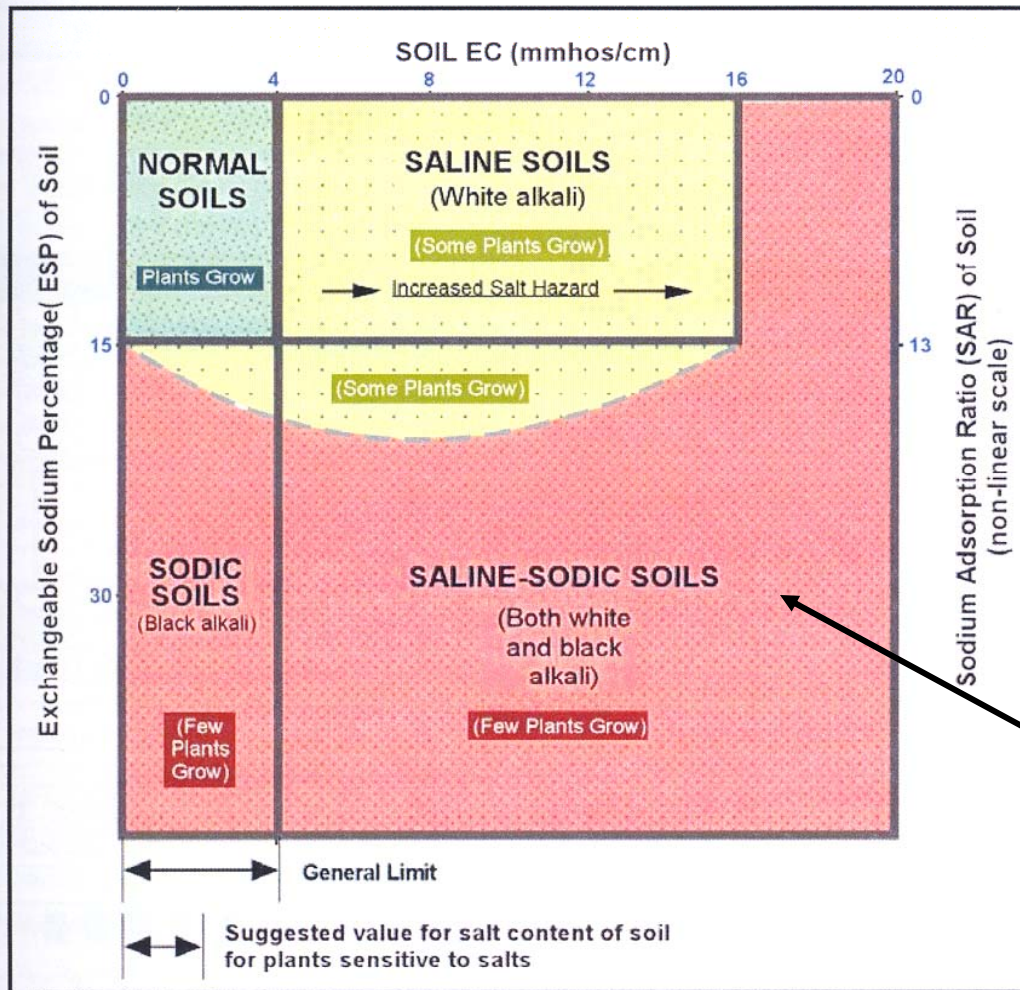
ESP is frequently estimated from the SAR

$$\text{ESP (\%)} = \frac{100 [-0.0126 + 0.01475(\text{SAR})]}{1 + [-0.0126 + 0.01475(\text{SAR})]}$$

Any laboratory reporting SAR for a soil will likely also report the ESP.

The effects of salinity and sodicity on plant growth

susceptible to erosion.

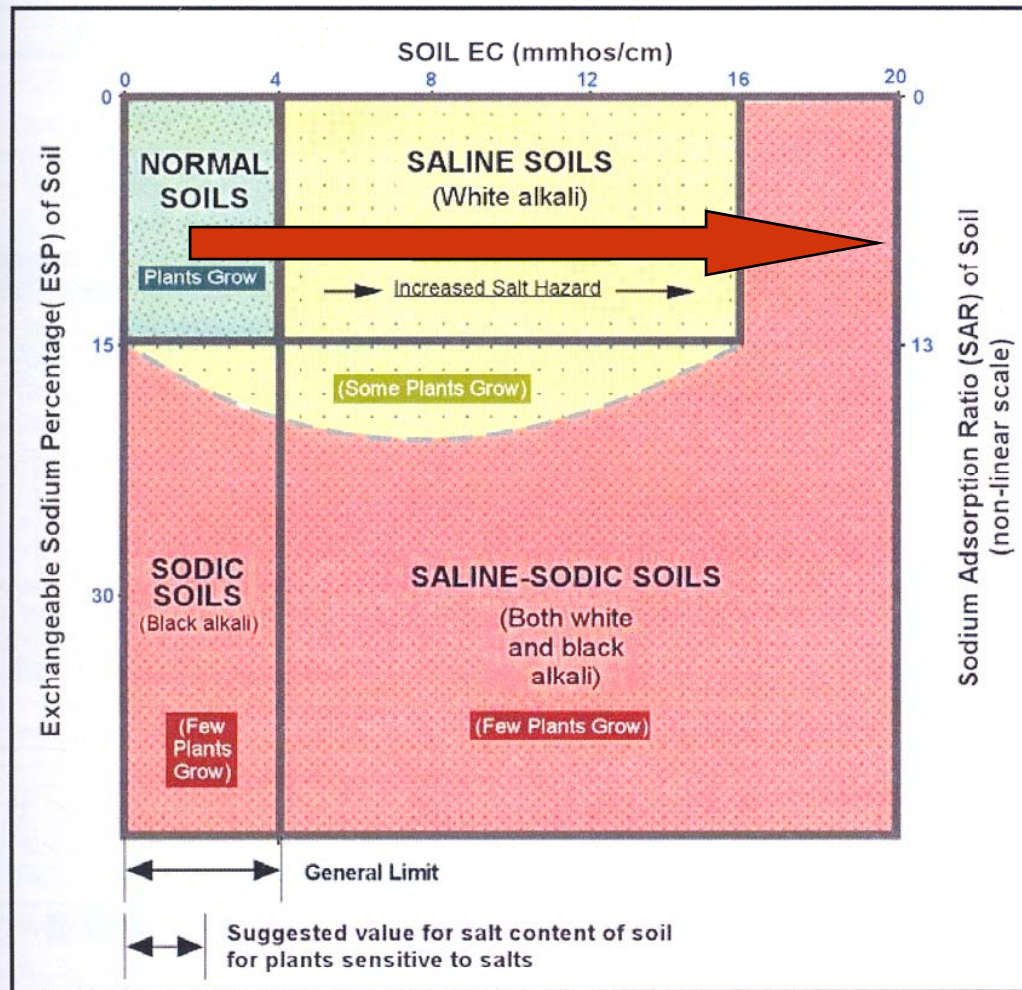


Very few plants grow

Soil Classification Based on ESP (%) (Y-Axis) and EC (mmhos/cm) (X-Axis) (API Publication 4663); adapted from Donahue et al., 1983).

Immediate effect of brine spill on EC and SAR

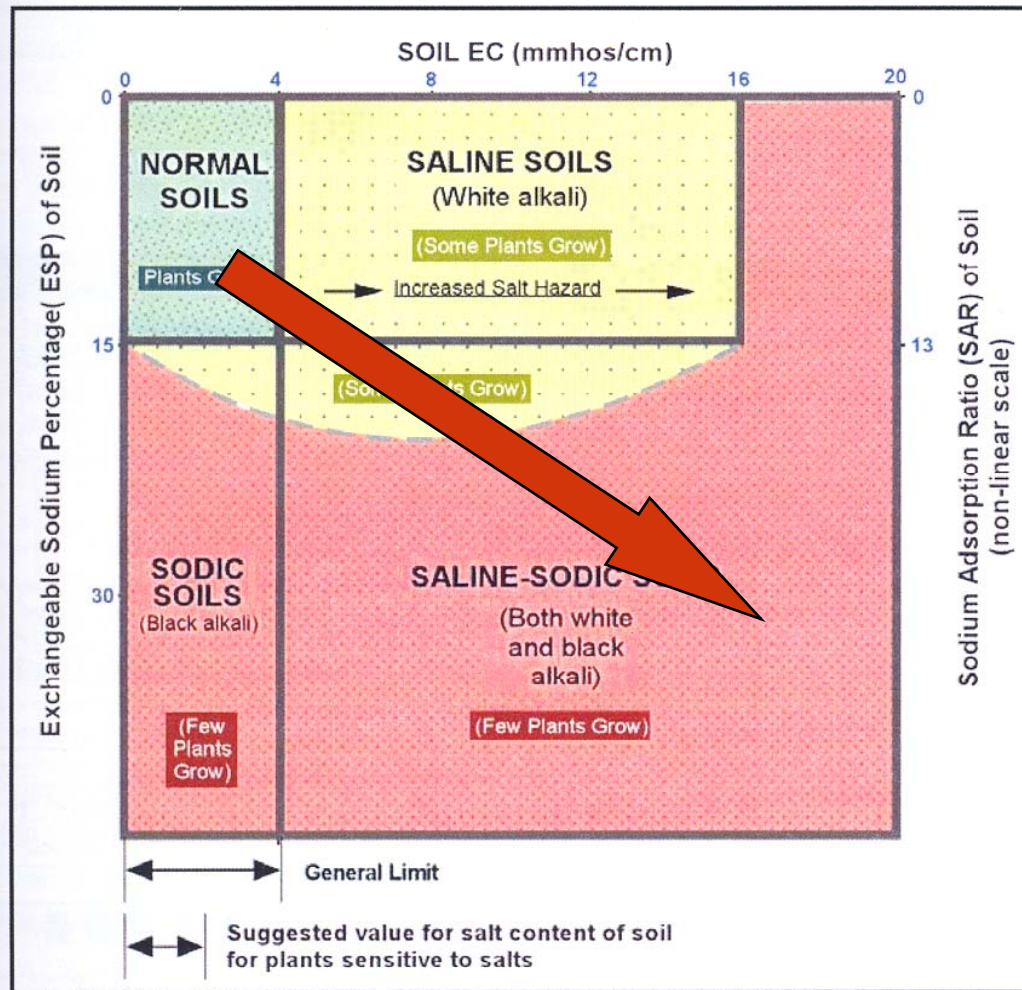
susceptible to erosion.



Soil Classification Based on ESP (%) (Y-Axis) and EC (mmhos/cm) (X-Axis) (API Publication 4663); adapted from Donahue et al., 1983).

Effect of brine spill on EC and SAR over time

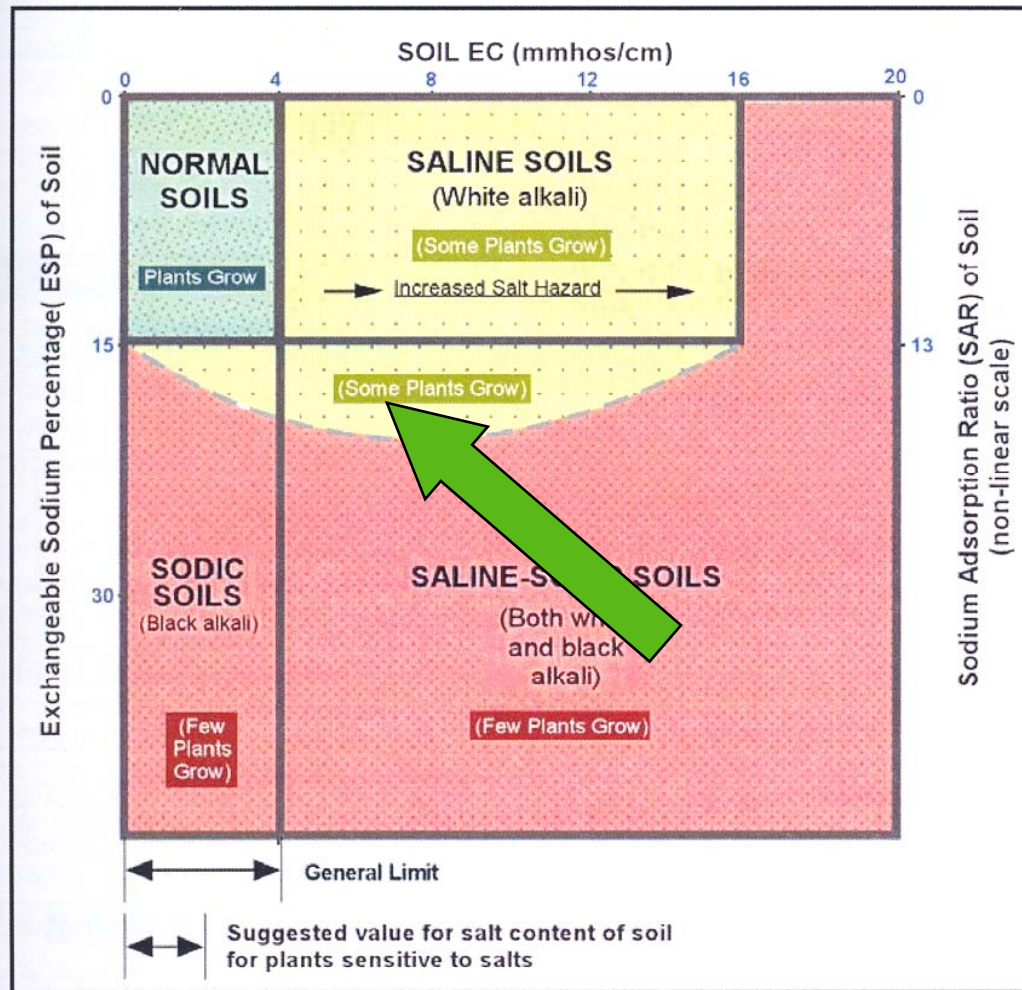
susceptible to erosion.



Soil Classification Based on ESP (%) (Y-Axis) and EC (mmhos/cm) (X-Axis) (API Publication 4663); adapted from Donahue et al., 1983).

Remediation of a brine spill must reduce salinity and sodicity

susceptible to erosion.



Soil Classification Based on ESP (%) (Y-Axis) and EC (mmhos/cm) (X-Axis) (API Publication 4663); adapted from Donahue et al., 1983).

Predominant salt-tolerance mechanisms operating in plants

4. Sequestration of the toxic ions to vacuole or cell wall – cell level compartmentation



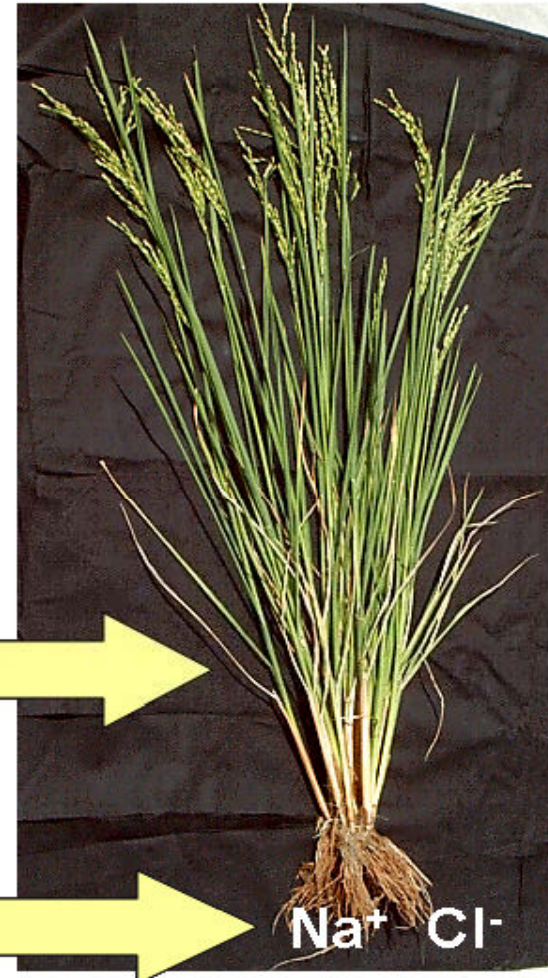
3. Excretion of salt through salt glands, salt-hairs or bladders – in most halophytes



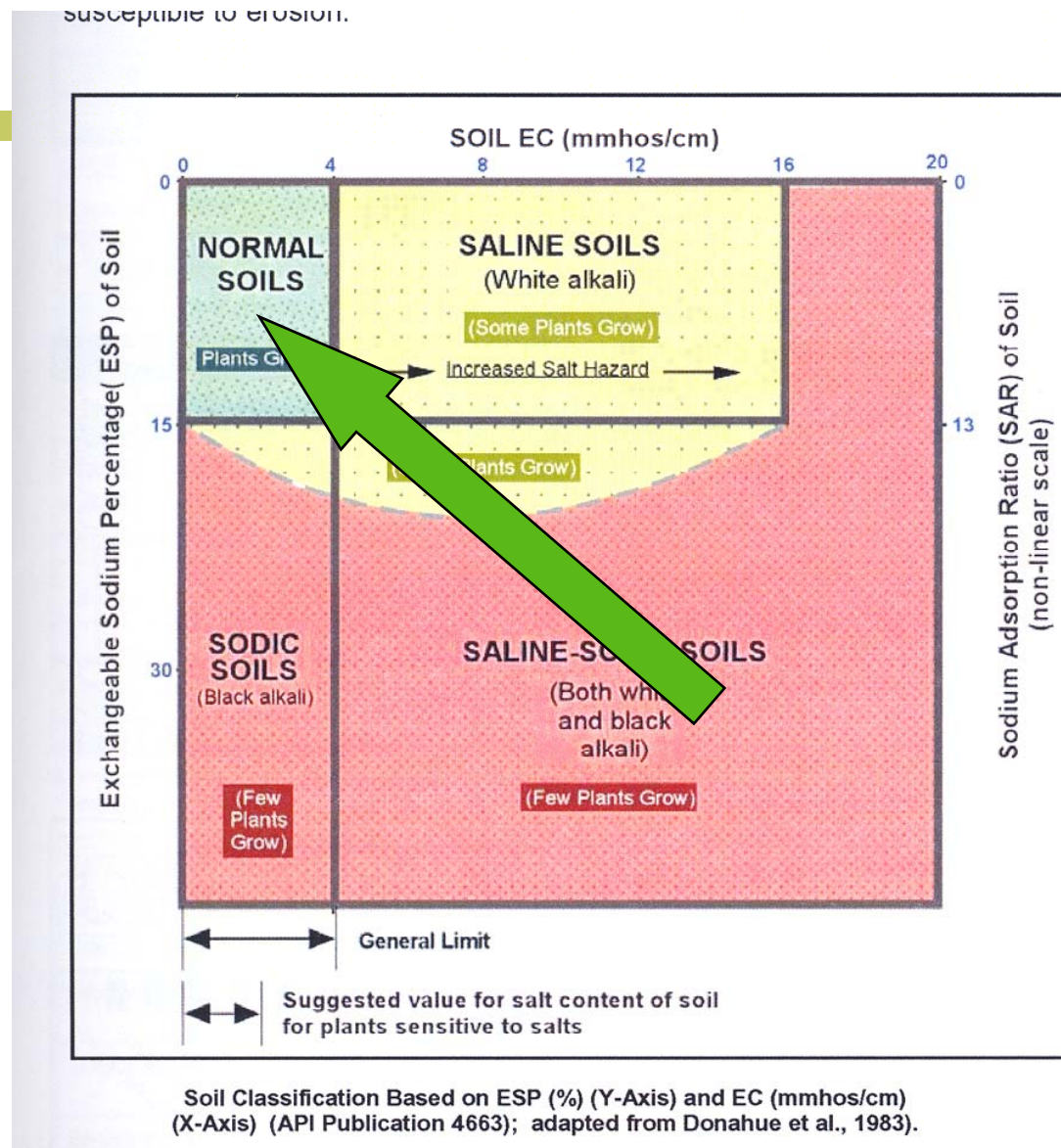
2. Transporting the toxic ions to stem, leaf sheath or older leaves – plant level compartmentation



1. Restricting the entry of toxic ions at root level - Exclusion



Remediation of a brine spill must reduce salinity and sodicity



Salinity

Tolerant

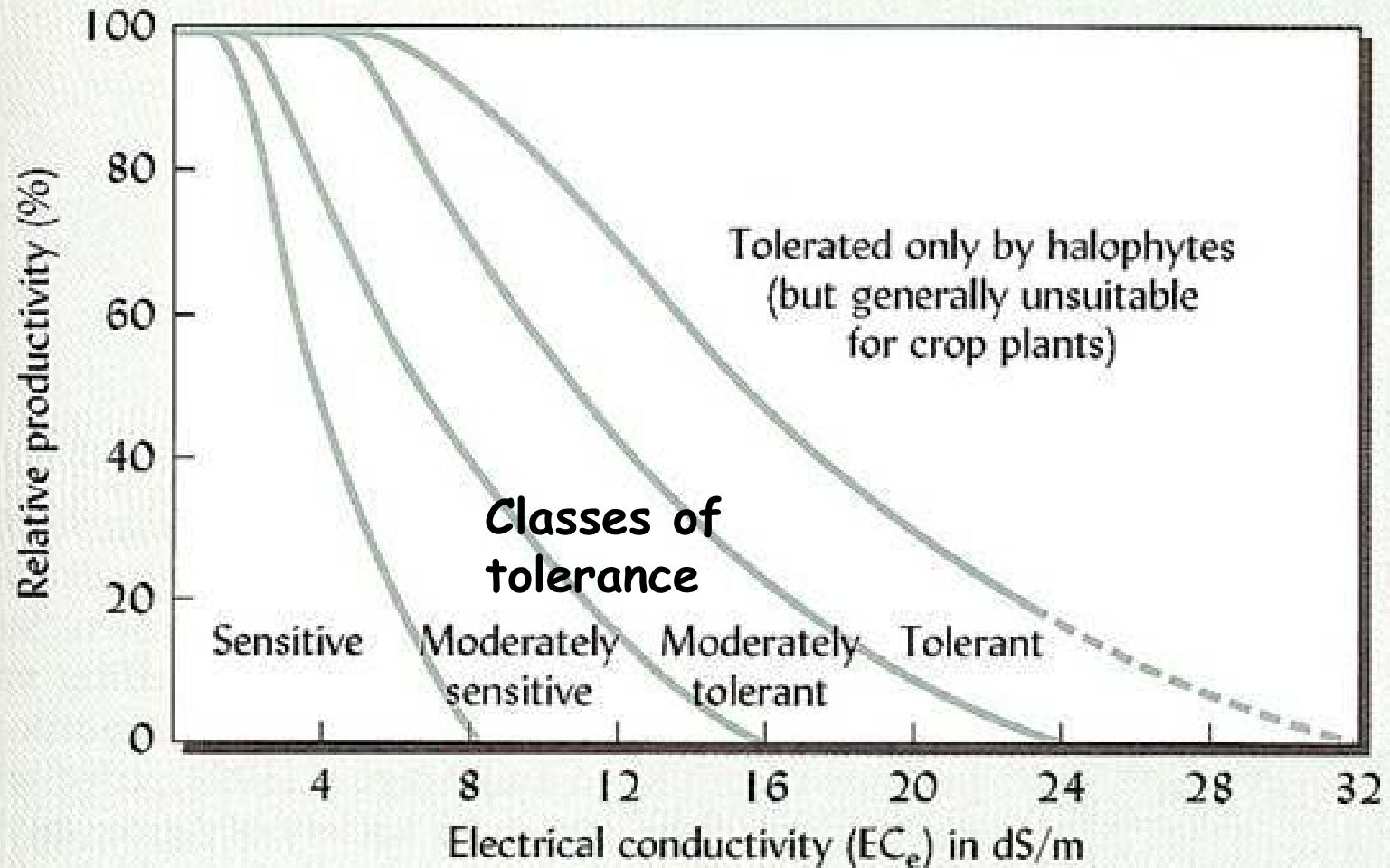
IR65192-4B-10-13

Susceptible

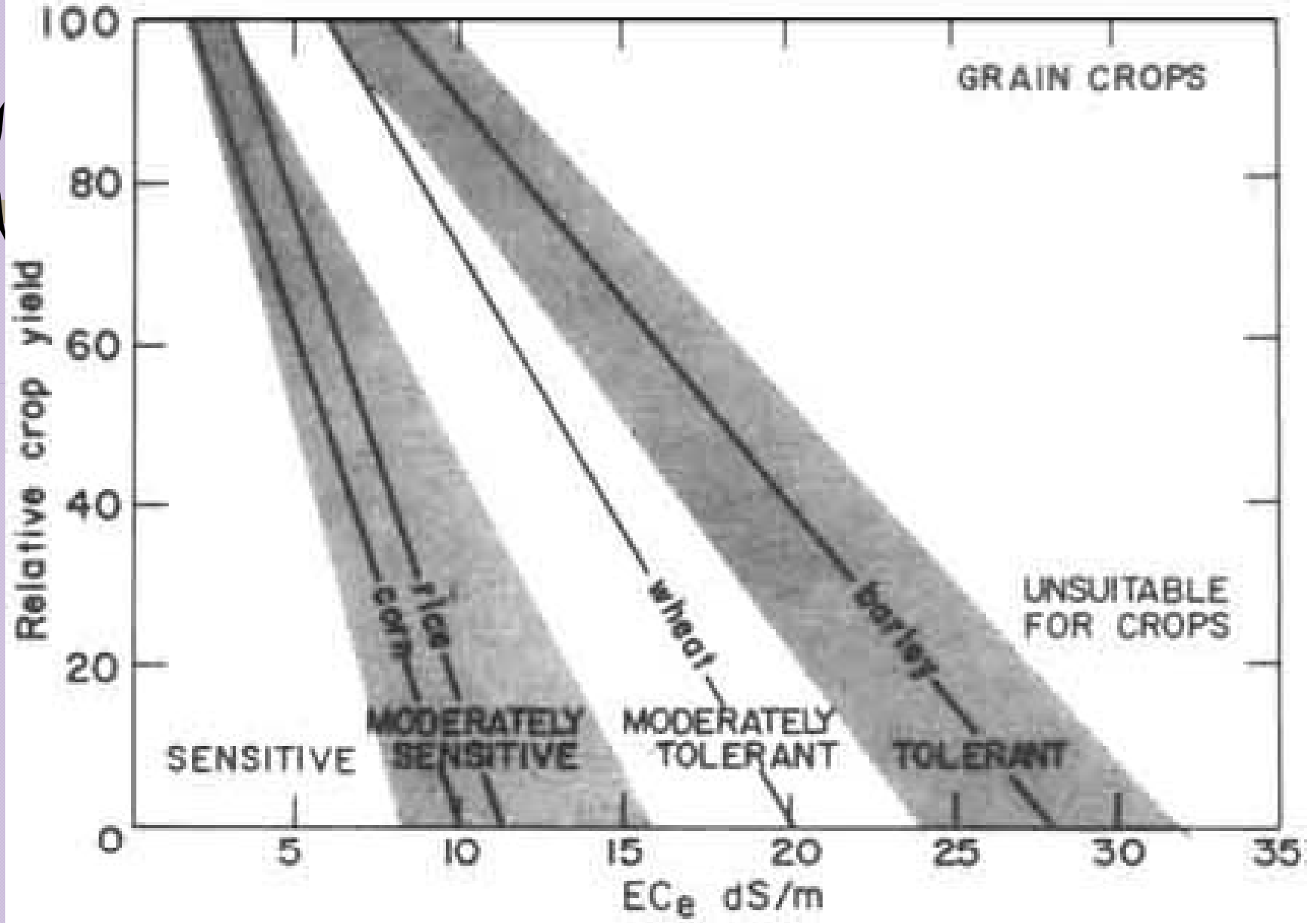
IR29

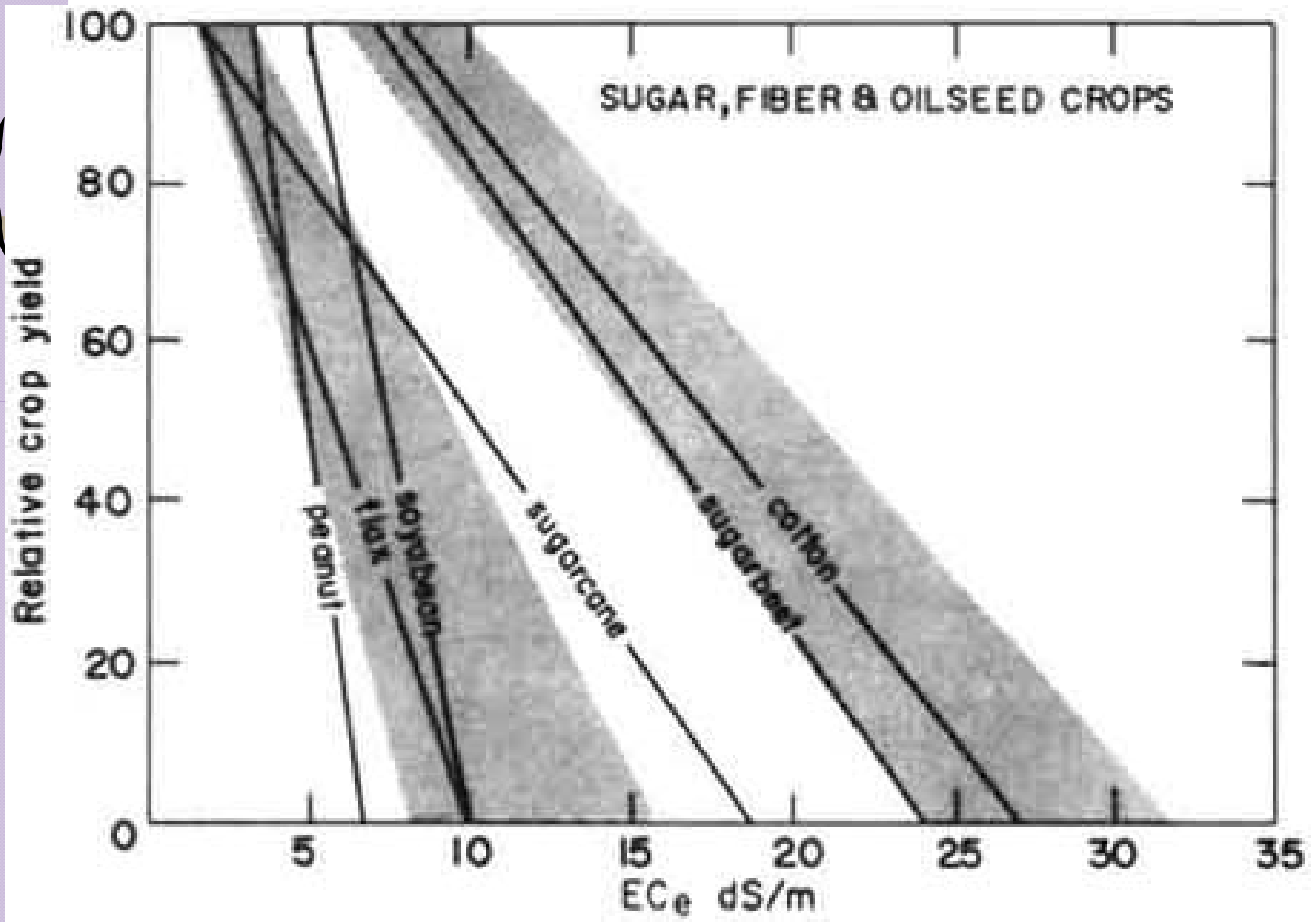


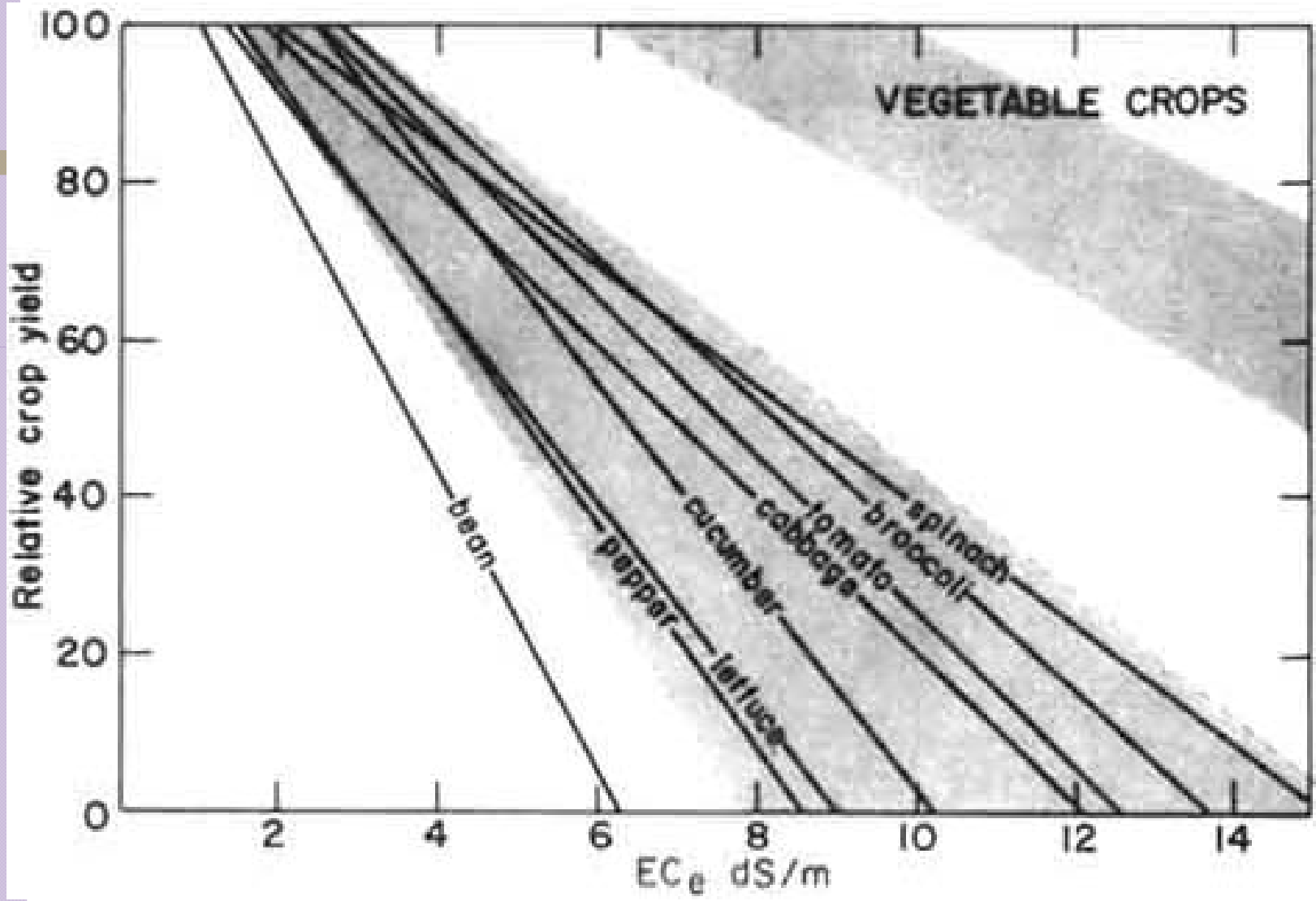
Effect of salinity on plant productivity

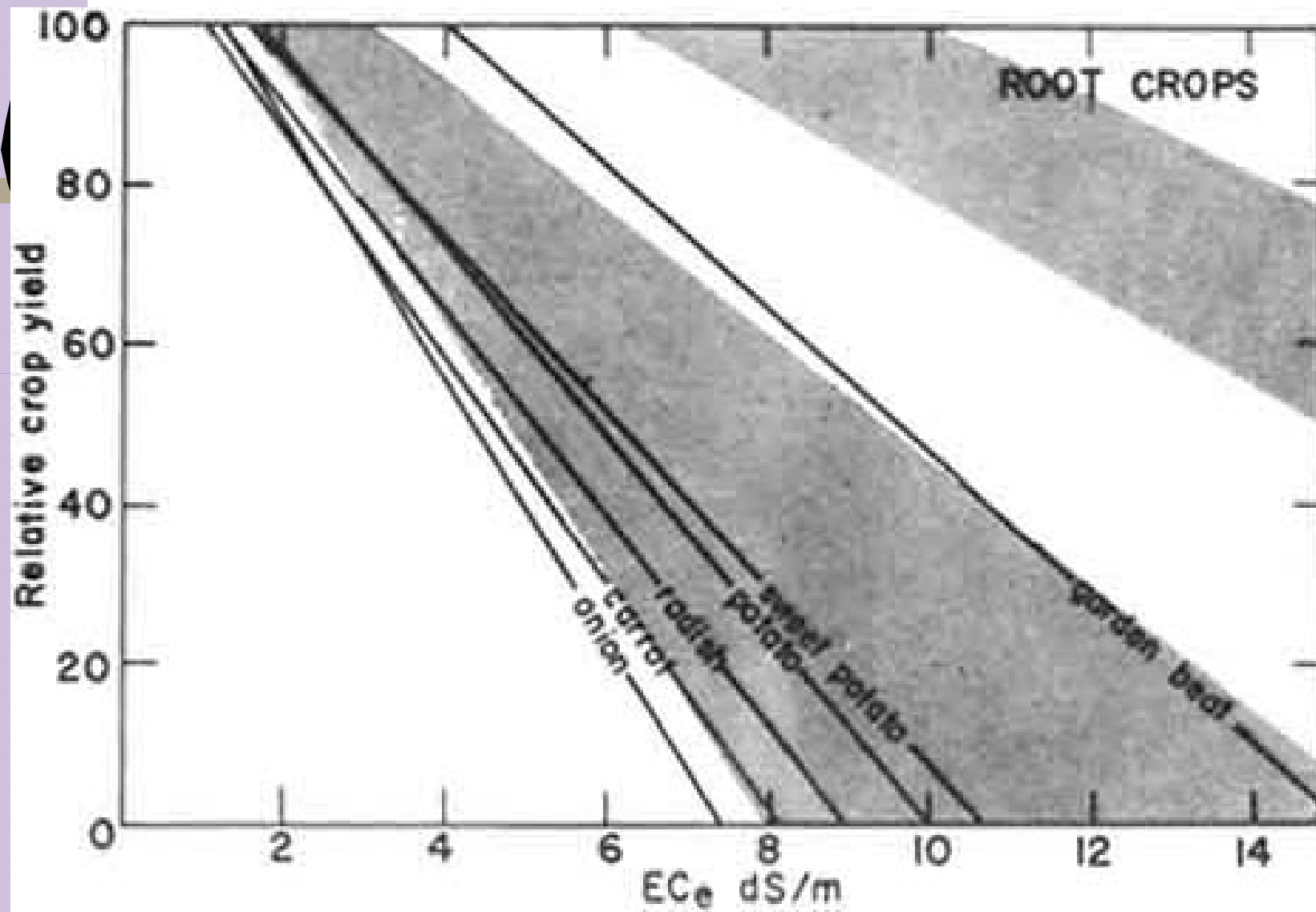


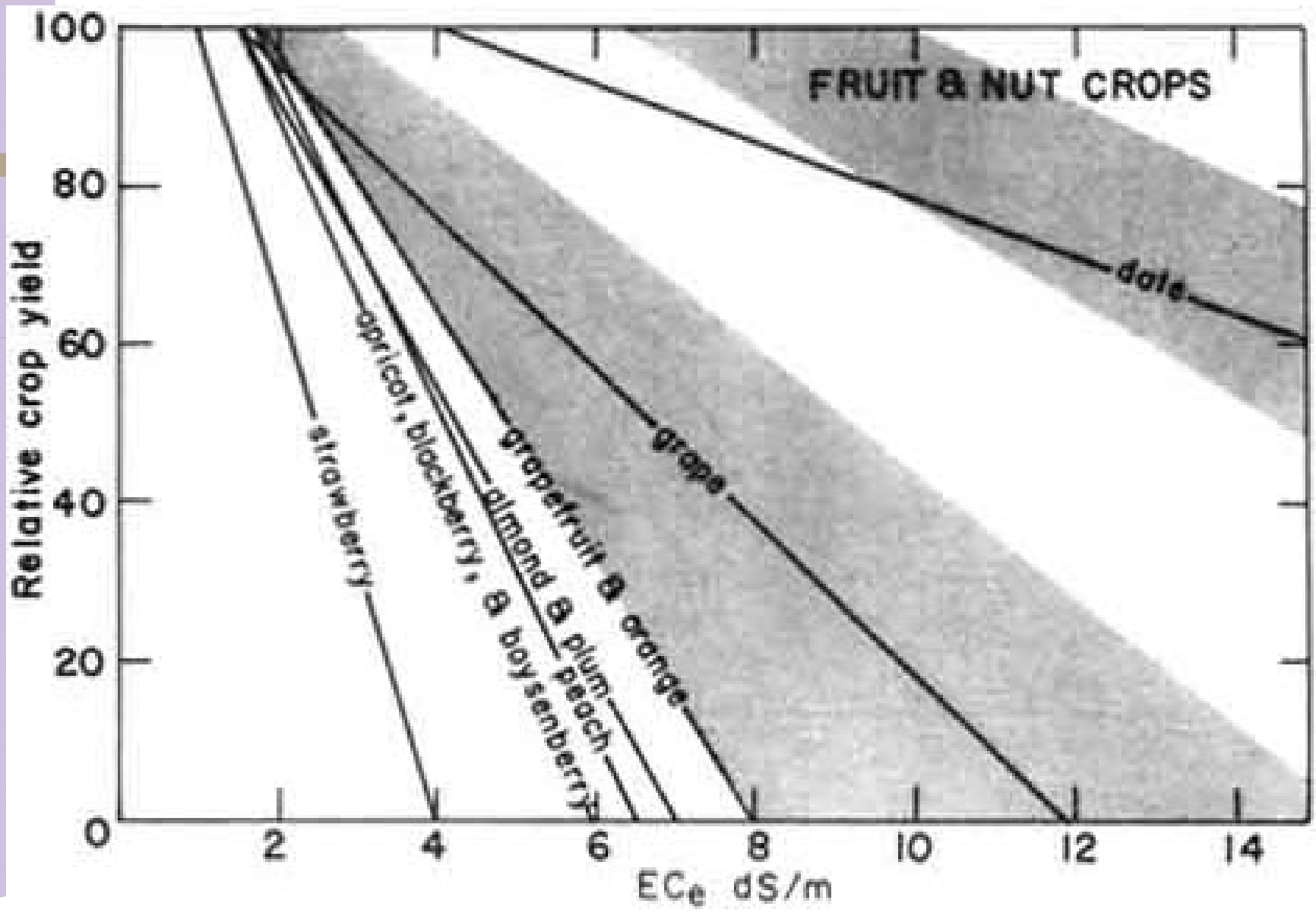
Rule of Thumb: the EC which produces 50% reduction in biomass production in mature plants will be approximately the maximum EC that can be tolerated by young plants and germinating seeds

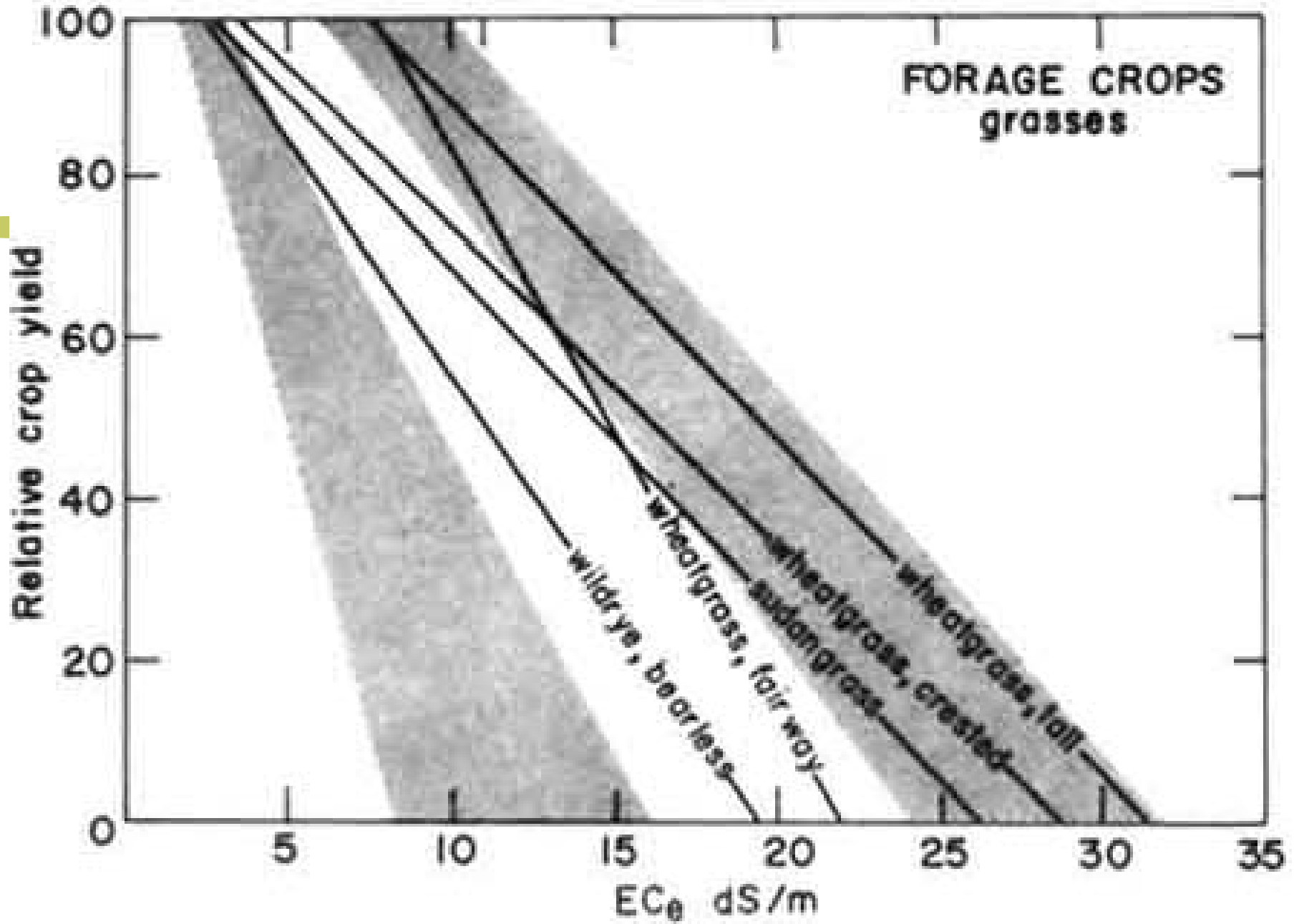












Sensitivity to salinity generally increases with temperature

Table 15 RESPONSE OF THREE CROPS TO SALINITY IN SAND CULTURES AT TWO LOCATIONS

Crop	Solution salinity at which 25% yield reduction was observed dS/m	
	Cool location	Hot location
Bean pods	4.0	3.0
Garden beetroots	11.1	6.6
Onion bulbs	12.5	3.3



Remediation of Brine Spills

Recognizing and documenting
brine damage



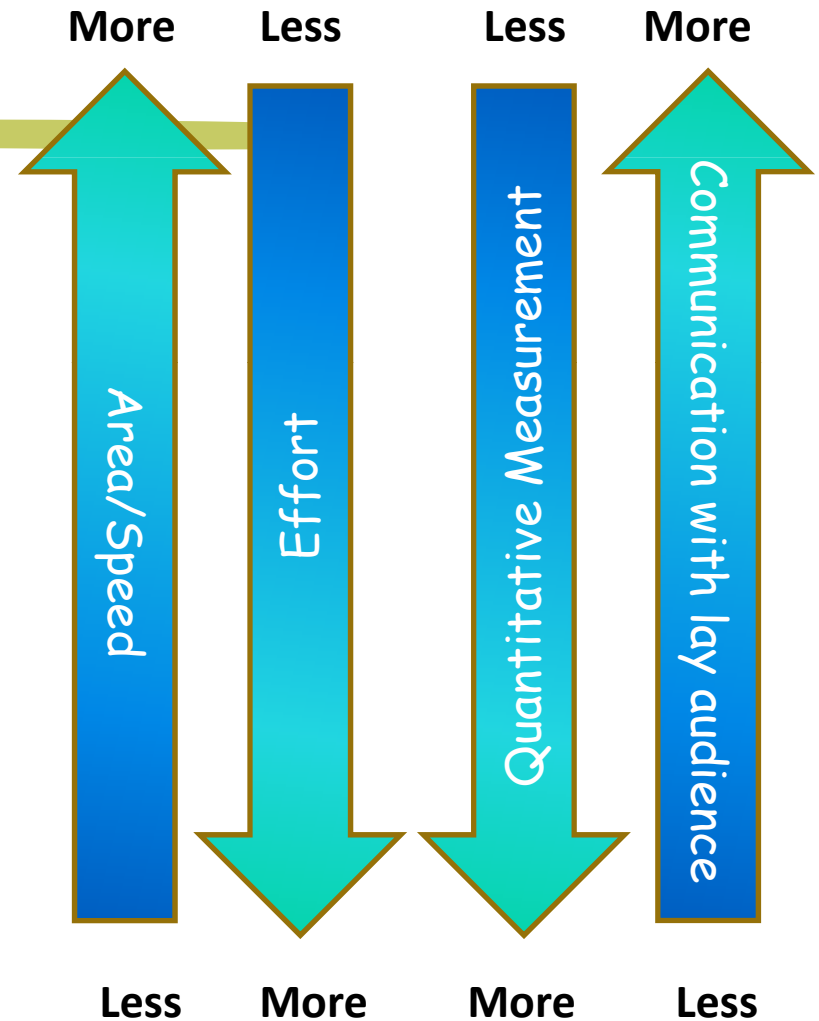
1975

2003

Brine spills generally do not remediate naturally!

Site assessment tools

- # Visual indicators
 - Vegetation damage
 - Salt tolerant vegetation
 - Corrosion
 - Haloclastic weathering
 - Salt crusts
 - Erosion
- # Geophysical investigation
 - EM Survey
- # Field screening techniques
 - Field kits for chlorides
 - EC
- # Soil sampling/lab analysis



Courtesy of Bert Fisher

Recent brine spill

Vegetation kill






Vegetation kill



Abrupt differences
in vegetation type



Abrupt
differences in
vegetation type
(may or may
not be due to
brine damage)

A photograph of a grassy field with a dirt path and a large tree. The path is made of dark brown soil and runs through the center of the field. The grass is green and appears to be a mix of different species. In the background, there is a line of trees and a clear sky. A purple decorative shape is visible in the top left corner of the image.

Loss of
vegetation



Loss of
vegetation

Vegetation damage



Vegetation damage





Loss of
vegetation

Loss of vegetation and erosion



A photograph showing a landscape with significant erosion. In the foreground, a dry, rocky stream bed is visible, with numerous dark rocks scattered across a light brown, sandy soil. The surrounding vegetation is sparse and dry, consisting of tall, yellowish-brown grasses and scattered, leafless trees. The background shows a line of trees on a slight rise. The overall scene illustrates the effects of soil erosion in a semi-arid or dry environment.

Loss of vegetation and erosion



Erosion



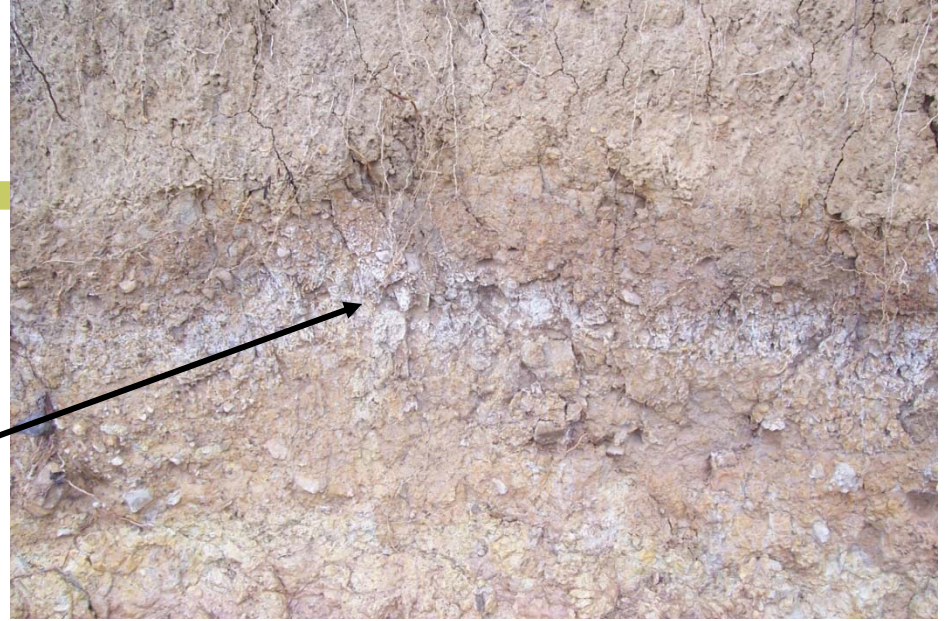
Erosion

Corrosion



Salt crusts





**Salt layers in
exposed soil
profile**

Haloclastic weathering



Salt tolerant vegetation



Electromagnetic induction profiling (EM)

- # EM instruments work by generating an electromagnetic field in a transmitter coil which induces electric currents in soil below the soil
- # These electric currents in the soil generate a secondary electromagnetic field which is detected and measured in a receiver coil in the instrument
- # This is an EM31. The transmitter and receiving coils are at opposite ends of the tube
- # The depth of exploration is determined by the distance between the coils and the orientation of the instrument (horizontal or vertical)



EM31



GPS

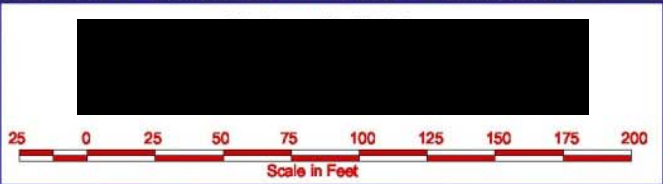
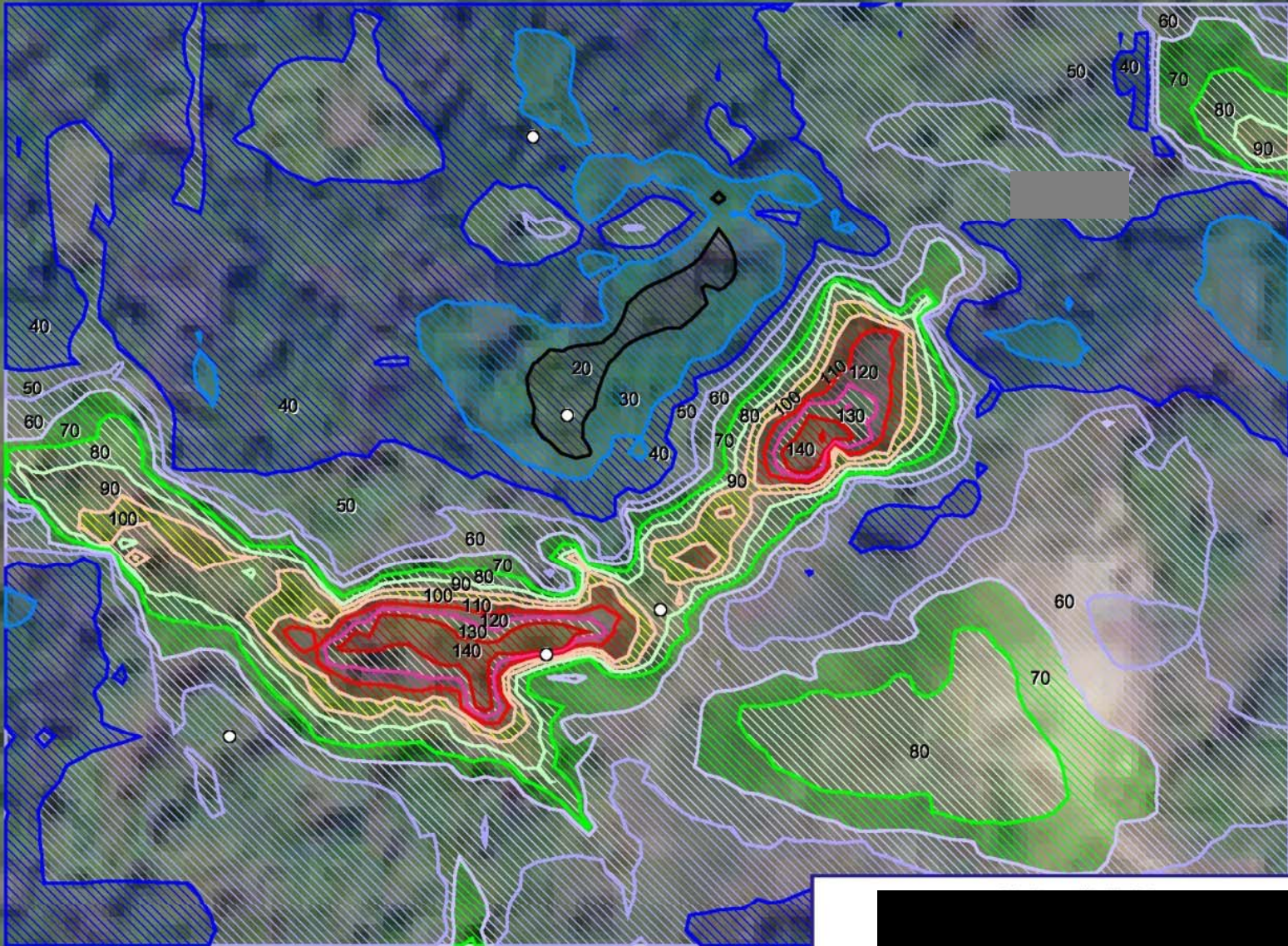
Data logger

EM31

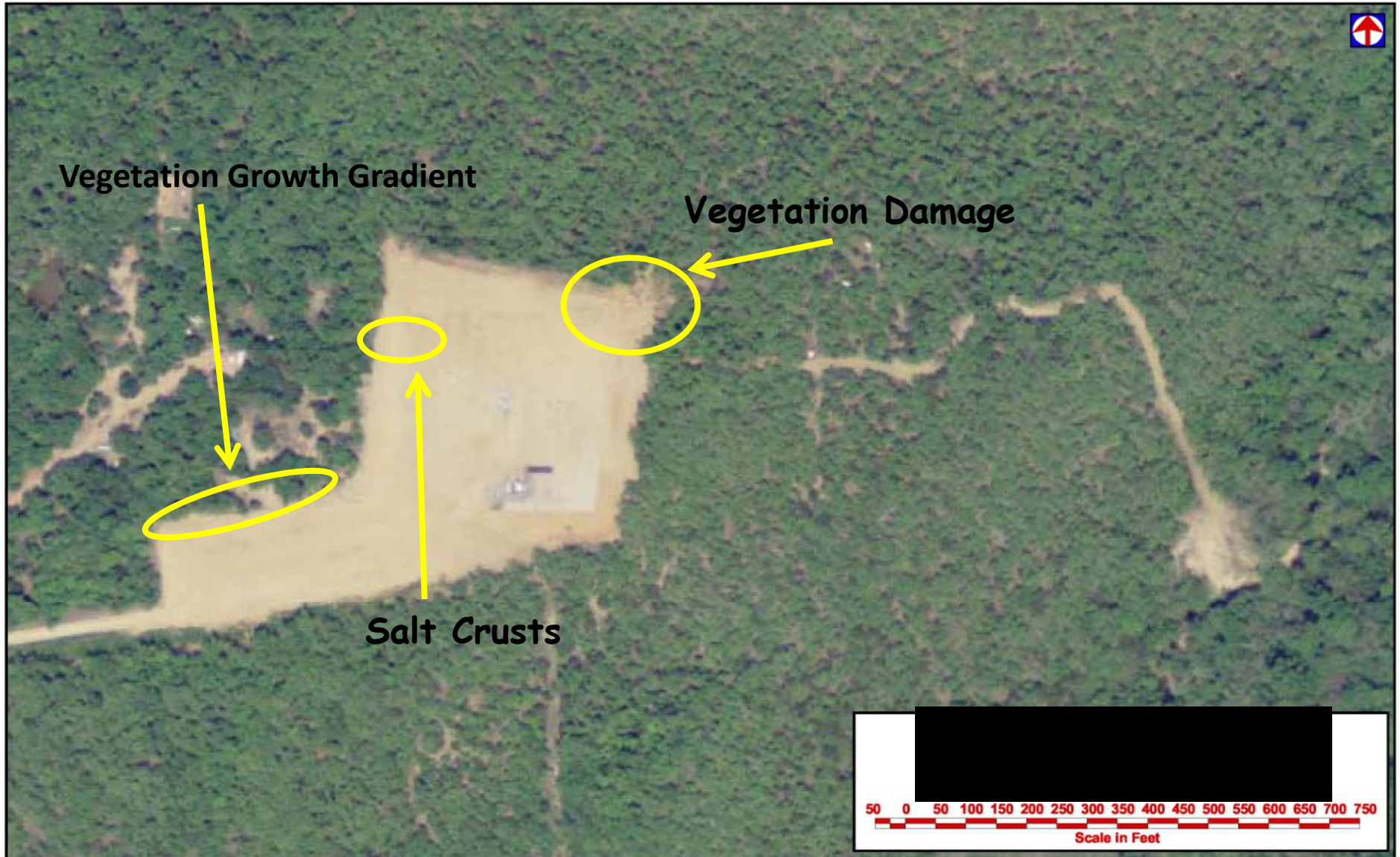


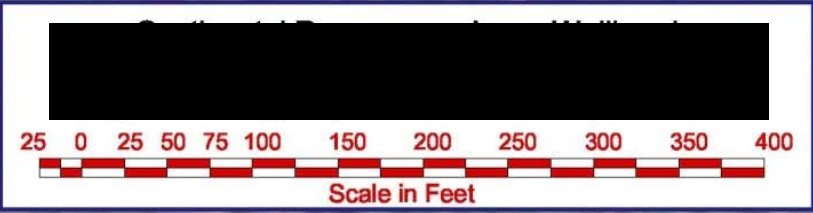
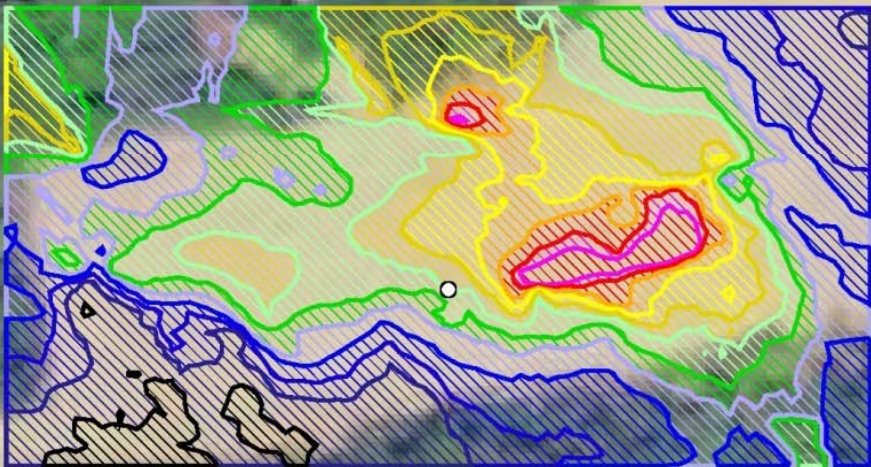


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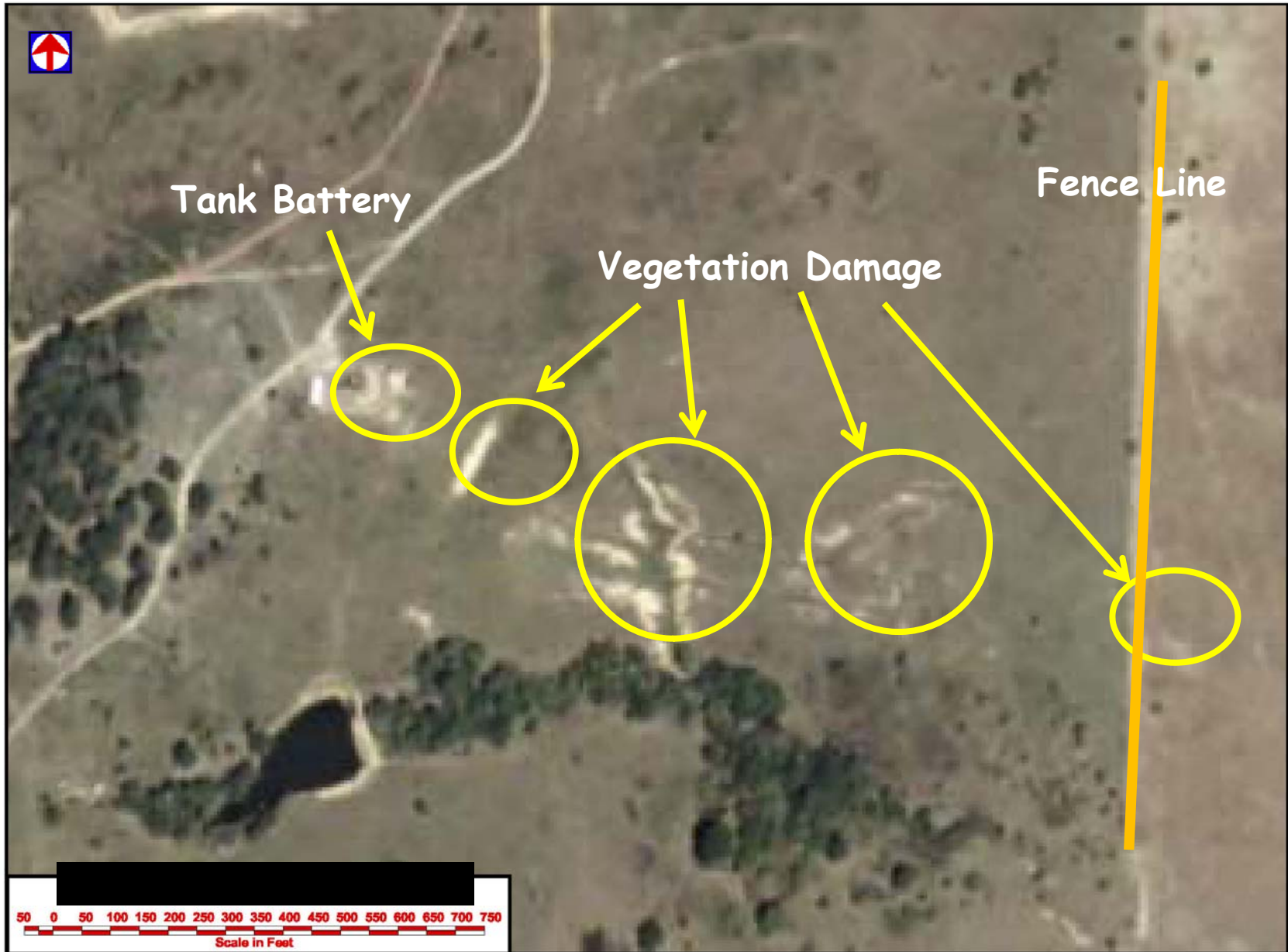


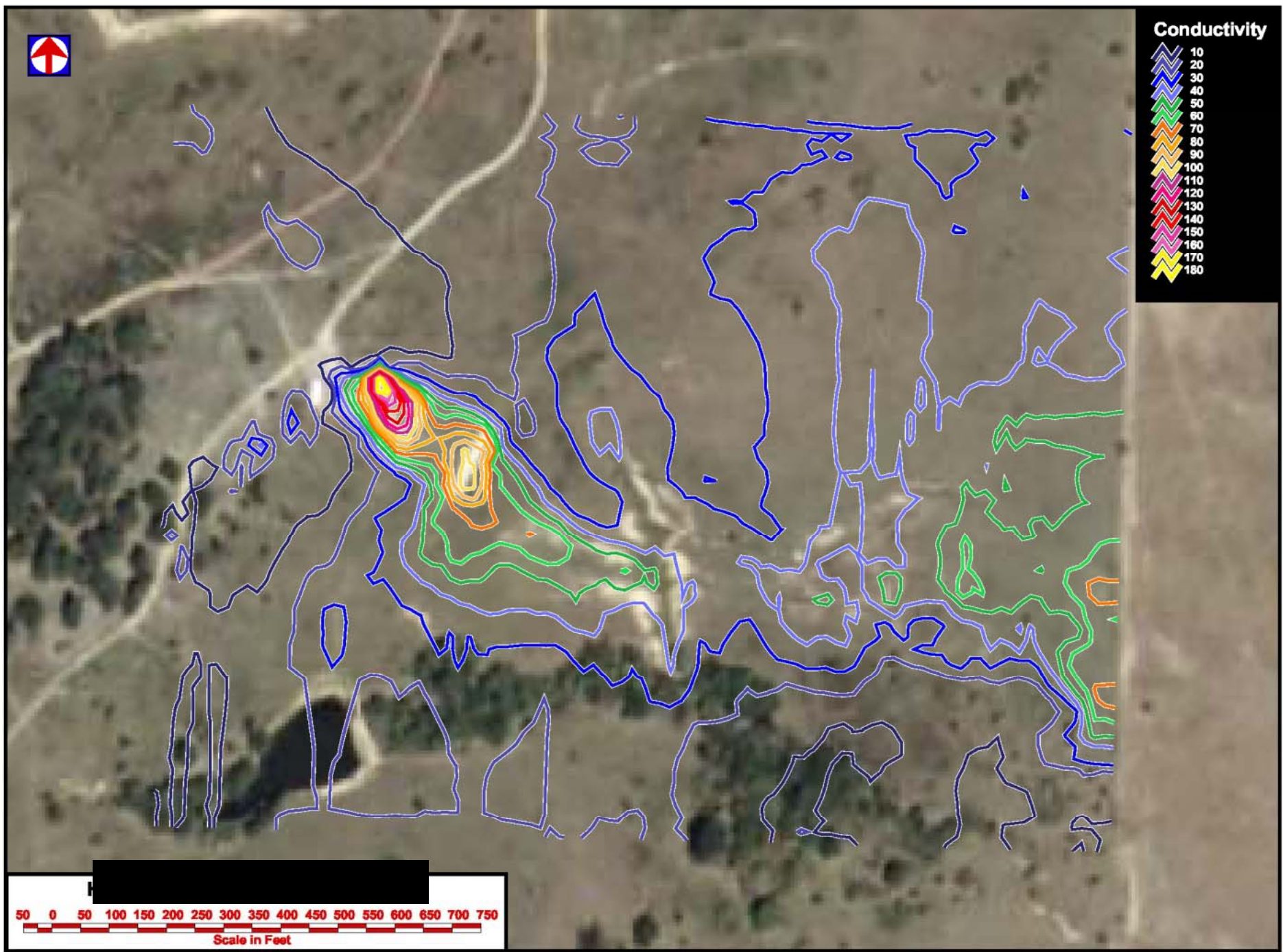
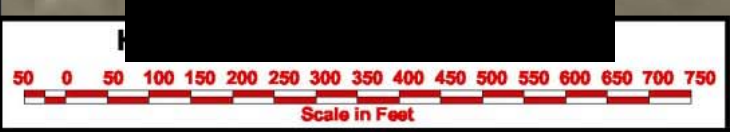
Recent drill site





Old tank battery



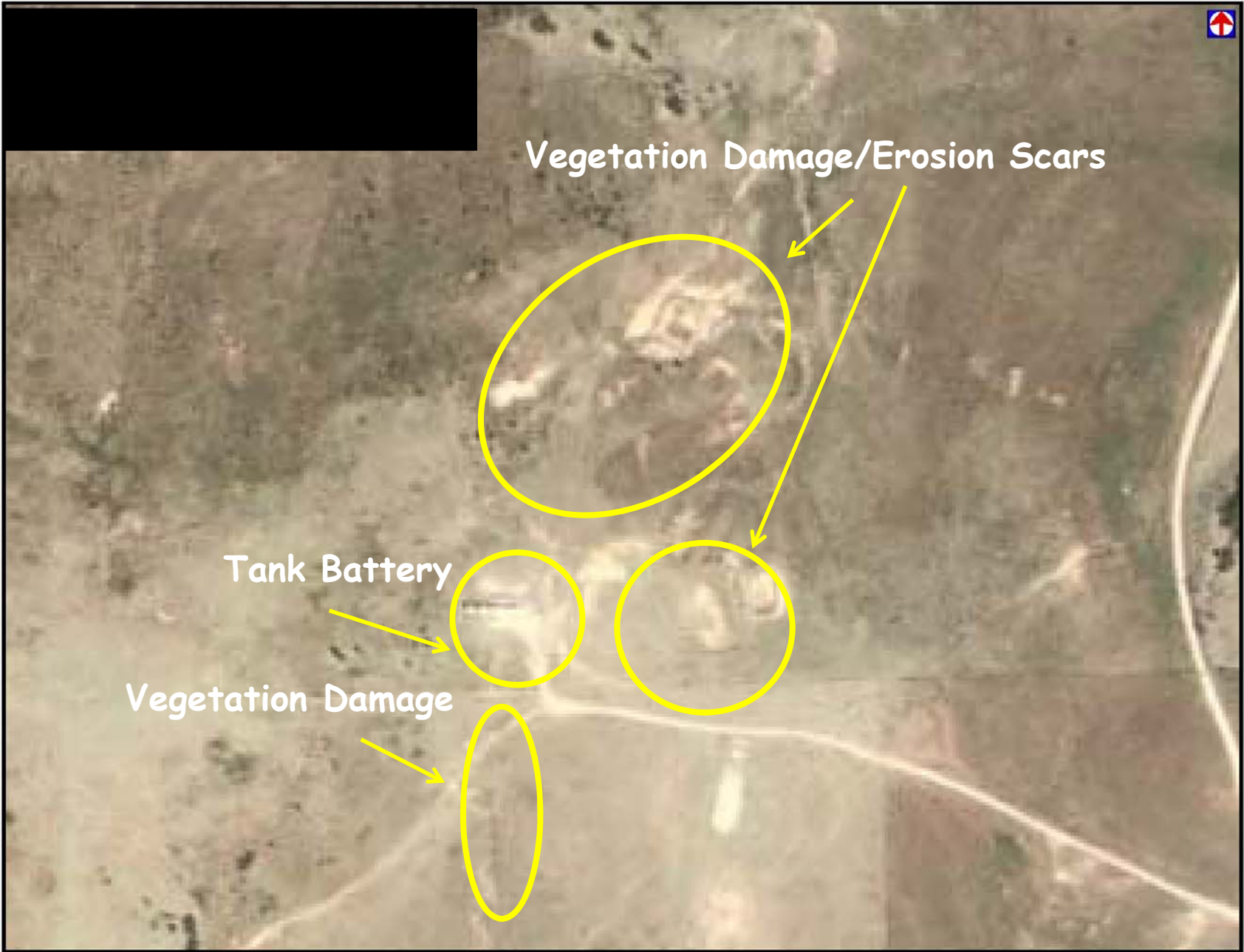


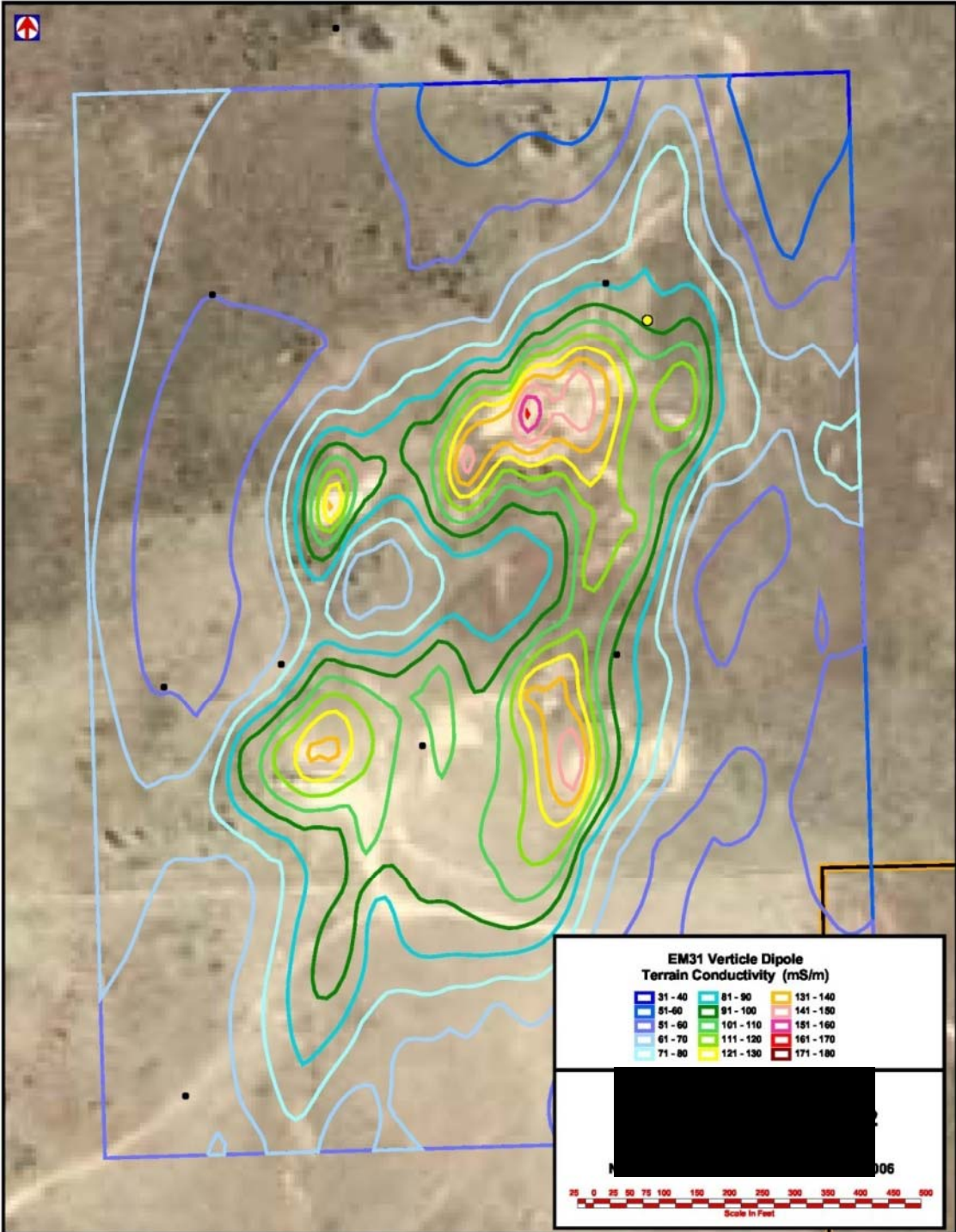
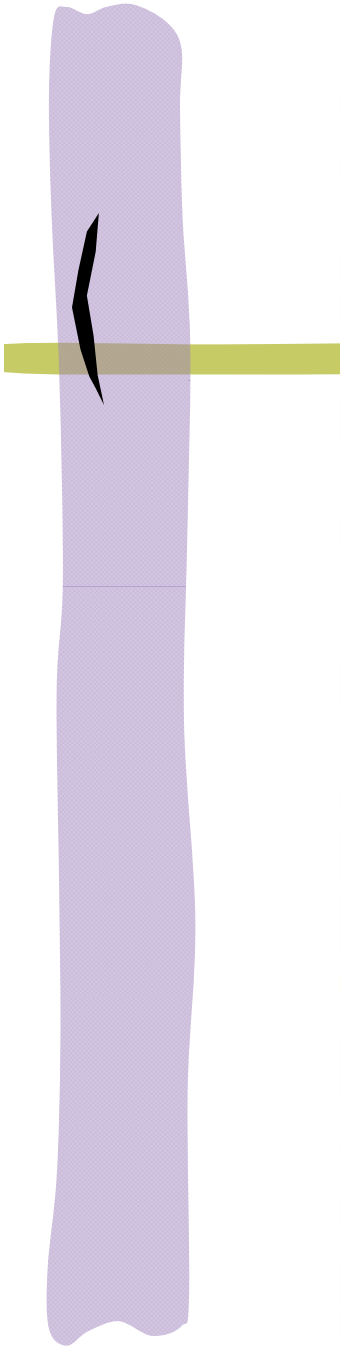


Vegetation Damage/Erosion Scars

Tank Battery

Vegetation Damage





Using EMP to find the source of salt contamination



Dead trees

Seep

Drainage



Dead trees

Analysis of seep water

----- Cations -----

Sodium (ppm)	1518
Calcium (ppm)	332
Magnesium (ppm)	52
Potassium (ppm)	13

----- Anions -----

Nitrate-N (ppm)	< 1
Chloride (ppm)	2807
Sulfate (ppm)	14
Boron (ppm)	0.16
Bicarbonate (ppm)	314

----- Other -----

pH	7.8
EC ($\mu\text{mhos/cm}$)	8950

----- Derived Values -----

Total Soluble Salts (TSS in ppm)	5907
Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	20.5
Potassium Adsorption Ratio (PAR)	0.1

----- Derived Values(cont'd) -----

Sodium Percentage	76.0%
Hardness (ppm)	1042
Hardness Class	Very Hard
Alkalinity (ppm as CaCO_3)	257



15% increase in EC



11306382
LILLY B 3

11322601
OSAGE 4-B

11306881

11301406
OSAGE 7

11301404
BETTS WF UNIT #5-5

BETTS WF UNIT #5-6
11301405

11319248
OSAGE 4

Salt Spring

11301407
OSAGE 8

11301403
OSAGE 3

**BLUESTEM RANCH
NAIP Aerial Photo 2008**



DRAFT



11306882
LILLY B 3

11322601
OSAGE 4-B

11306881

11301406
OSAGE 7

11301404
BETTS WF UNIT #5-5

BETTS WF UNIT #5-6
11301405

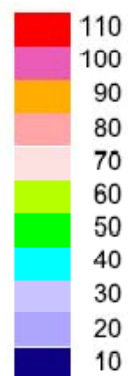
11319248
OSAGE 4

Salt Spring

11301407
OSAGE 8

11301403
OSAGE 3

Terrain
Conductivity
(ms/m)
May, 2010



Terrain Conductivity
NAIP Aerial Photo 2008



DRAFT



11306382
LILLY B 3

11322601
OSAGE 4-B

11306881

11301406
OSAGE 7

11301404
BETTS WF UNIT #5-5

BETTS WF UNIT #5-6
11301405

11319248
OSAGE 4

600 ft

Salt Spring

11301407
OSAGE 8

11301403
OSAGE 3

**BLUESTEM RANCH
NAIP Aerial Photo 2008**



DRAFT



Direction
of spring





Remediation of Brine Spills

What defines remediation?

The site of a produced water release from a saltwater line



The site of a produced water release at a wellhead

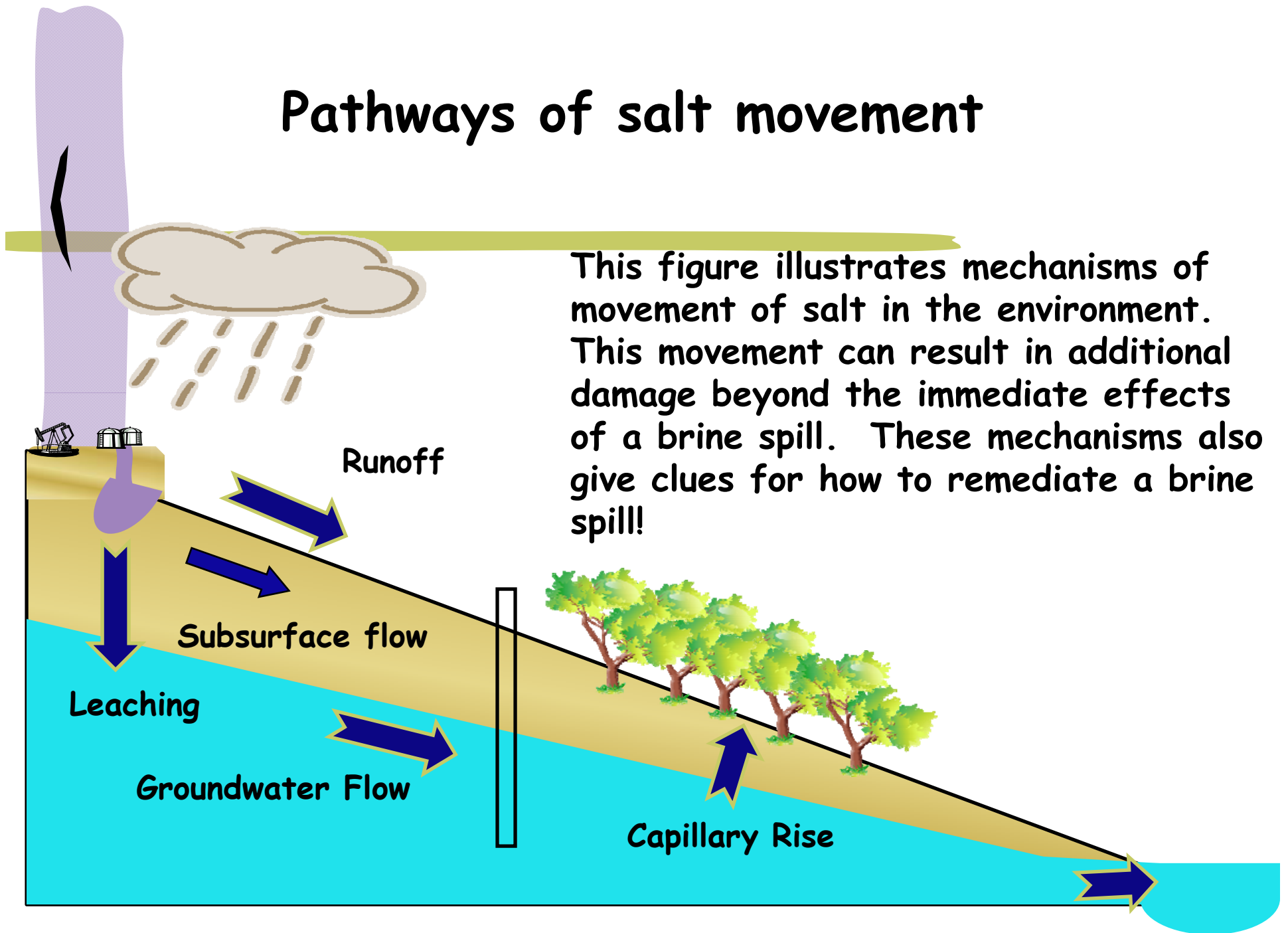


Are these sites remediated?

- # The regulator (in this case the BIA) says yes because it is revegetated
- # The landowner says no, he wants native grass back suitable for cattle grazing
- # A jury agreed with the landowner and awarded damages (cost of remediation) plus plaintiff's attorney fees

Pathways of salt movement

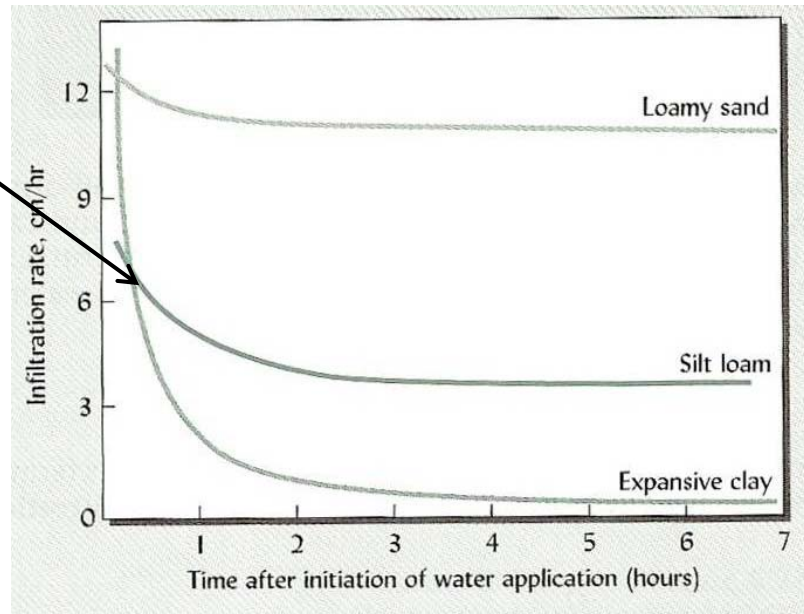
This figure illustrates mechanisms of movement of salt in the environment. This movement can result in additional damage beyond the immediate effects of a brine spill. These mechanisms also give clues for how to remediate a brine spill!



First response to a brine spill

- # Flushing with fresh water into a receiving body followed by disposal of salty water
 - Soak the area between the spill and the receiving body with fresh water before flushing

Capillary suction from dry soil can result in further damage





**Push up an
earthen dam
downgradient**

**Dam a drainage
ditch**



Basic principles in the remediation of brine spills

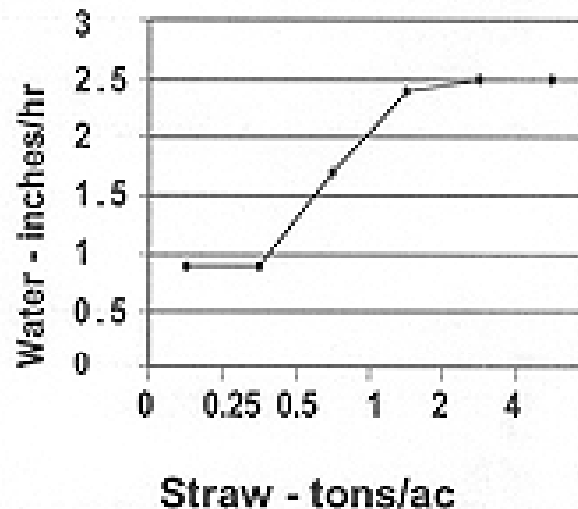
- # Salt concentrations in the plant root zone must be reduced to acceptable levels in the long term to allow growth of desired plants
 - It's easy to flush salt from soil in the short term - the challenge is in making sure it doesn't come back! Remember capillary suction?

Basic principles in the remediation of brine spills, cont.

- # Soluble salts are transported by **water**
 - **No water, no movement**
 - Therefore, remediation requires contact of **water** with salt and **drainage** to convey salt away from the root zone
 - Both the quantity and quality (EC and SAR) of irrigation water are important to the outcome of any remediation effort

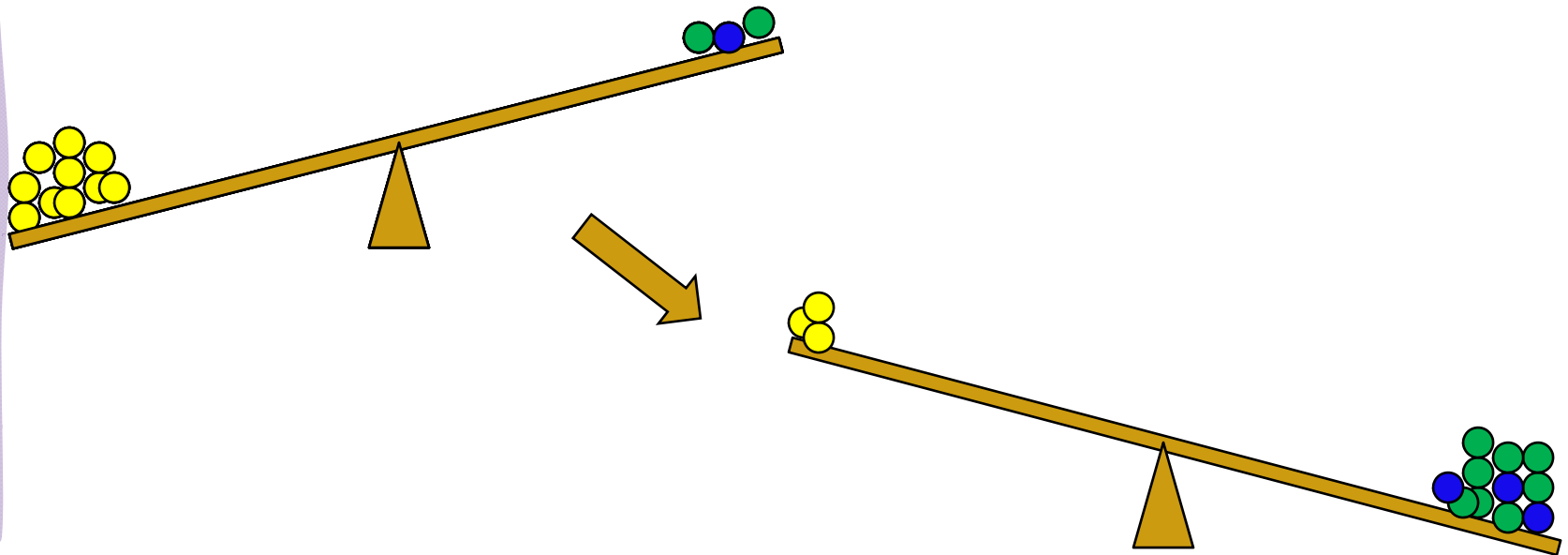
Basic principles in the remediation of brine spills, cont.

- # The rate of movement of water through the soil and, therefore, the rate at which salts can be carried out of the root zone, is determined by the permeability of the soil
 - Permeability must be addressed in the short term and the long term
 - In the **short term** we must mechanically open the soil and prop it open with bulking agents (organic matter) to maintain a porous structure to allow the transport of water



Basic principles in the remediation of brine spills, cont.

- In the long term we must rebuild soil structure
 - ⌘ Reverse sodicity by restoring the proper exchangeable cation status
 - ⌘ Generate the natural glue that holds particles together



Basic principles in the remediation of brine spills, cont.

- # Drying of surface soil by evaporation creates a suction gradient that produces upward movement of salt and water (capillary suction); therefore, salts must be driven deep enough that they do not rise into the root zone
- # All soluble salts are affected by leaching
 - Leaching to remove produced water salts also removes beneficial nutrients (particularly N)

Basic principles in the remediation of brine spills, cont.

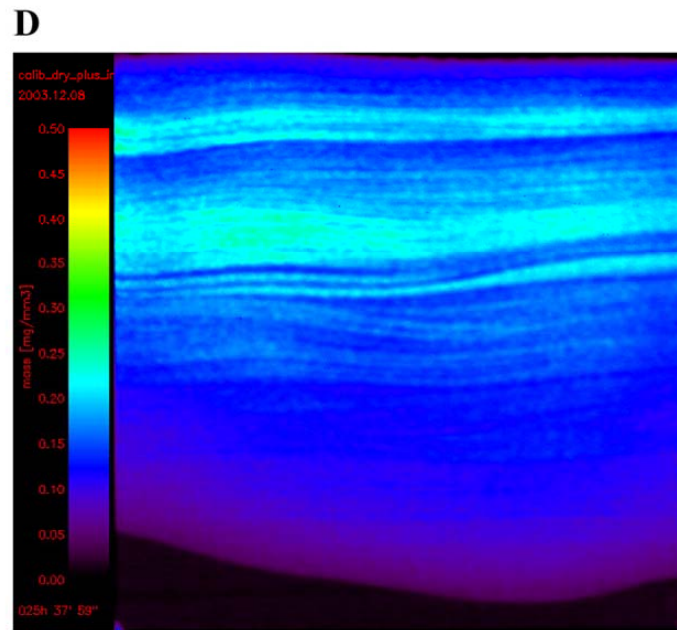
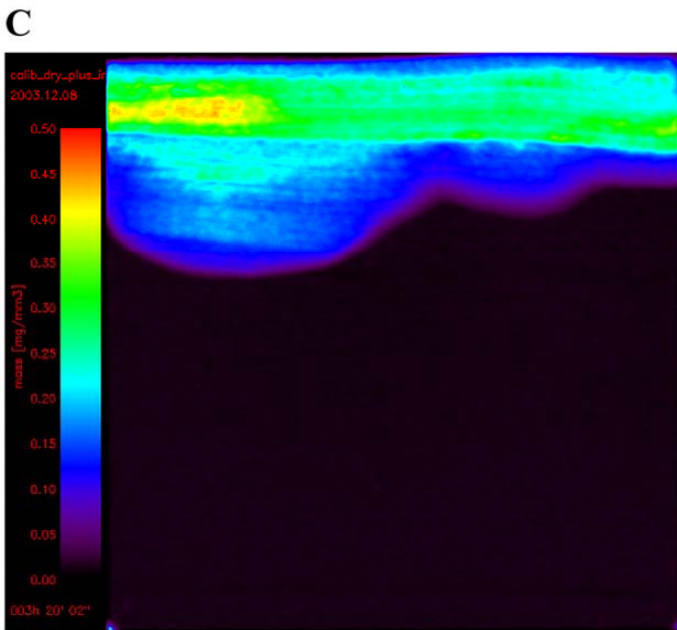
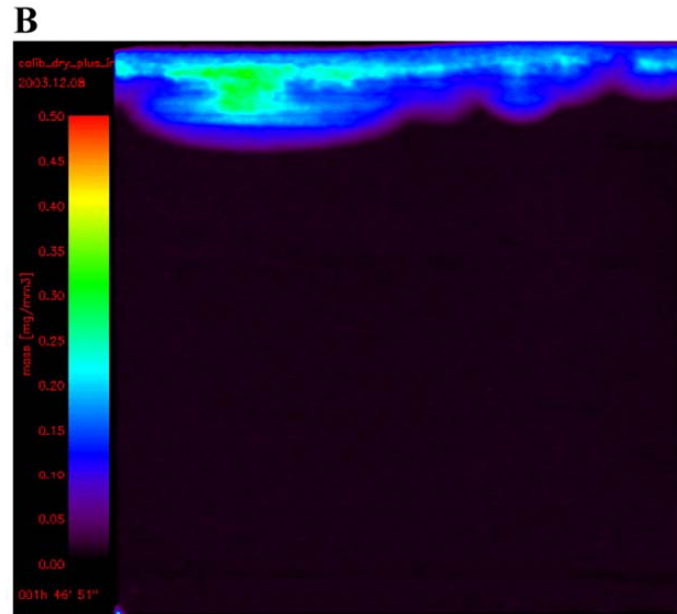
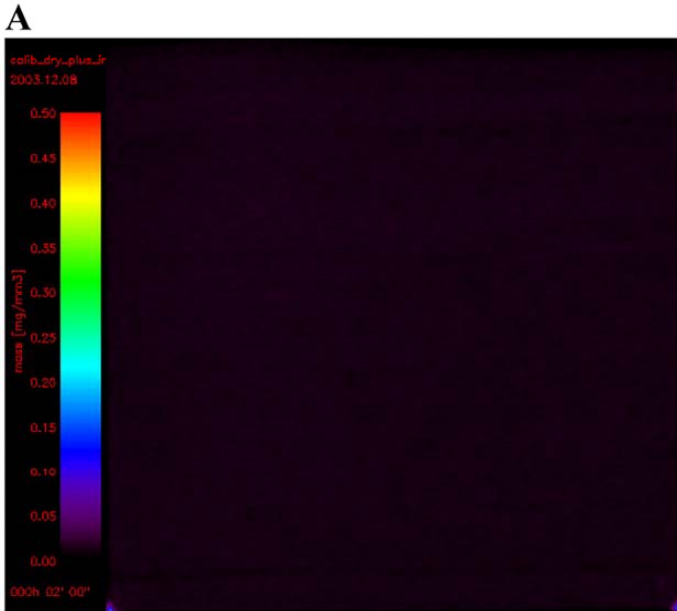
- # Once salinity and sodicity damages have been alleviated revegetation is required to prevent erosion and restore productivity
 - Successful revegetation is dependent on
 - preparation of a proper seedbed
 - choosing the right plants (seeds) for the climate
 - addressing any nutrient deficiencies in the soil
 - maintaining proper moisture conditions while new plants get established

Basic elements in the remediation of brine spills, the tool box

- # Water (irrigation and/or rainfall)
 - Providing a sufficient quantity of water
 - Providing water of sufficient quality
 - Minimizing runoff and maximizing infiltration
- # Drainage
 - Where can the salt go?
 - Facilitating movement of salts from the site in a responsible manner
 - Taking advantage of natural drainage patterns
 - Artificial drainage
- # Leaching of salts and restoring soil structure
 - Facilitating contact of water with salt
 - Maintaining soil permeability
 - Restoring the proper exchangeable cation status
- # Revegetation
 - Seedbed preparation
 - Soil fertility
 - Reseeding
 - Moisture

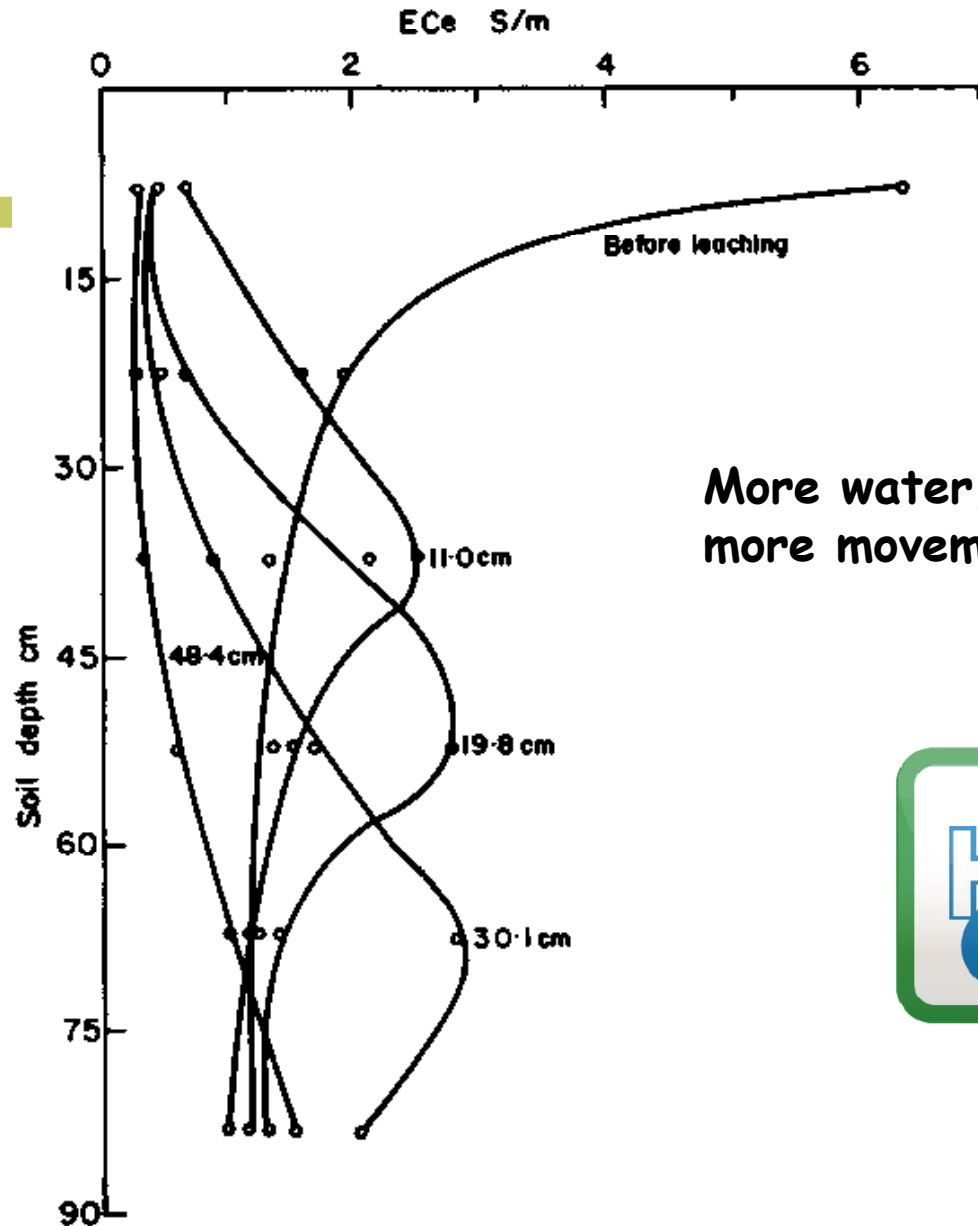
Basic elements in the remediation of brine spills, the tool box

- # **Water (irrigation and/or rainfall)**
 - Providing a sufficient quantity of water
 - Providing water of sufficient quality
 - Minimizing runoff and maximizing infiltration
- # **Drainage**
 - Where can the salt go?
 - Facilitating movement of salts from the site in a responsible manner
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 - Artificial drainage
- # **Leaching of salts and restoring soil structure**
 - Facilitating contact of water with salt
 - Maintaining soil permeability
 - Restoring the proper exchangeable cation status
- # **Revegetation**
 - Seedbed preparation
 - Soil fertility
 - Reseeding
 - Moisture



Increasing volumes of applied water; deeper penetration with more water

Driving salts down in the soil profile with water



More water,
more movement



Calculating water requirements

- # A dilution model can estimate minimum water requirements

$$d_{iw} = kd_s(EC_o/EC_t)$$

where:

d_{iw} = depth of drainage water required
(inches)

d_s = thickness of impacted layer of soil (inches)

k = drainable porosity (%/100)

EC_o = initial soil EC

EC_t = target EC after treatment (< 4 mS/cm)

Drainable porosity depends on soil texture and structure

Soil Texture	Drainable Porosity (% by vol.)
clays, clay loams, silty clays	3-11%
well structured loams	10-15%
sandy	18-35%

Sample calculation of water requirements

- # Medium textured soil ($k = 0.15$)
- # Average EC_o :
 - # 0-1 ft 28 mmhos/cm (mS/cm)
 - # 1-2 ft 18 mmhos/cm
 - # > 2 ft 4 mmhos/cm
- # $EC_t = 4$ mS/cm

Sample calculation of water requirements

$$d_{iw} = kd_s(EC_o/EC_t)$$

$$d_s = 24 \text{ inches}$$

$$\text{average } EC_o = 23 \text{ mS/cm}$$

$$d_{iw} = (0.15)(24 \text{ inches})(23/4) = 20.7 \text{ inches}$$

This is the amount of water that has to drain through the contaminated zone to potentially mobilize the salt out of the plant root zone. **Remediation will require more than this amount of water to be applied because of runoff and evaporation.**

Rule of thumb calculation of water requirements

- # A unit depth of irrigation water will remove about 80% of the salts from a unit depth of impacted soil
- # For example, 24 inches of water will remove about 80% of the salts from a 24 inch thick layer of contaminated soil
- # Assume a 24 inch thick layer of contaminated soil with an average EC of 40 mS/cm.
 - $0.8 \times 40 \text{ mS/cm} = 32 \text{ mS/cm}$. Therefore, the EC of the leached soil would be about $40 - 32 = 8 \text{ mS/cm}$
 - Another 24 inches of water would reduce the EC to about 1.6 mS/cm.

Minimizing runoff and evaporation make the most of any water applied to the site

- # Avoid watering under conditions which produce high rates of evaporation
 - Sunny and hot
 - Low humidity
 - Windy
- # A surface cover of organic mulch reduces runoff and evaporation

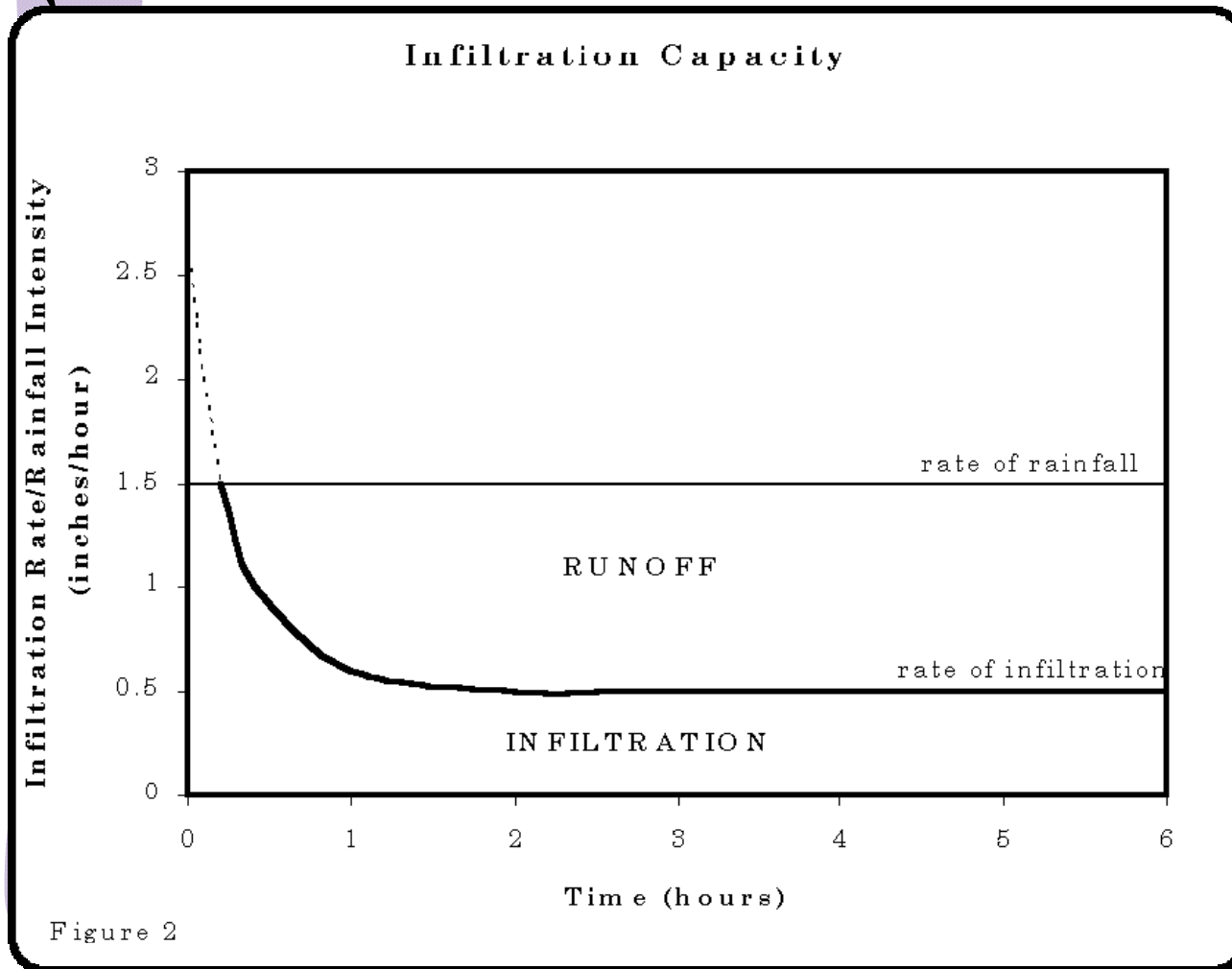
Simulated 60 mm/hr rain



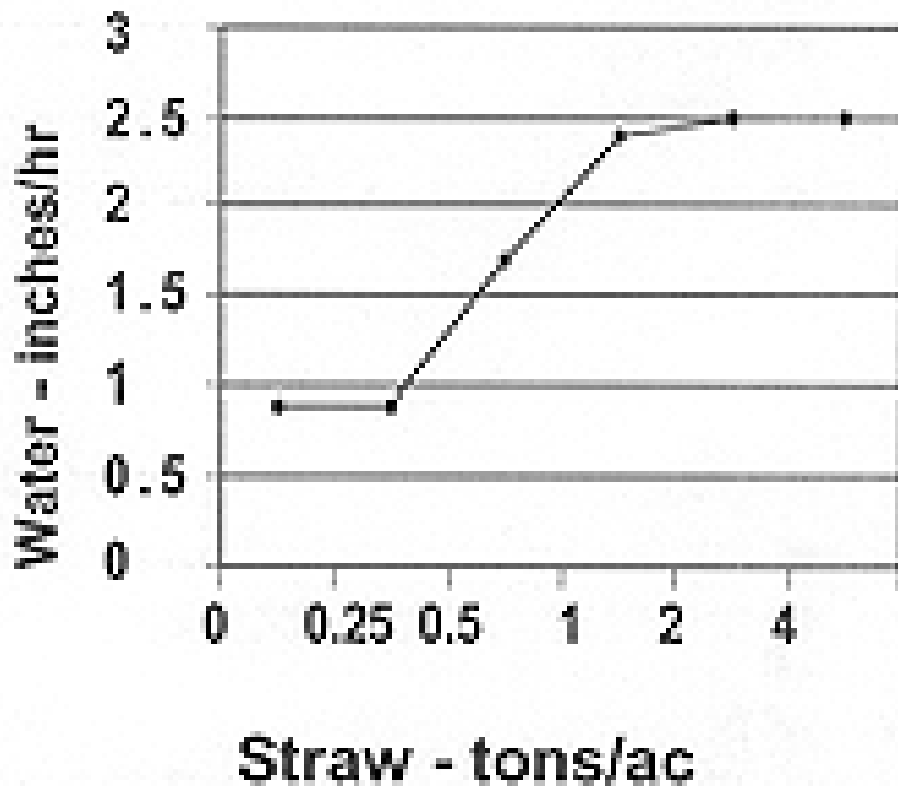
Bare soil

Notice the significant reduction in runoff and increase in infiltration of rainfall with an organic mulch on the soil

Making the most of irrigation water: Infiltration rates are greatest when the soil is dry



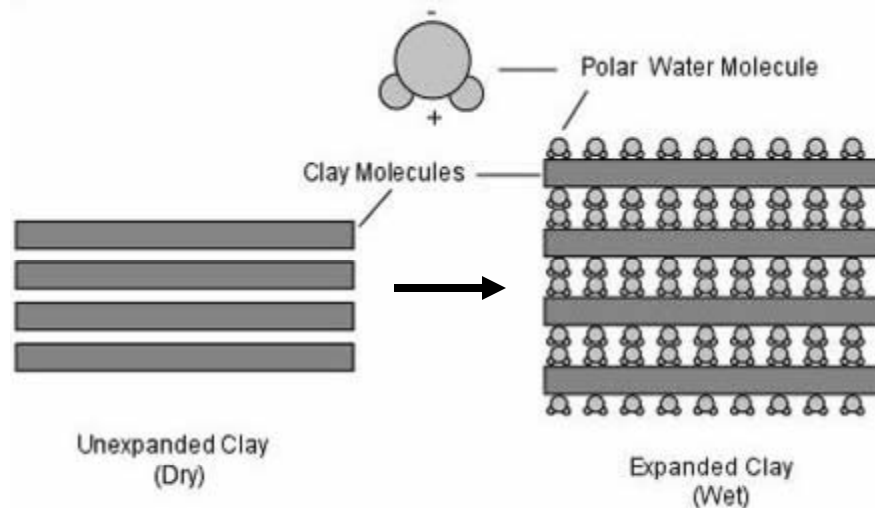
Pulsed irrigation with sprinkler application works best to deliver water at depth



Greater fraction of macropores results in greater infiltration rates; bulking agents like organic matter help a lot!

Effect of swelling clays on water infiltration

Certain clays swell when wet with fresh water with low electrolyte concentrations (as in rainfall and many irrigation waters)



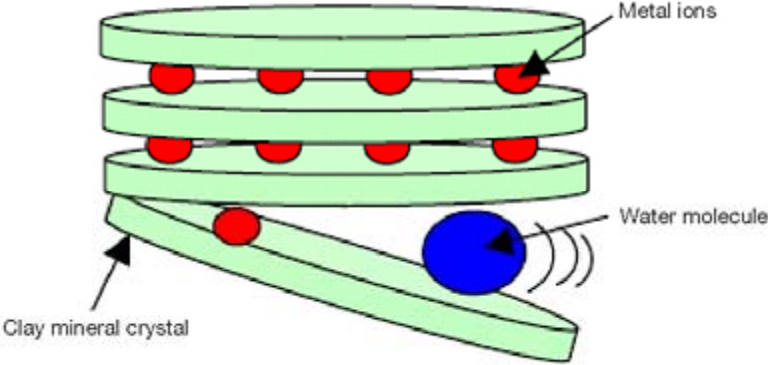
Seals off the surface and reduces infiltration



SMECTITE (2:1)



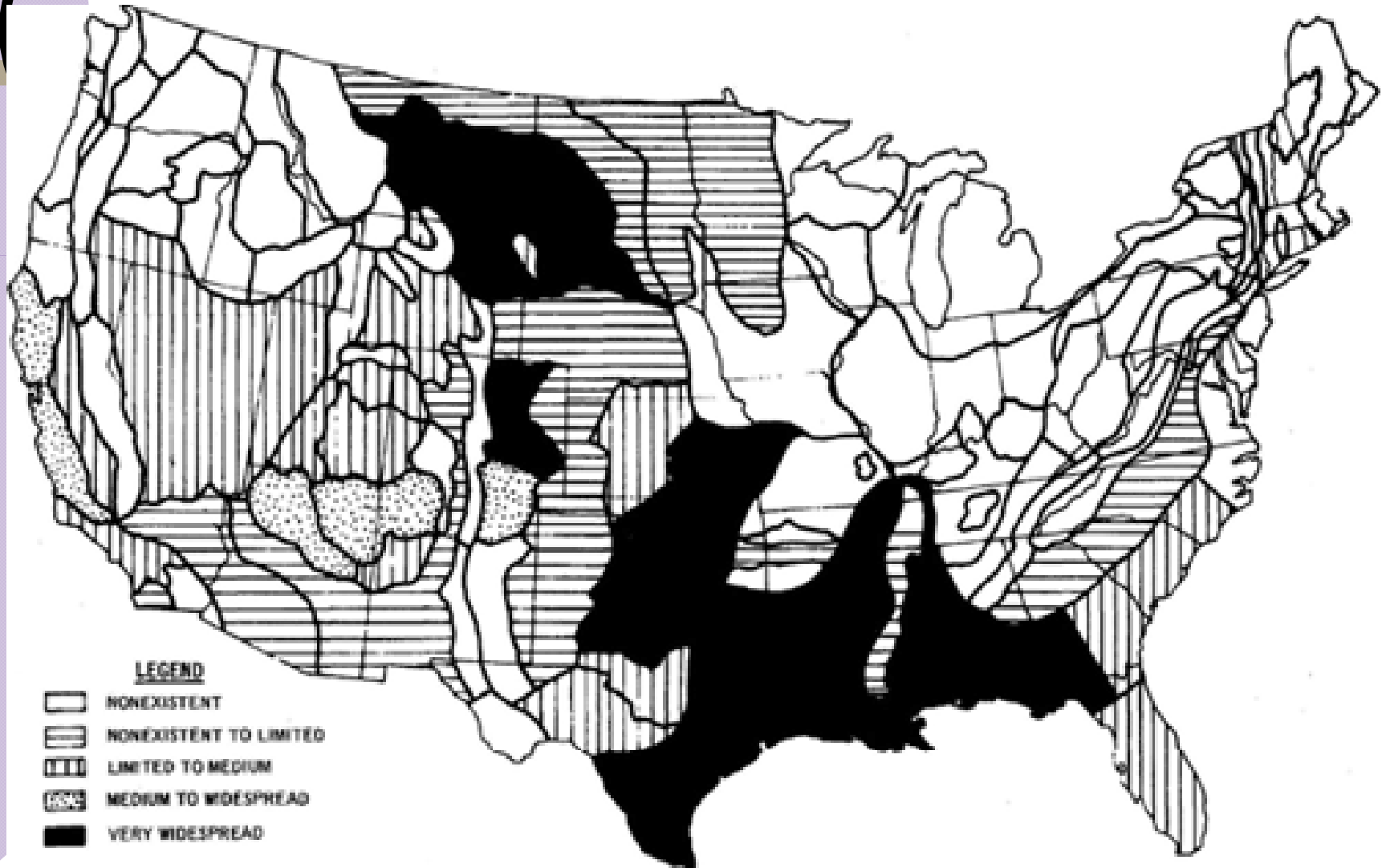
KAOLINITE (1:1)



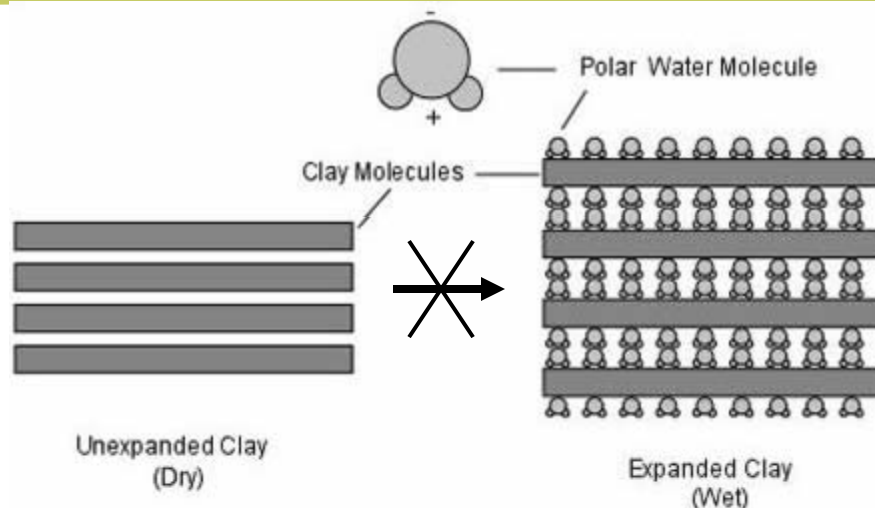
How to recognize high swelling potential



Distribution of swelling soils in the US

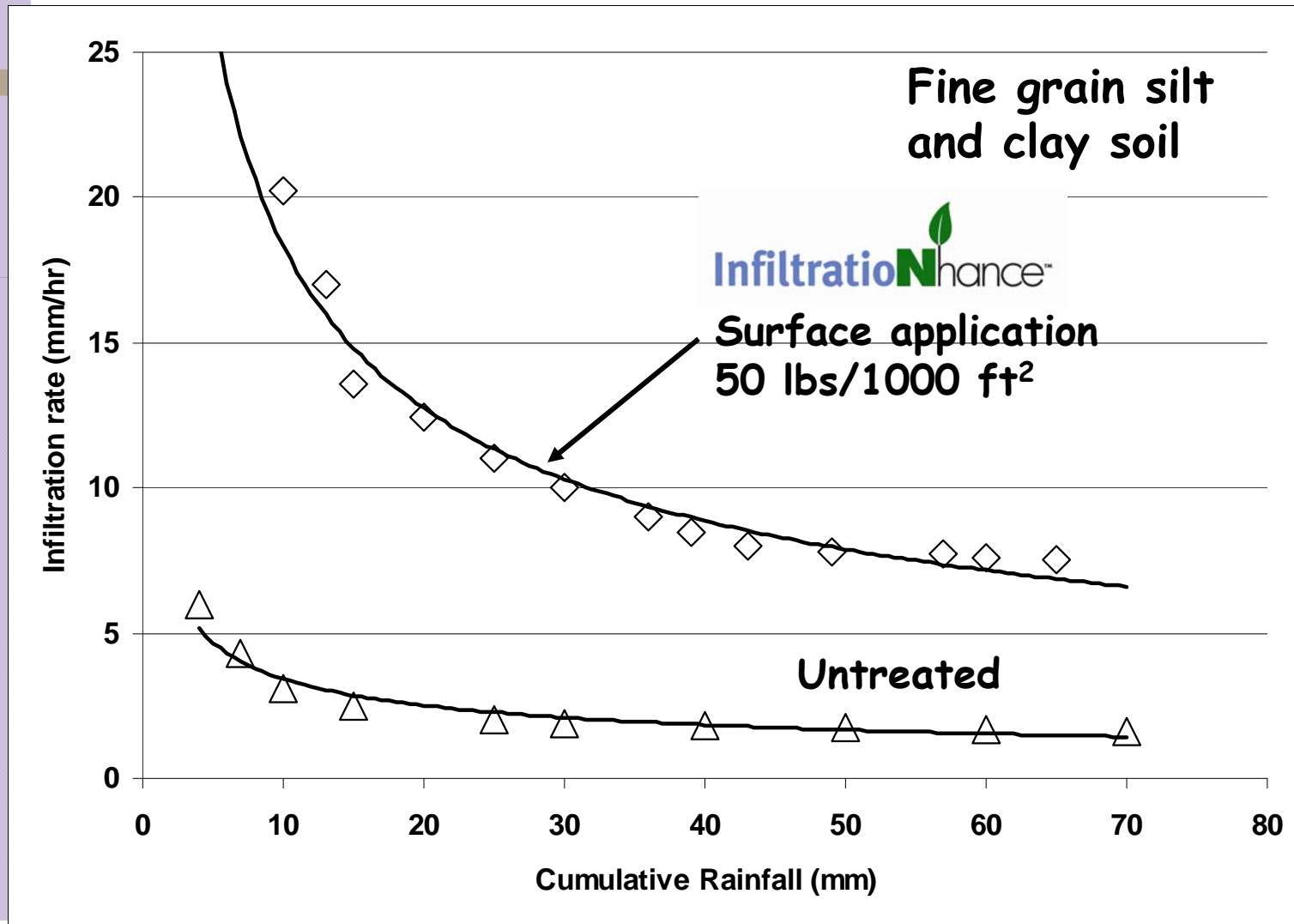


Preventing swelling and the resulting reduction in infiltration rates

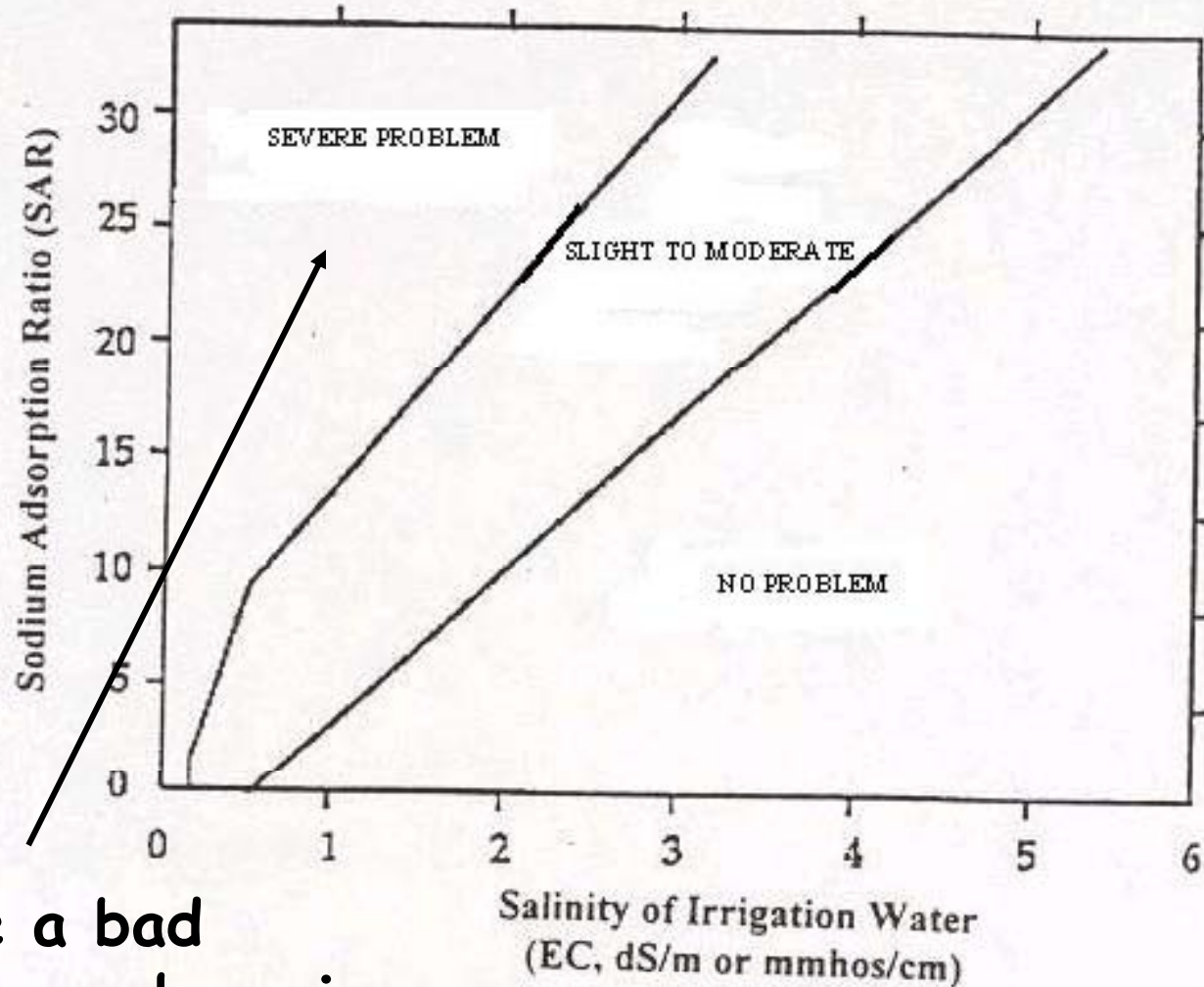


Prevented by low concentrations of electrolytes - surface applied minerals with low solubility

Surface application of **InfiltrationN^hance™** inhibits swelling and maintains good rates of water infiltration into the soil

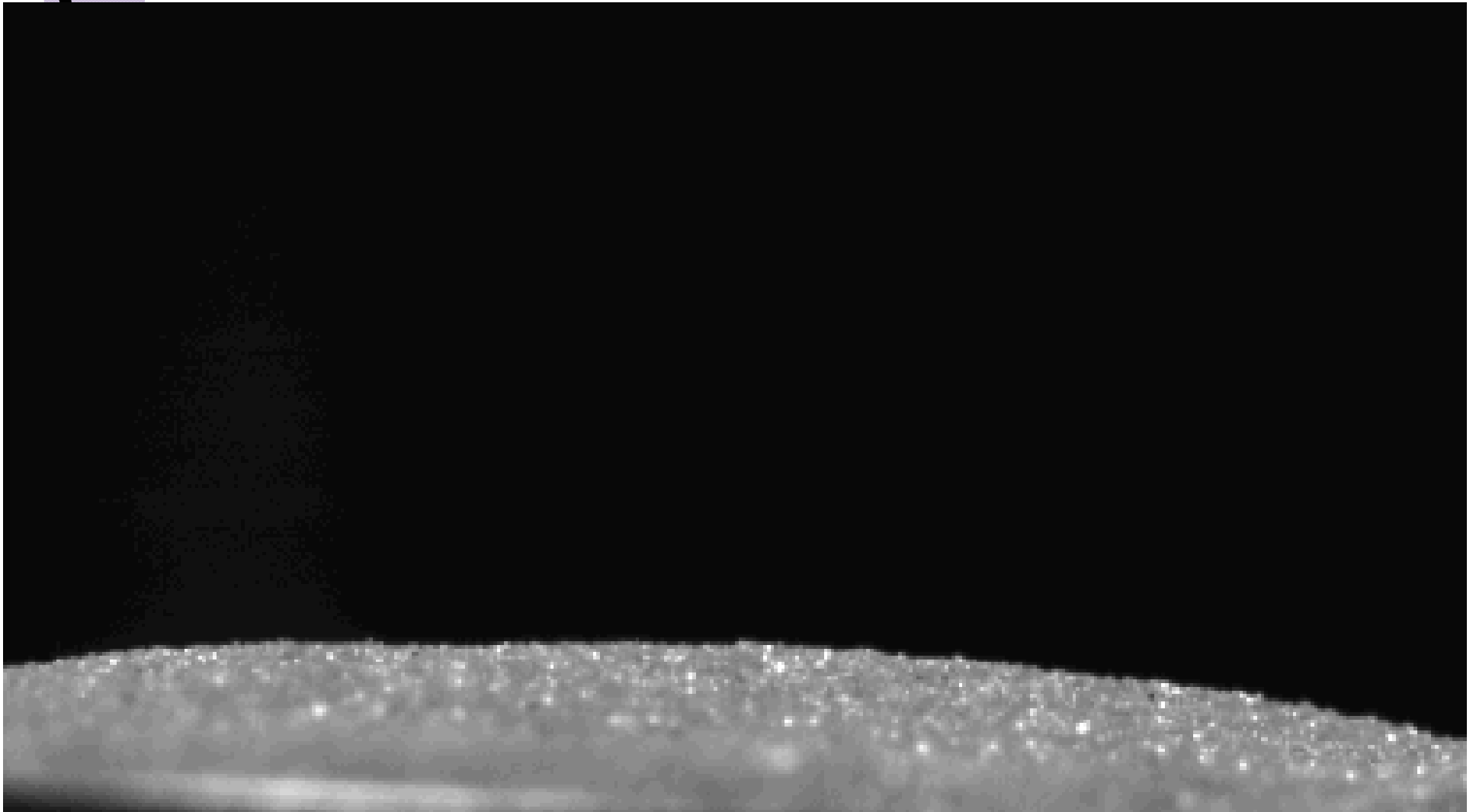


Irrigation water quality

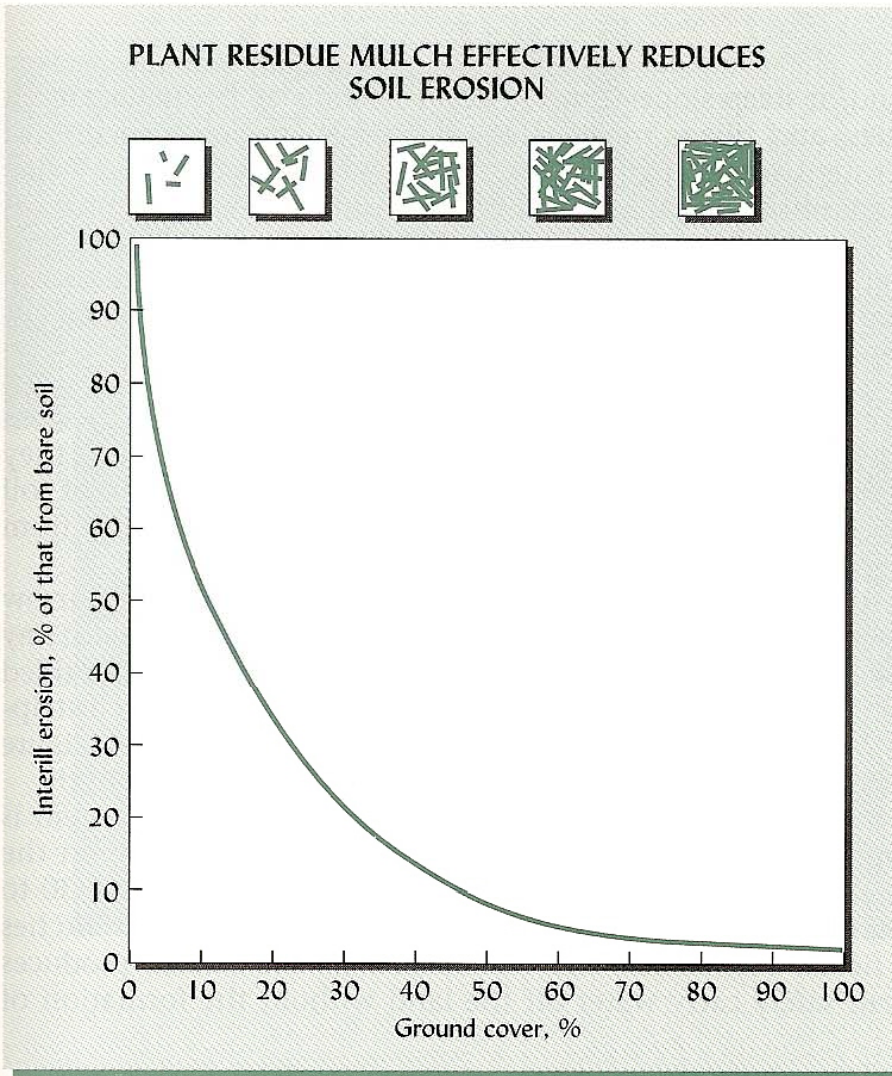


Don't make a bad situation worse by using a high SAR irrigation water

Remember the effect of rain drops on soil infiltration and the formation of soil crusts



The solution: Surface dressing of organic matter reduces crusting and erosion



Use a thick layer;
we get other
benefits and we
don't have to worry
about oxygen
penetration with
brine remediation

FIGURE 17.11 Reduction in interill erosion achieved by increasing ground cover percentage. The diagrams above the graph illustrate 5, 20, 40, 60, and 80% ground cover. Note that even a light covering of mulch has a major effect on soil erosion. The graph applies to interill erosion. On steep slopes, some rill erosion may occur even if the soil is well covered. [Generalized relationship based on results from many studies]

Remember soil compaction issues

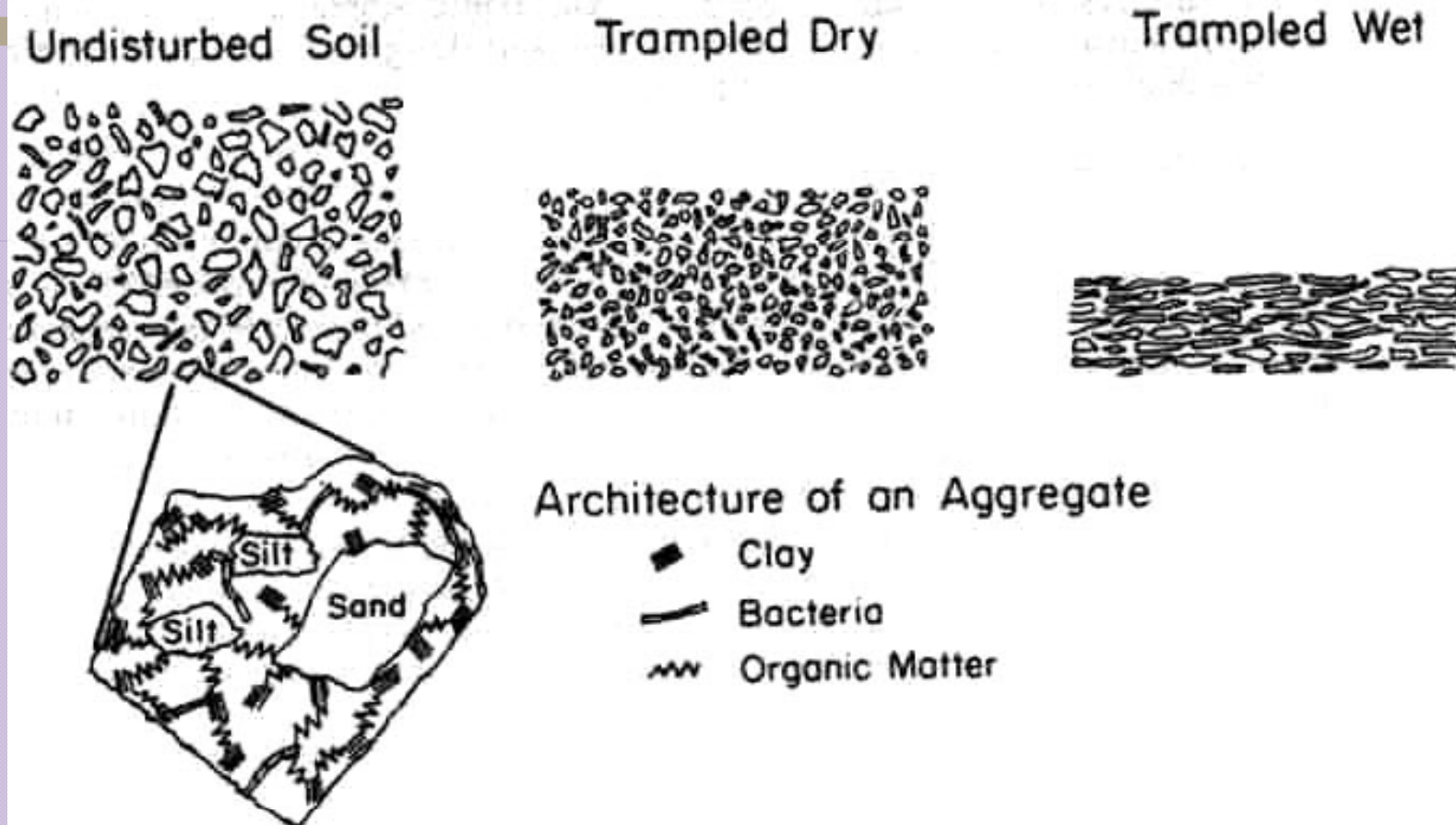
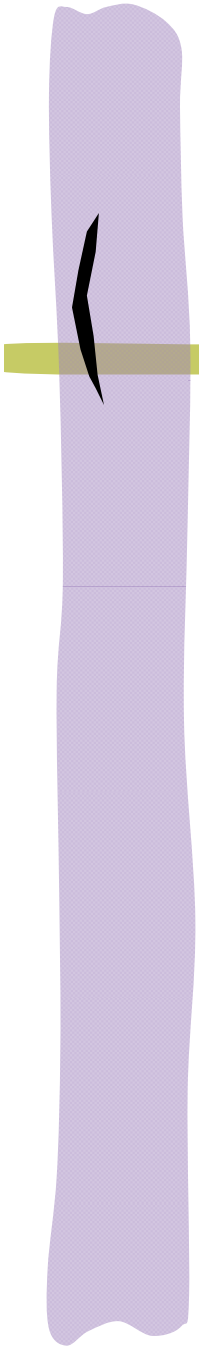


Figure 6.2. Conceptual architecture of a soil aggregate and the changes in soil aggregate structure caused by trampling under wet and dry conditions.

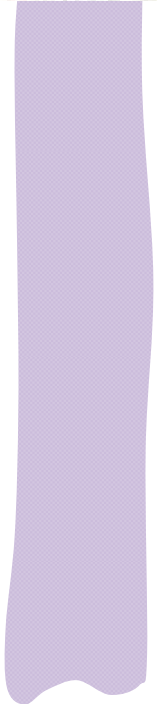
Compacted soil

Normal soil





The enemy



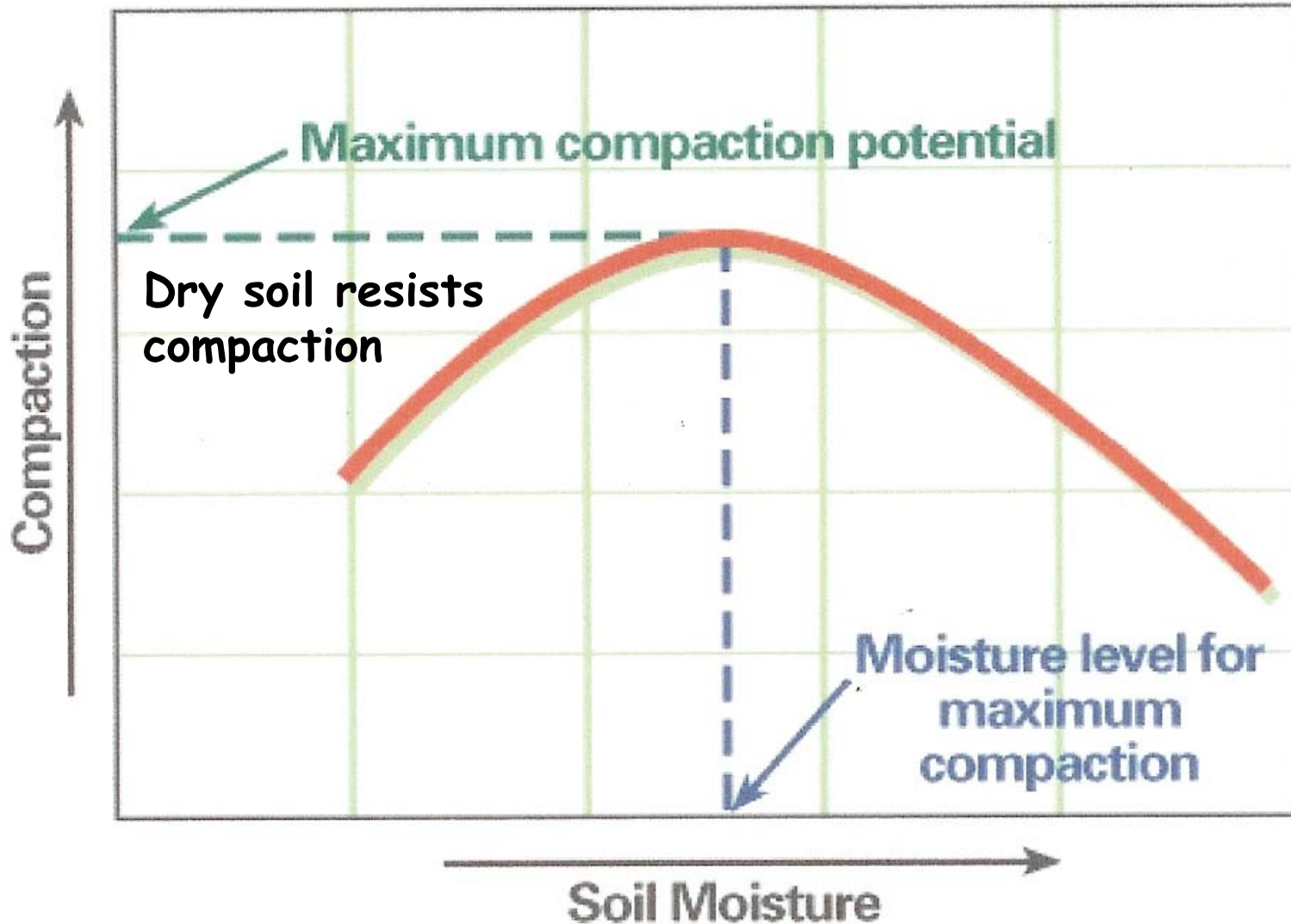
The problem



The solution: Fence the site!



Work the site only when dry



Basic elements in the remediation of brine spills

- # Water (irrigation and/or rainfall)
 - Providing a sufficient quantity of water
 - Providing water of sufficient quality
 - Minimizing runoff and maximizing infiltration
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 - Where can the salt go?
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- # Leaching of salts and restoring soil structure
 - Facilitating contact of water with salt
 - Maintaining soil permeability
 - Restoring the proper exchangeable cation status
- # Revegetation
 - Seedbed preparation
 - Soil fertility
 - Reseeding
 - Moisture

Drainage, Drainage, Drainage

Any attempt to leach salt without adequate drainage is not only doomed to failure but will actually make things worse!!!!



Where can the salt go?

What are the options?

■ Vertical drainage

- Any impediments to vertical migration?
- Will it go deep enough? How deep is deep enough?
- Will it impact groundwater?

■ Lateral drainage

- Will it cause additional damage?
- Can I protect environmental receptors?

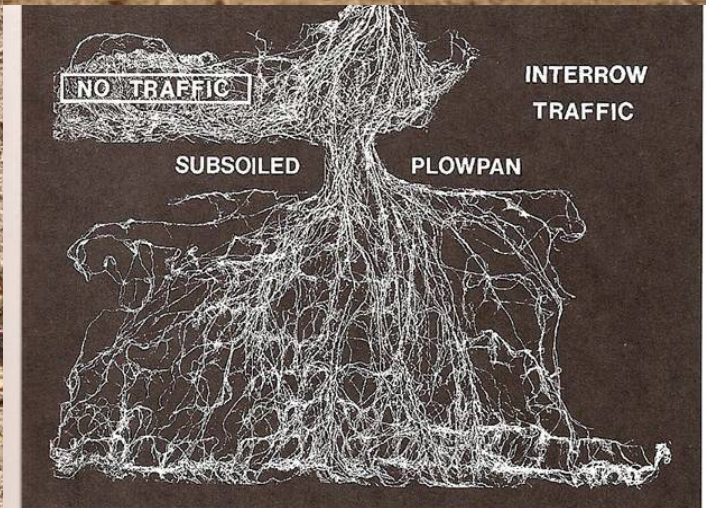
Vertical drainage

Is there an impermeable layer in the soil that will prevent vertical drainage?

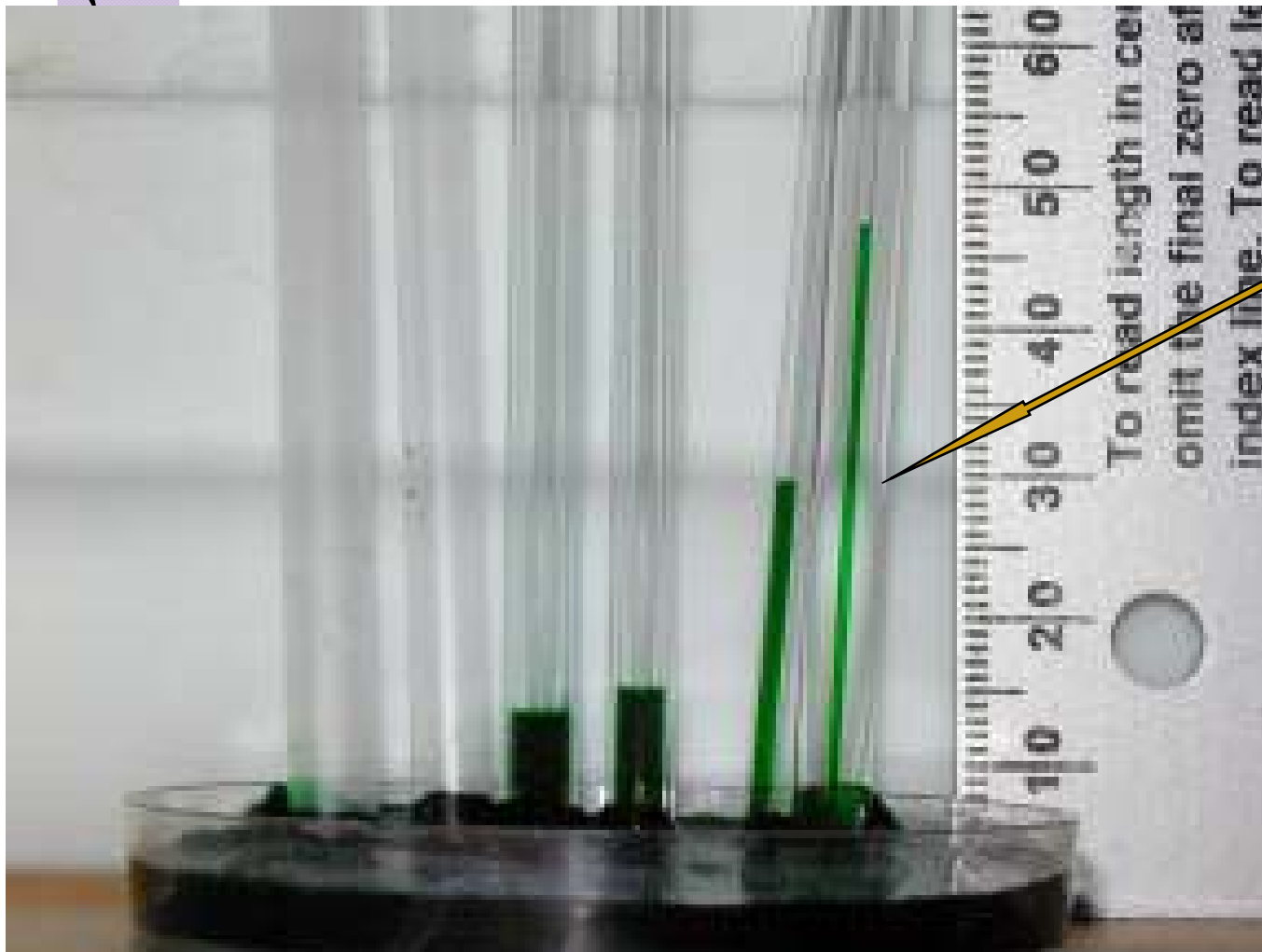


Photo 31.—Lamellae below an argillic horizon.

Soil profile modification - breaking through an impermeable layer to allow vertical drainage



Capillary suction can result of vertical rise of saline water



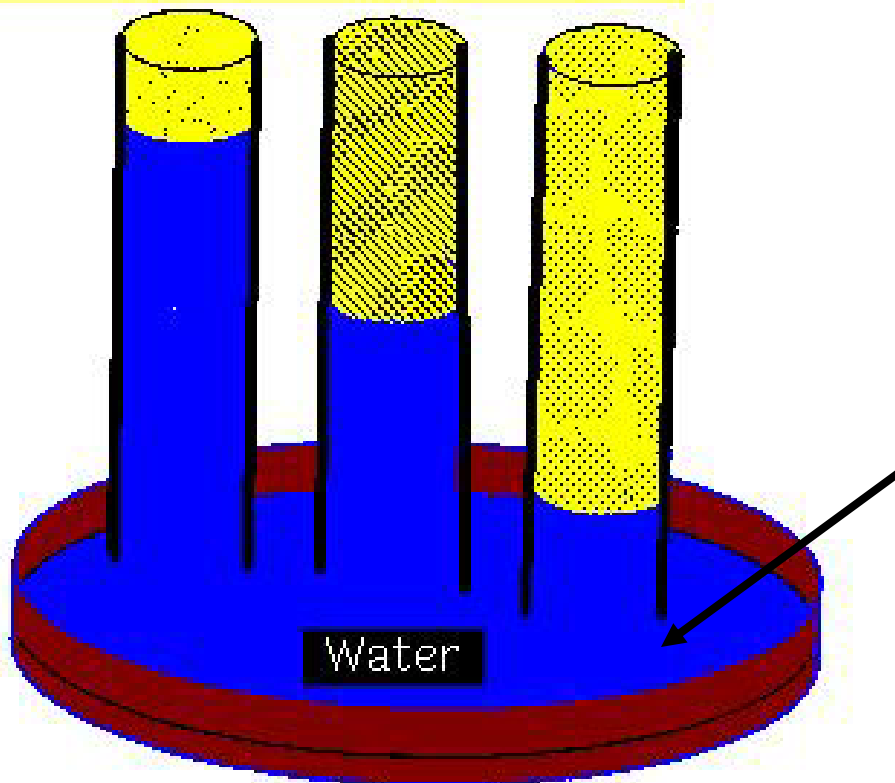
Greatest capillary rise is seen in smallest pores

Capillary must be in contact with water

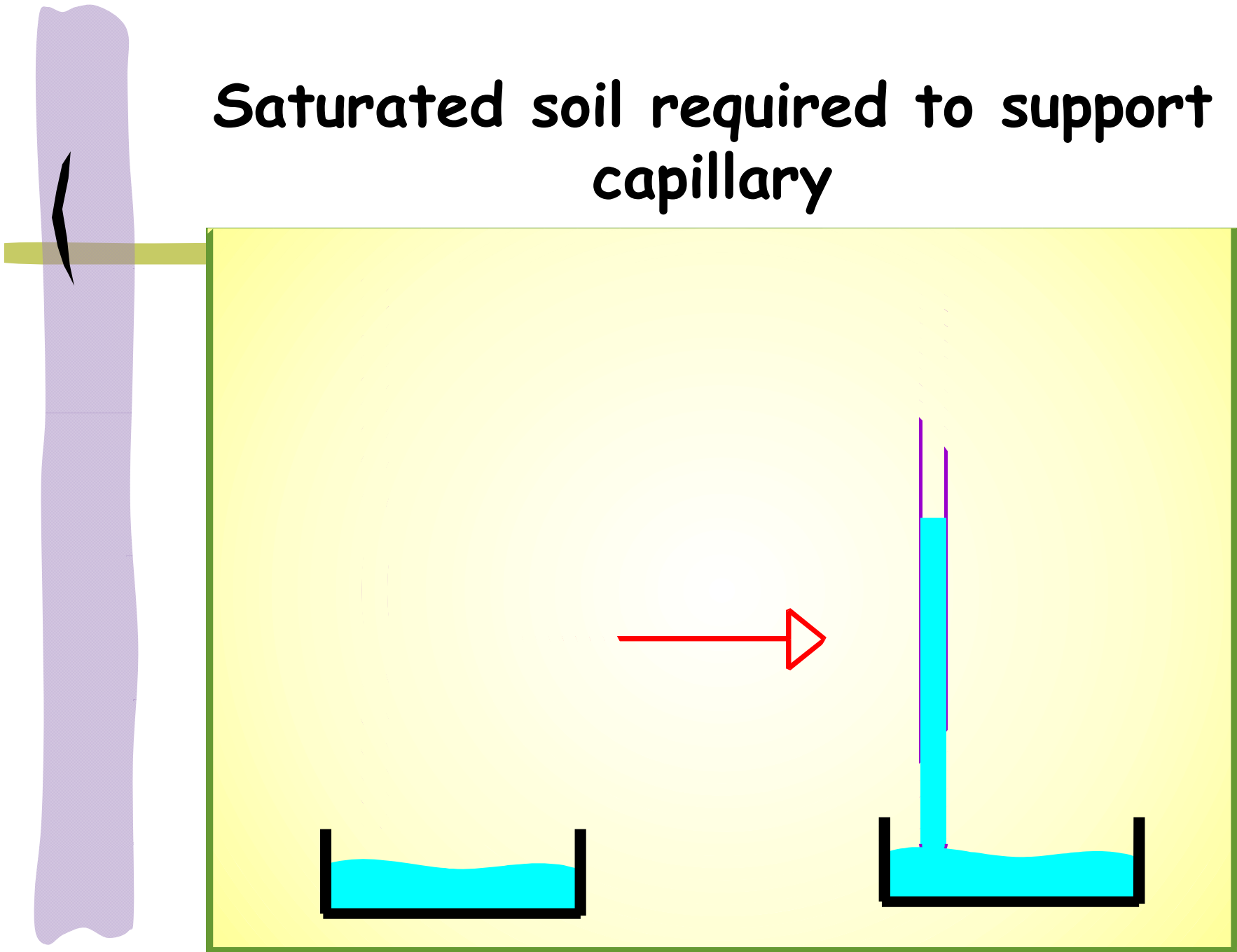
Greatest capillary suction in fine texture soils

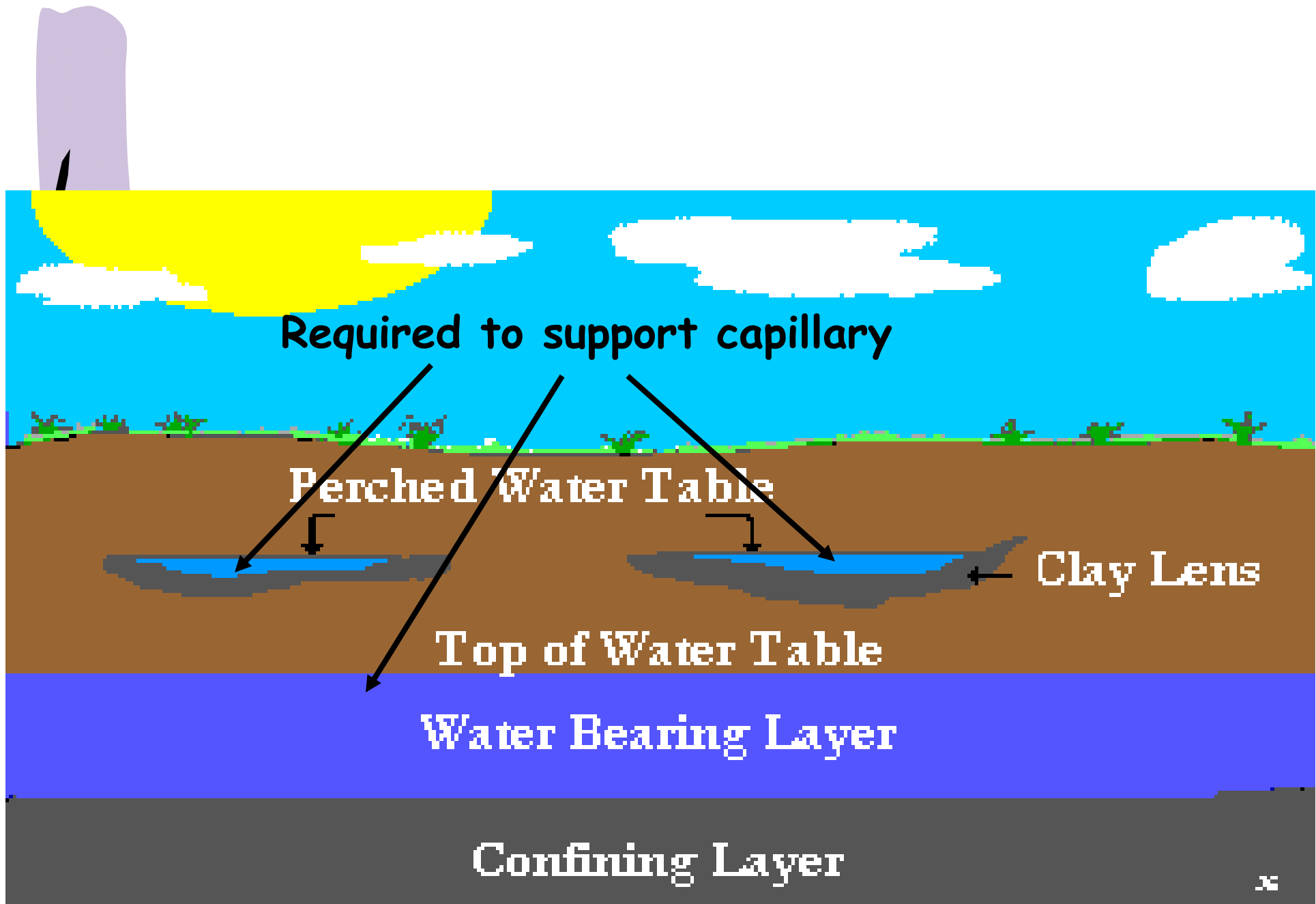
Texture - fine	medium	coarse
Pore Size-Micro	Meso	Macro
Rate of Rise - Slow	Med.	Fast

The height of capillary rise is proportional to $1/d$ where d = diameter of soil pores

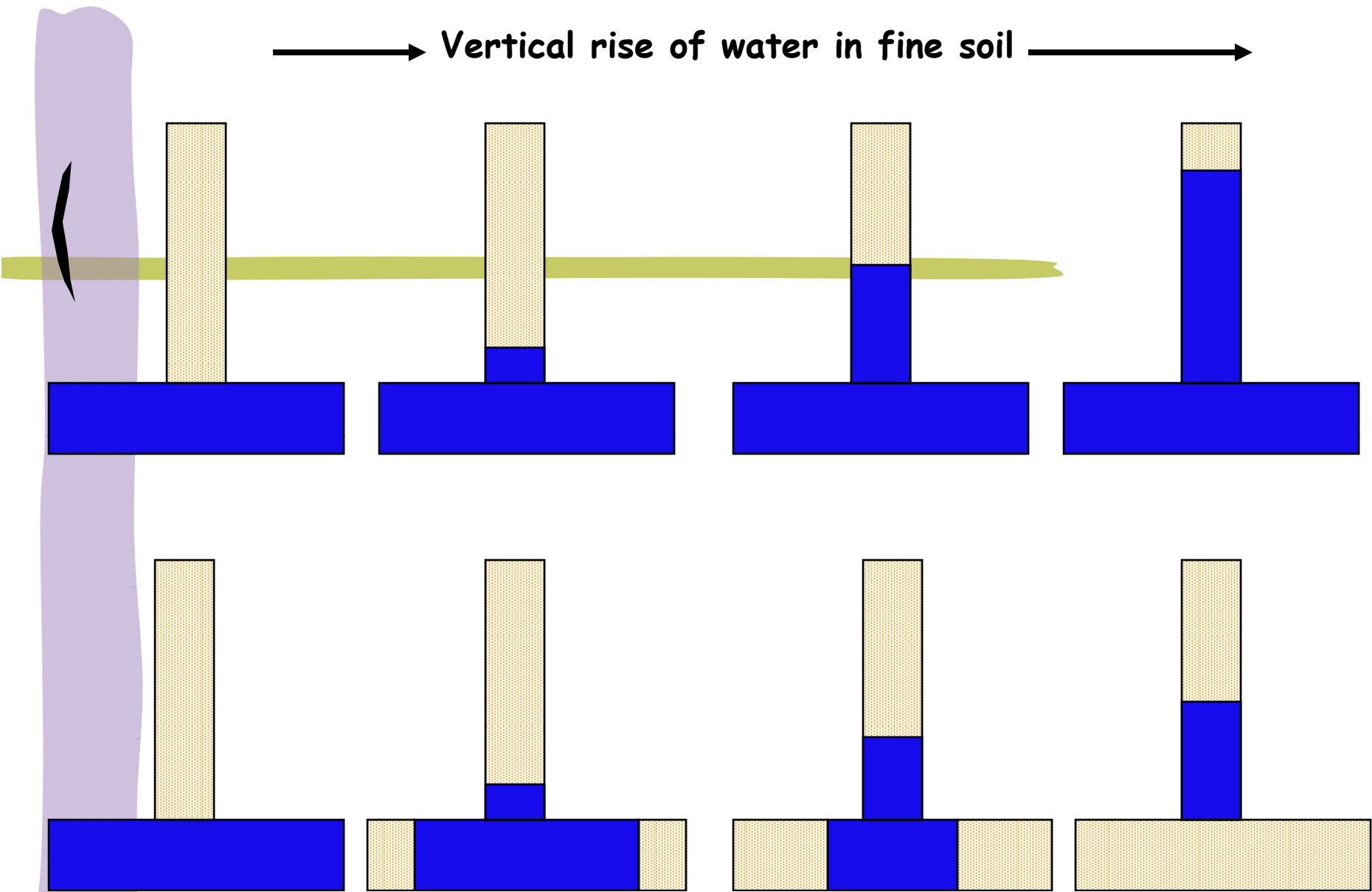



Saturated soil required to support capillary



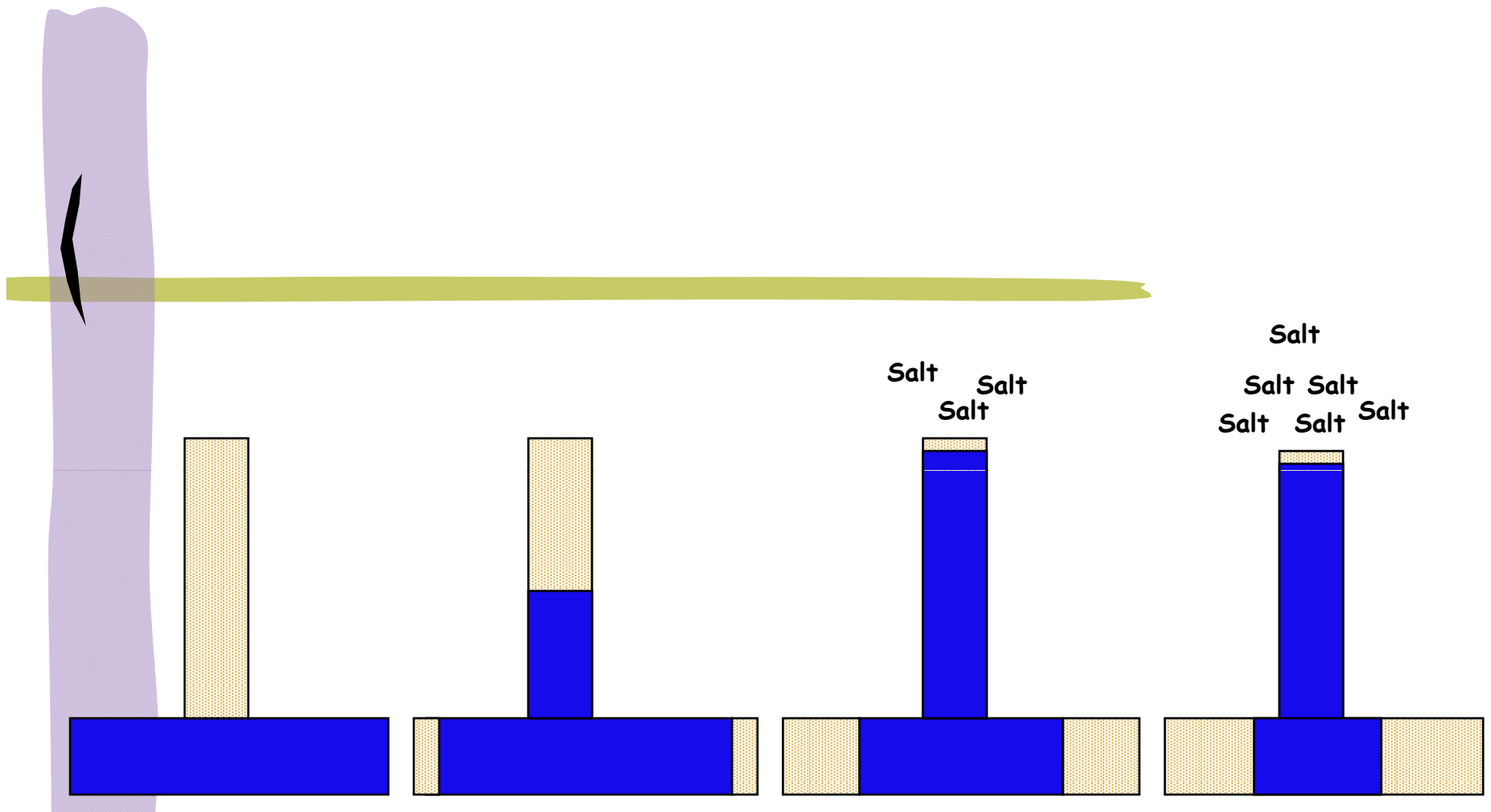


→ Vertical rise of water in fine soil →



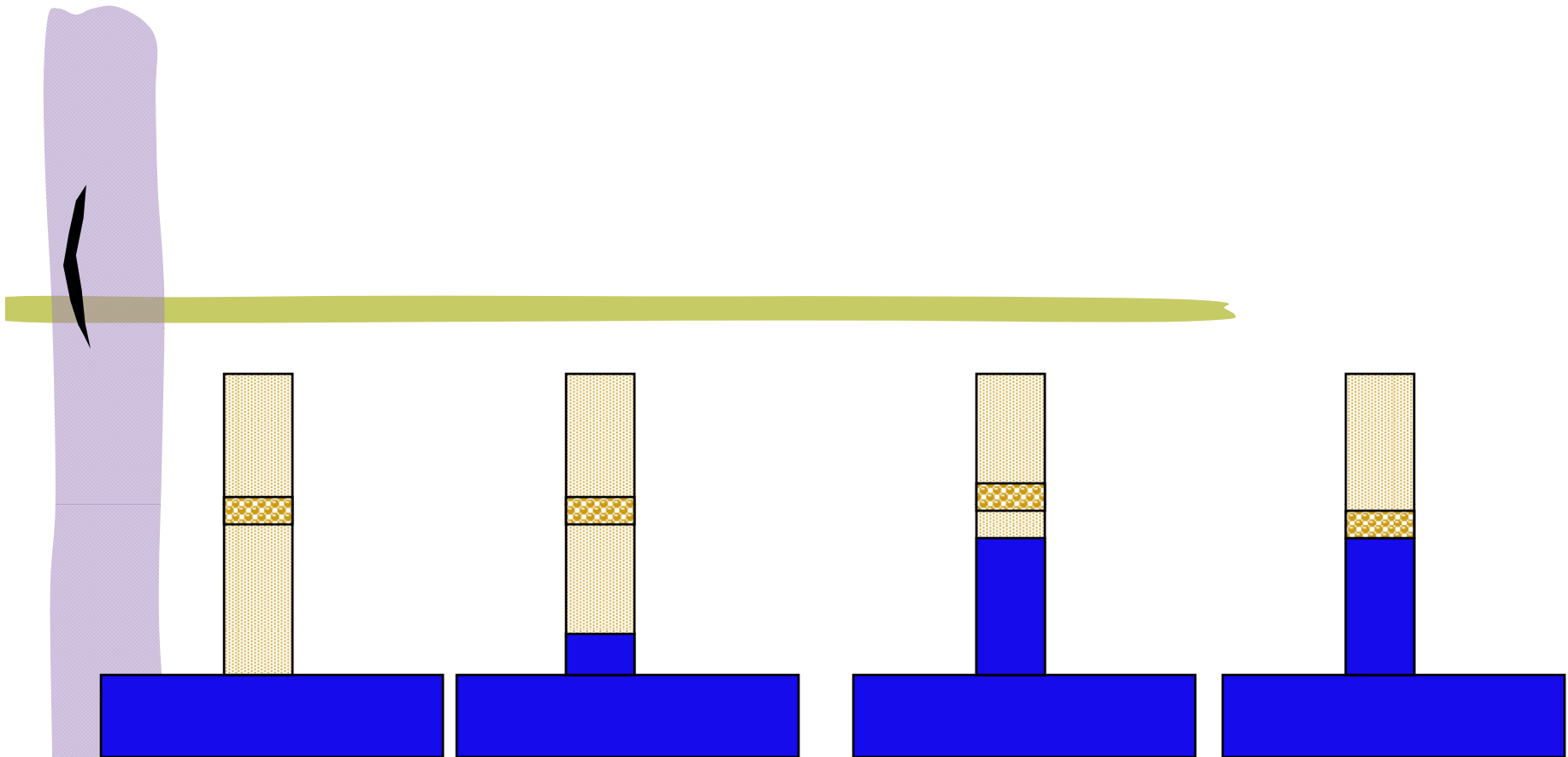

Fine soil

Loss of free water stops capillary rise



Surface evaporation facilitates salt being pumped to the surface by capillary rise


 Fine soil



An increase in pore size can stop capillary rise

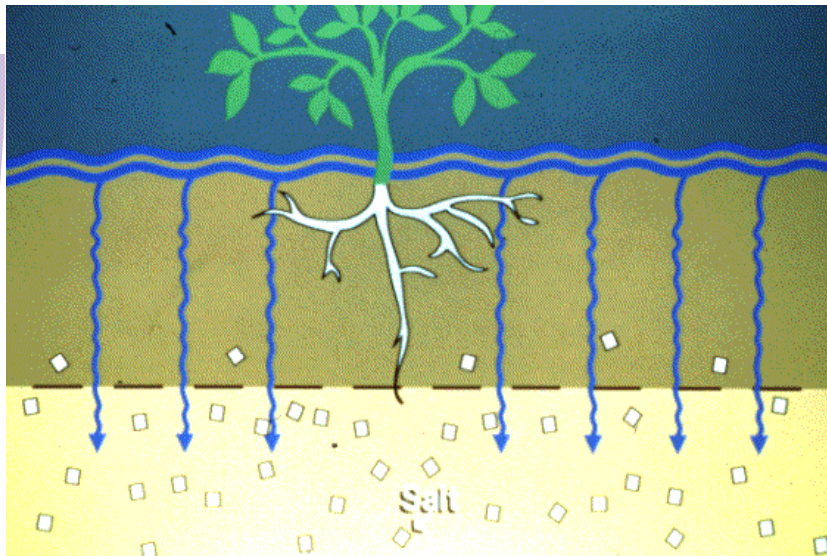
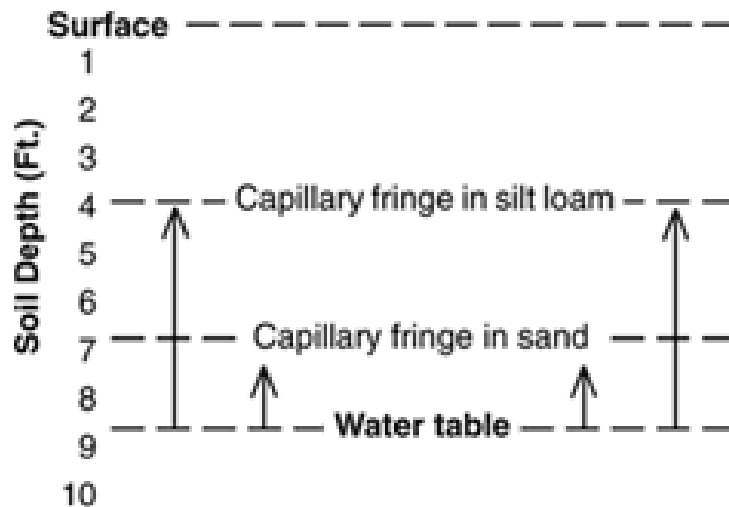


Fine soil



Course soil

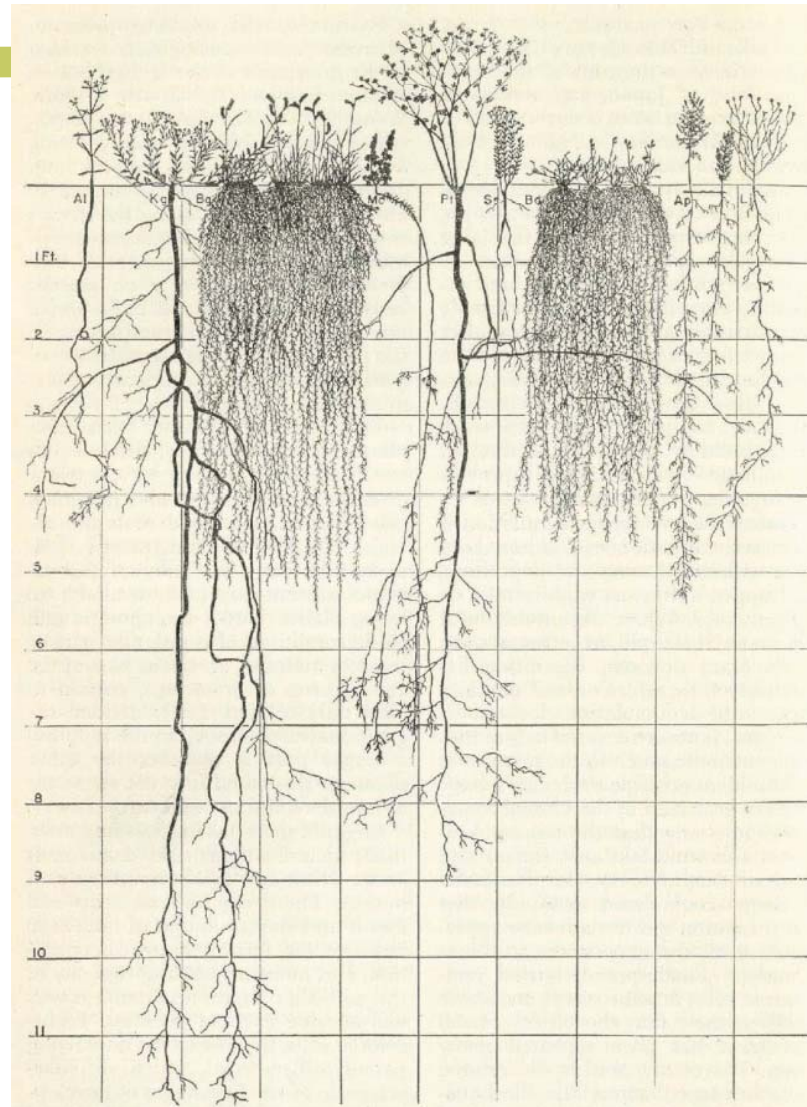
How deep must the salt be before capillary rise will not result in vertical movement of salt into the root zone?



Depends on soil texture, i.e., average soil pore size

Rule of thumb:
Salt has to be 6 ft below the plant root zone

The depth of the root zone depends on the type of vegetation

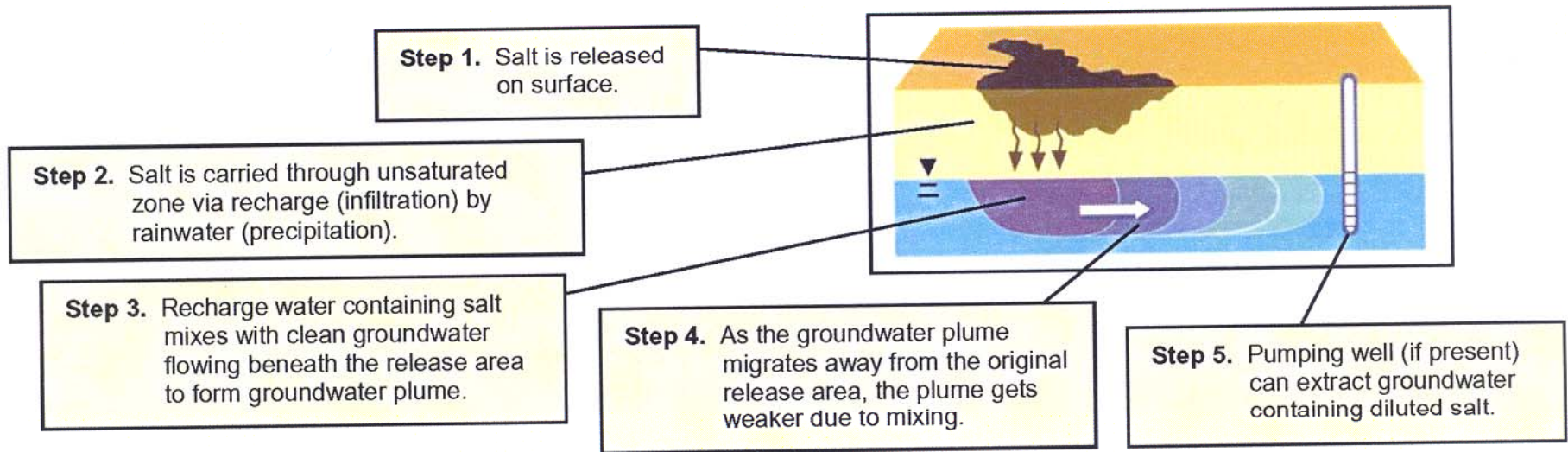


Guidance on estimated capillary rise

Handbook of Drainage Principles (OMAF, Pub. 73)

Soil type	Capillary rise (inches)
Very coarse sand	0.8
Coarse sand	1.6
Medium sand	3.2
Fine sand	6.8
Very fine sand	16.0
Silt	40.0
Clay	> 40.0

Brine impacts to groundwater - potential consequences of vertical transport of salt



API Publication 4758 (2006)



Modeling Study of Produced Water Release Scenarios

API Publication Number 4734
January 2005

Relative effects of vadose zone, aquifer, and brine release factors on the maximum chloride concentration (C_{max}) in groundwater and the time of arrival of the maximum concentration (T_{max})

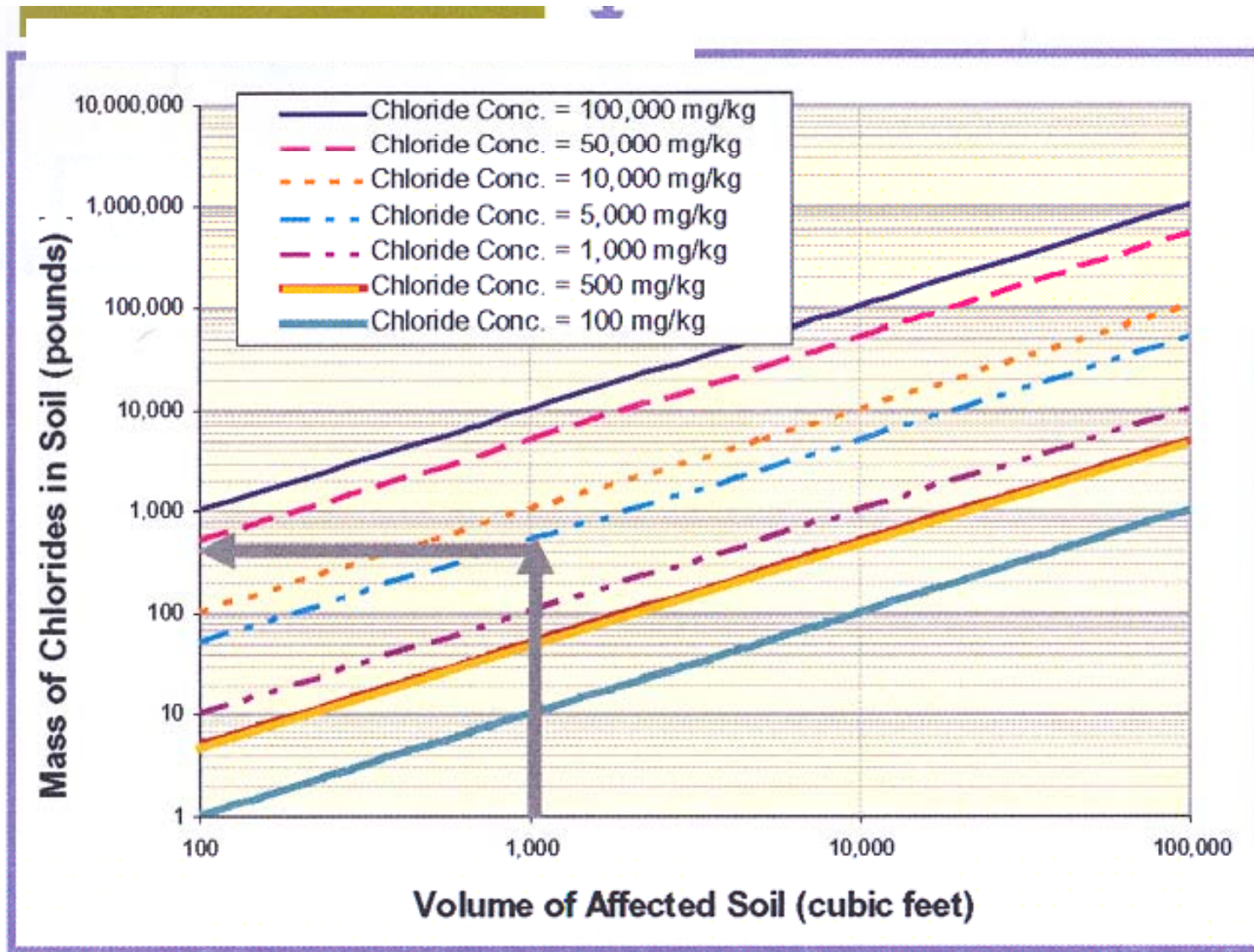
Factor	Relative effect on C_{max}	Relative effect on T_{max}
Chloride mass	100	46
Aquifer thickness	67	4
Soil texture	43	93
Groundwater flow rate	42	6
Dispersion length	32	6
Climate	25	100
Depth to groundwater	22	91
Volume of brine released	20	0

Factor	Effect
Chloride mass	More salt means more impact
Aquifer thickness	Affects dilution through mixing; thicker aquifers mean more dilution of chloride
Soil texture	Affects rate that chloride migrates downward in the vadose zone; faster transport means less dilution of the chloride in groundwater
Groundwater flow rate	Affects dilution through mixing; faster groundwater flow rates mean more dilution of chloride
Dispersion length	Greater spreading of spill results in greater dilution of salt when it reaches groundwater
Climate	Water infiltration from rainfall; more rain faster transport of salt downward in the vadose zone and less dilution of the chloride in groundwater
Depth to groundwater	Greater depths to groundwater can result in more dispersion of salt as it is transported downward and more dilution of chloride in groundwater

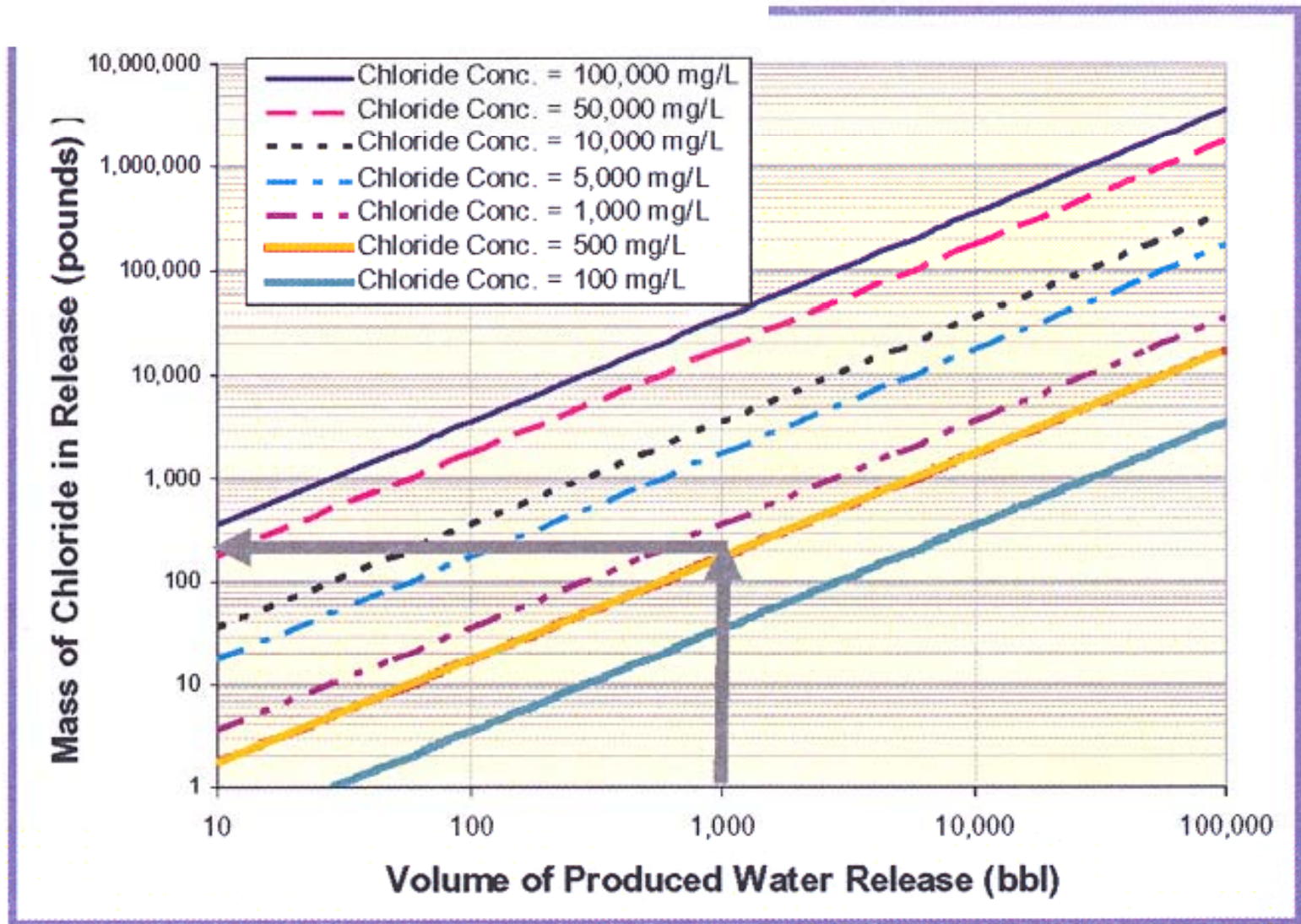
Significant interactions of vadose zone, aquifer, and brine release factors on the maximum chloride concentration (C_{\max}) in groundwater and the time of arrival of the maximum concentration (T_{\max})

Interaction	Relative effect on C_{\max}	Relative effect on T_{\max}
Chloride mass x aquifer thickness	67	
Chloride mass x soil texture	42	
Chloride mass x groundwater flow rate	42	
Aquifer thickness x groundwater flow rate	30	
Aquifer thickness x soil texture	30	
Soil texture x groundwater flow rate	15	
Soil texture x climate		86
Climate x depth to groundwater		83
Soil texture x depth to groundwater		79

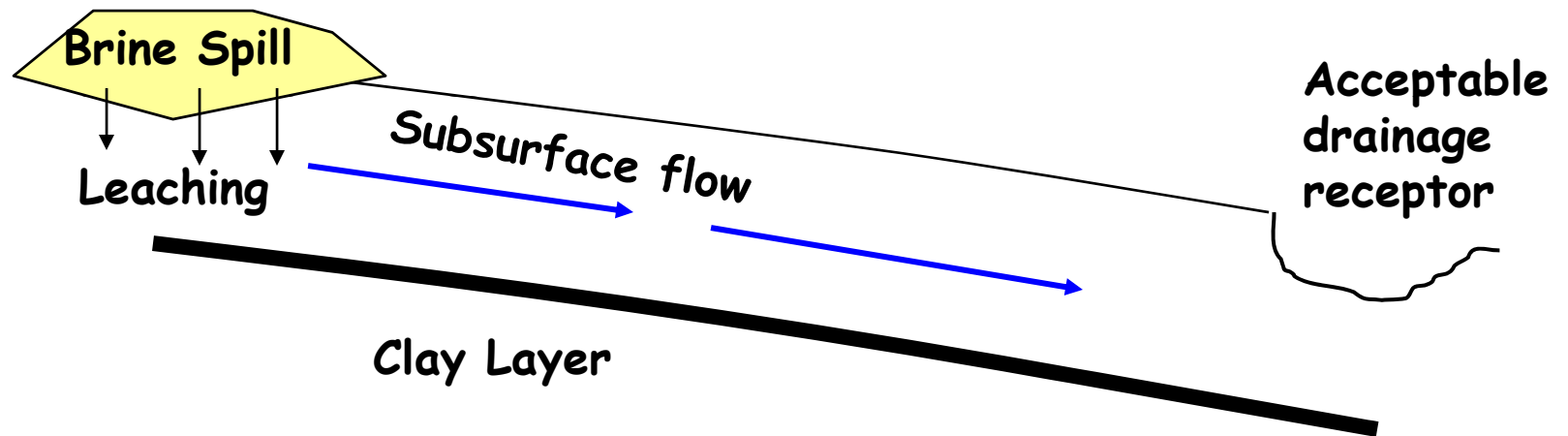
The chloride mass, Method 1



The chloride mass, Method 2



Lateral drainage: Using the impermeable layer for moving salt



Using natural drainage patterns: The impermeable layer becomes a salt highway

Drainage

Taking advantage of natural drainage patterns

- # When using natural drainage patterns “dilution is the solution to brine pollution”.
- # The objective with this approach is to cause salts to leach from the impacted site slowly enough and over a long enough period of time that salt concentrations in downgradient receptors (pristine soils, surface waters, groundwater) are never high enough to create environmental problems (vegetation stress, measurable effects on aquatic life, degradation of drinking water quality, etc.)
- # There must be a commitment to monitor downgradient!
 - Soil profile from the surface to any impermeable layer
 - Surface water
 - Signs of vegetation stress

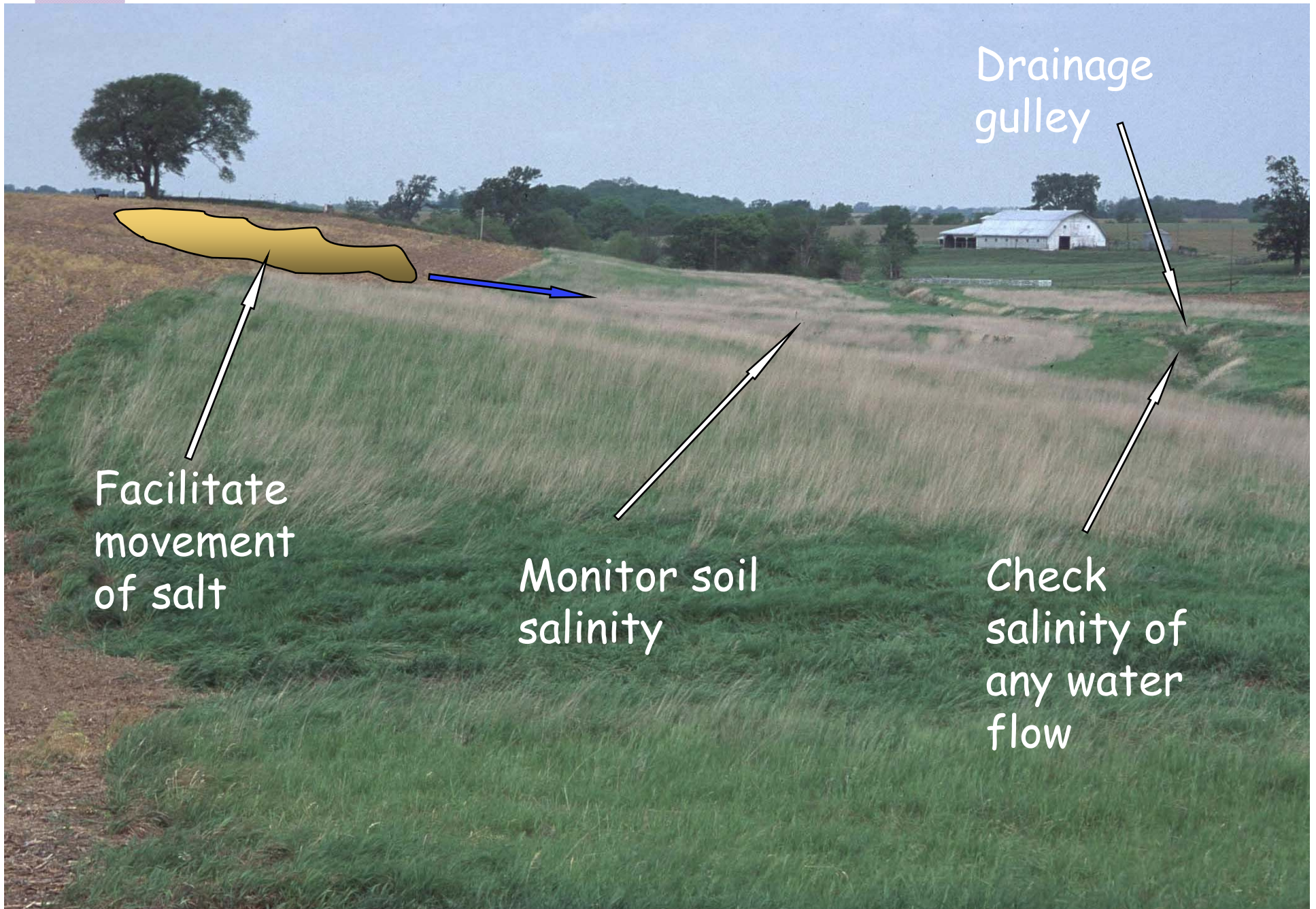
Lateral drainage takes advantage of natural drainage patterns



Lateral drainage takes advantage of natural drainage patterns

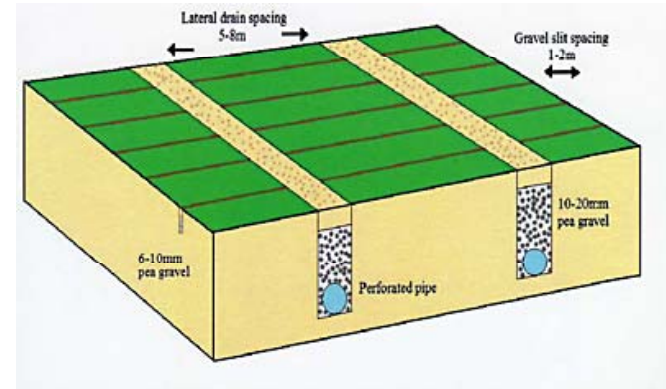
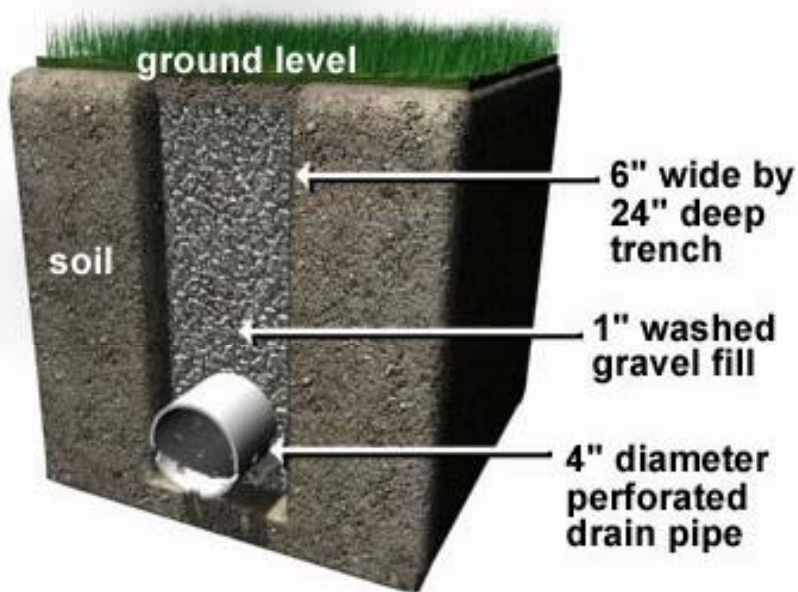


Lateral drainage takes advantage of natural drainage patterns



What if there is insufficient natural drainage or there is no safe place for leachate to drain?

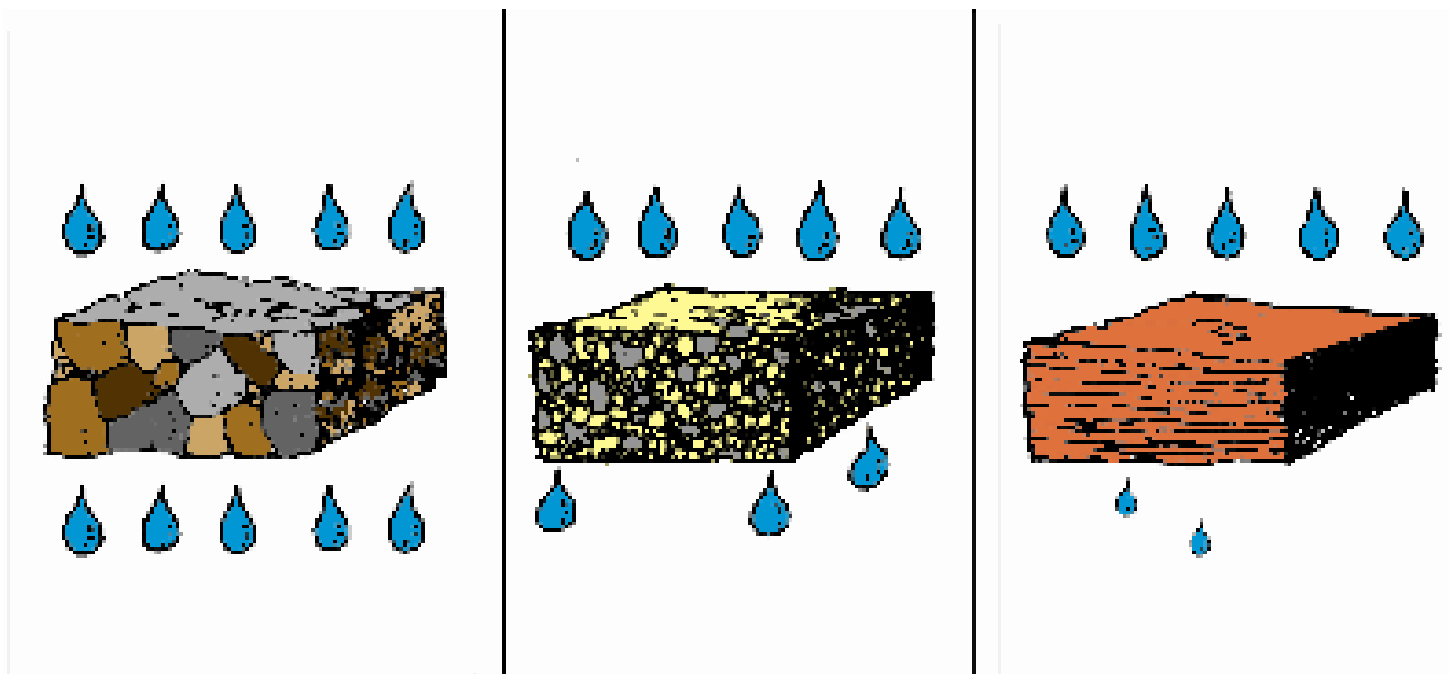
- ✦ Install subsurface ("tile") drainage
 - ▣ Collect and dispose of leachate



Basic elements in the remediation of brine spills

- # **Water (irrigation and/or rainfall)**
 - Providing a sufficient quantity of water
 - Providing water of sufficient quality
 - Minimizing runoff and maximizing infiltration
- # **Drainage**
 - Where can the salt go?
 - Facilitating movement of salts from the site in a responsible manner
 - Taking advantage of natural drainage patterns
 - Artificial drainage
 - Erosion control
- # **Leaching of salts and restoring soil structure**
 - Facilitating contact of water with salt
 - Maintaining soil permeability
 - Restoring the proper exchangeable cation status
- # **Revegetation**
 - Seedbed preparation
 - Soil fertility
 - Reseeding
 - Moisture

To facilitate contact of water with salt we need to increase soil permeability



Increasing permeability

- # Mechanical loosening of the soil
- # Soil amendments to prop open the soil
 - Biodegradable organic matter
 - Hay and fertilizer
 - Stimulates soil biota and nutrient cycling which aids in revegetation
 - Biodegradation of hay improves soil structure by enhancing aggregate formation which in turn improves soil permeability

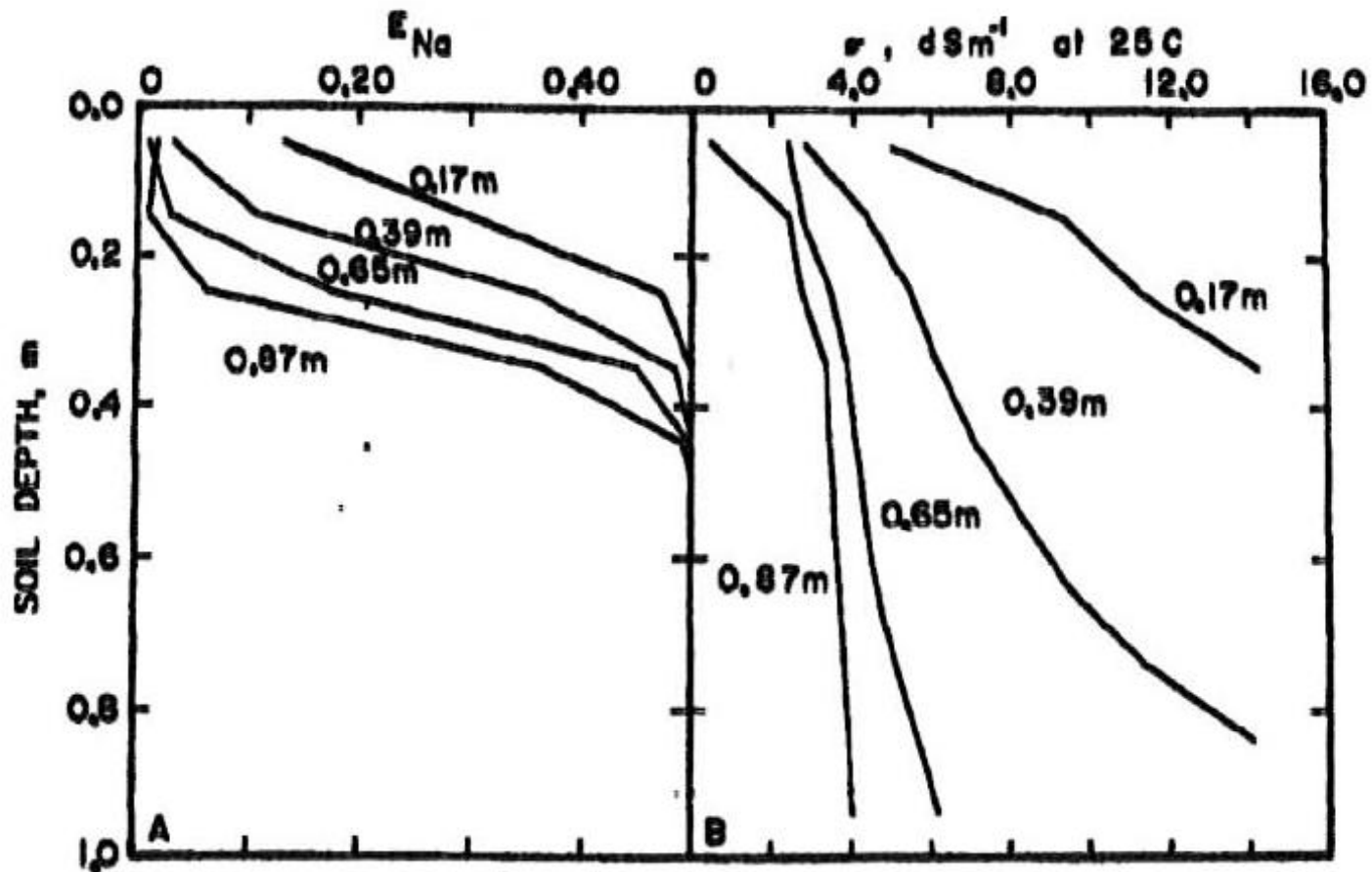


Hay and fertilizer application

Hay

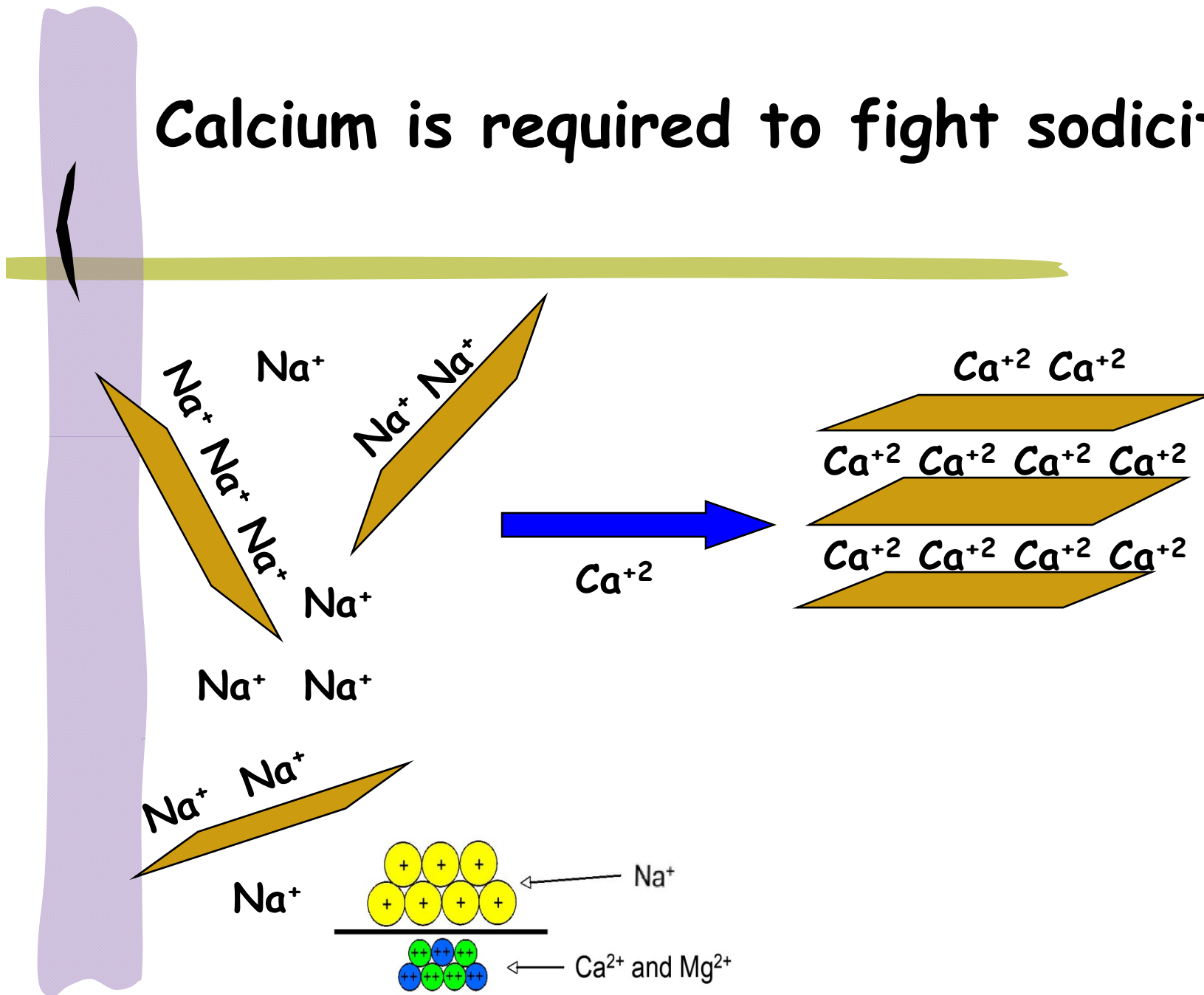
- # Cultivate in about five 50-lb bales per 1000 ft²
- # Repeat as necessary to maintain good soil structure
- # A top dressing of hay can help protect the soil surface from dispersing during a rainfall or watering event

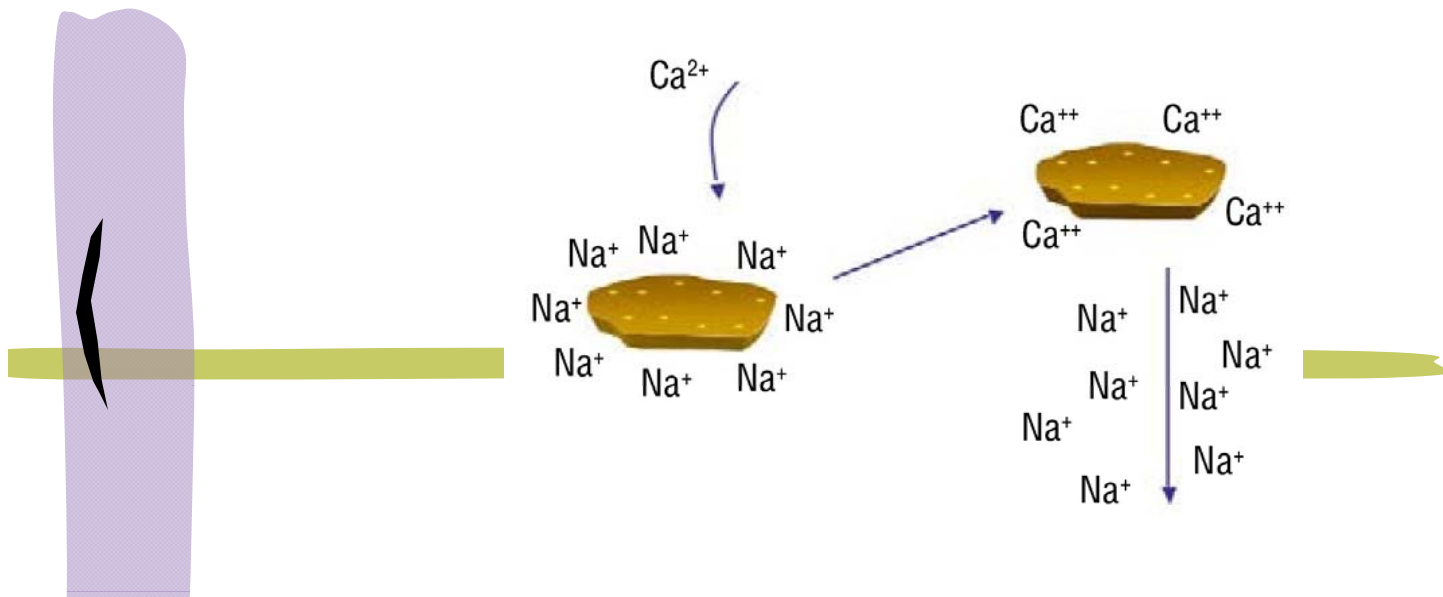
Leaching of a saline-sodic soil (CEC 20 meq/100 g)



Mechanically propping the soil open will facilitate leaching of the salt but will not restore lost soil structure due to sodicity

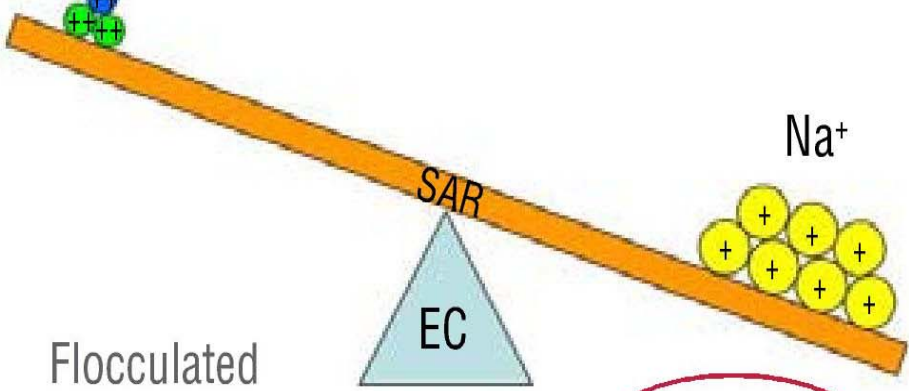
Calcium is required to fight sodicity





Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}

Na^+



Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}

SAR

EC

Flocculated soil

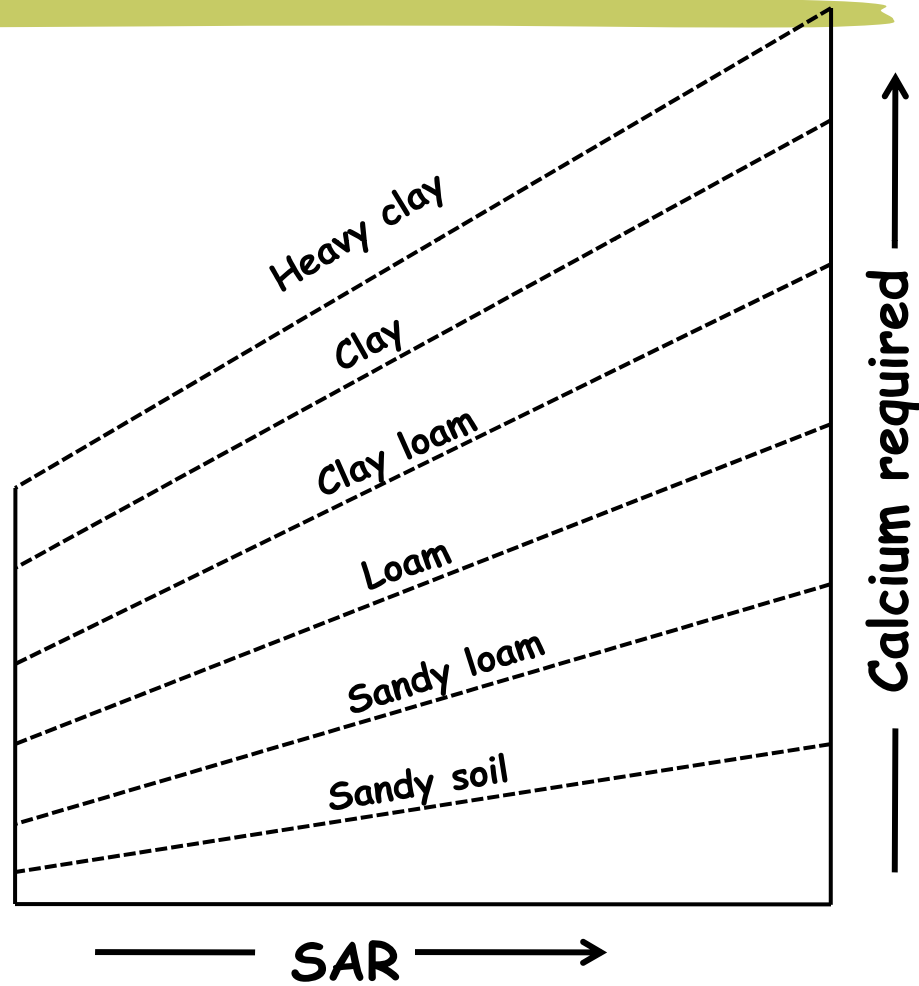
Dispersed soil

Flocculated soil

Dispersed soil




How much calcium?



Chemical amendments for replacement of exchangeable sodium

Choice of chemical amendments will depend on soil classification as defined by the table below:



Soil Classification	Abundance of CaCO_3
I	yes
II	no

How can you tell if there is an abundance of CaCO_3 in your soil?

Fizz test*

- Add 2-3 drops of muriatic acid to dry soil (crush to break up any aggregates)
- If the soil fizzes, CaCO_3 is present (the fizzing is the release of carbon dioxide resulting from the chemical reaction of the acid with CaCO_3)
 - Vigorous fizz: $> 5\% \text{CaCO}_3$
 - Moderate fizz: $2-3\% \text{CaCO}_3$
 - Light fizz: $< 1\% \text{CaCO}_3$

*Caution, generates heat

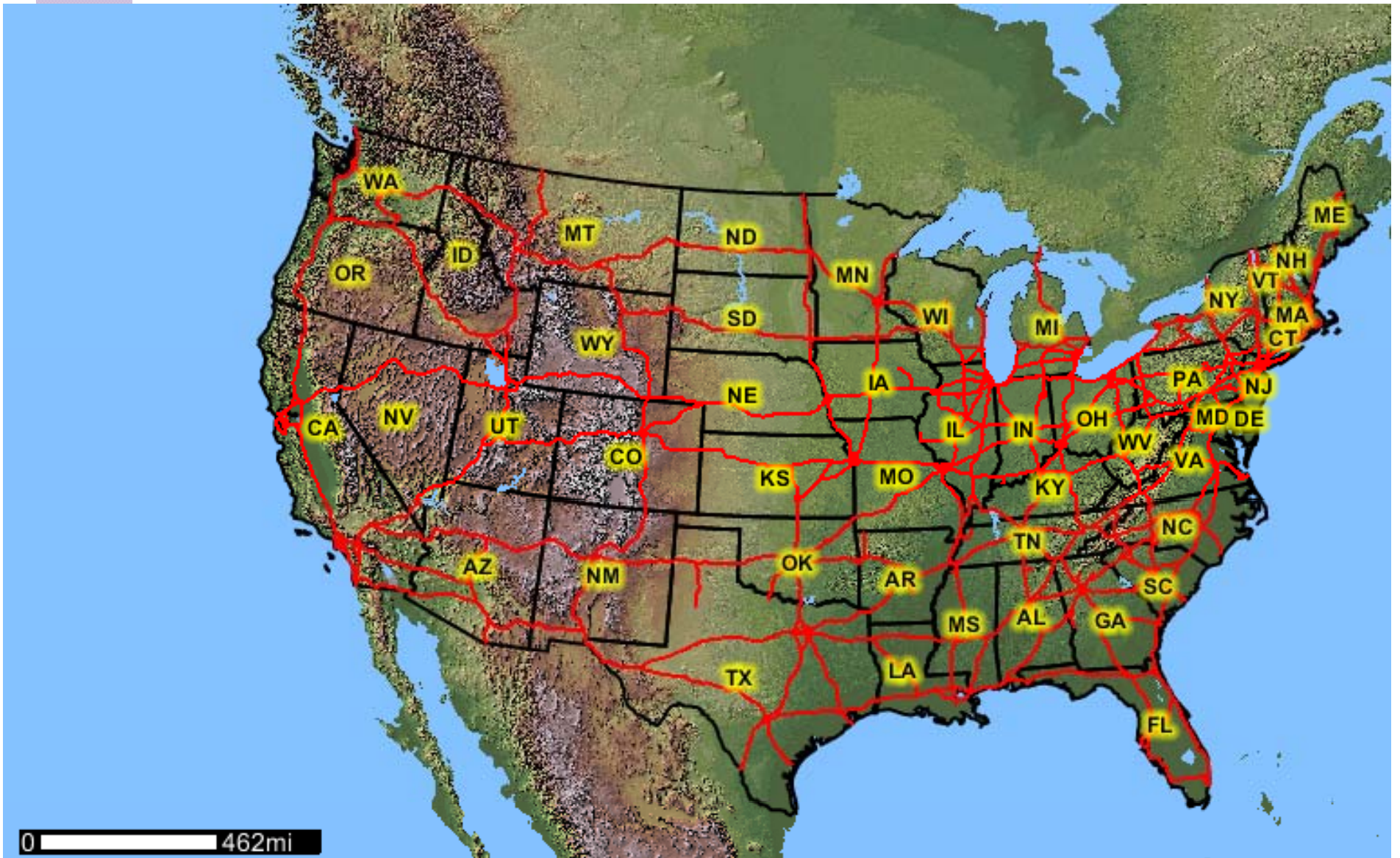


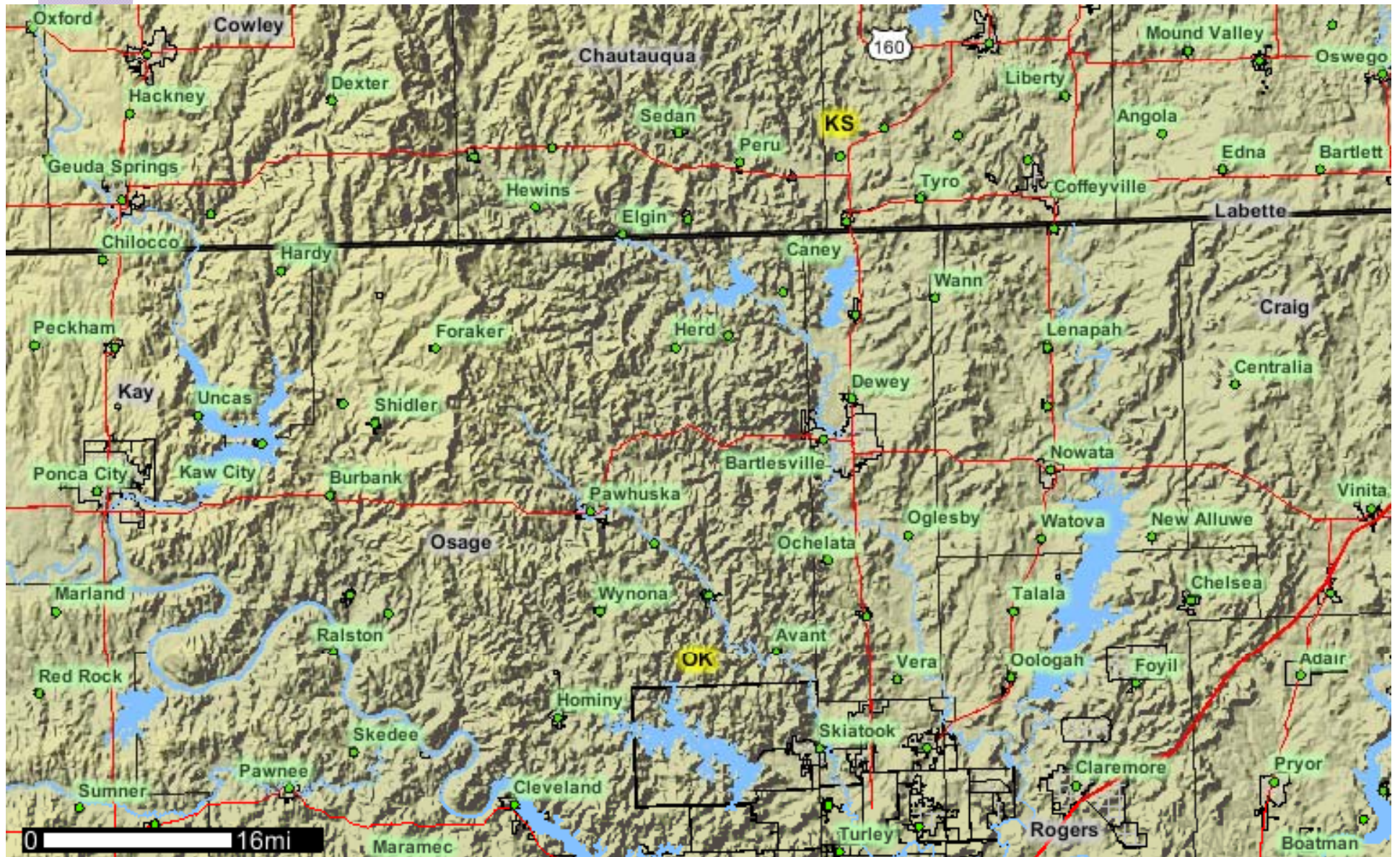
How can you tell if there is an abundance of CaCO_3 in your soil?

For all kinds of soil data check out:
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

The simple yet powerful way
to access and use soil data.









OK

Osage

0 47ft

Chemical amendments by class

Class I

- # Calcium amendments may not be needed
- # Enough calcium (CaCO_3 , calcium carbonate) may already be available to displace sodium from clays if solubilized (producing Ca^{+2}) by reacting with acid sources
 - Increasing acidity (to lower pH):
 - Elemental sulfur
 - Aluminum sulfate [$\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$]
 - Ferrous sulfate (FeSO_4)

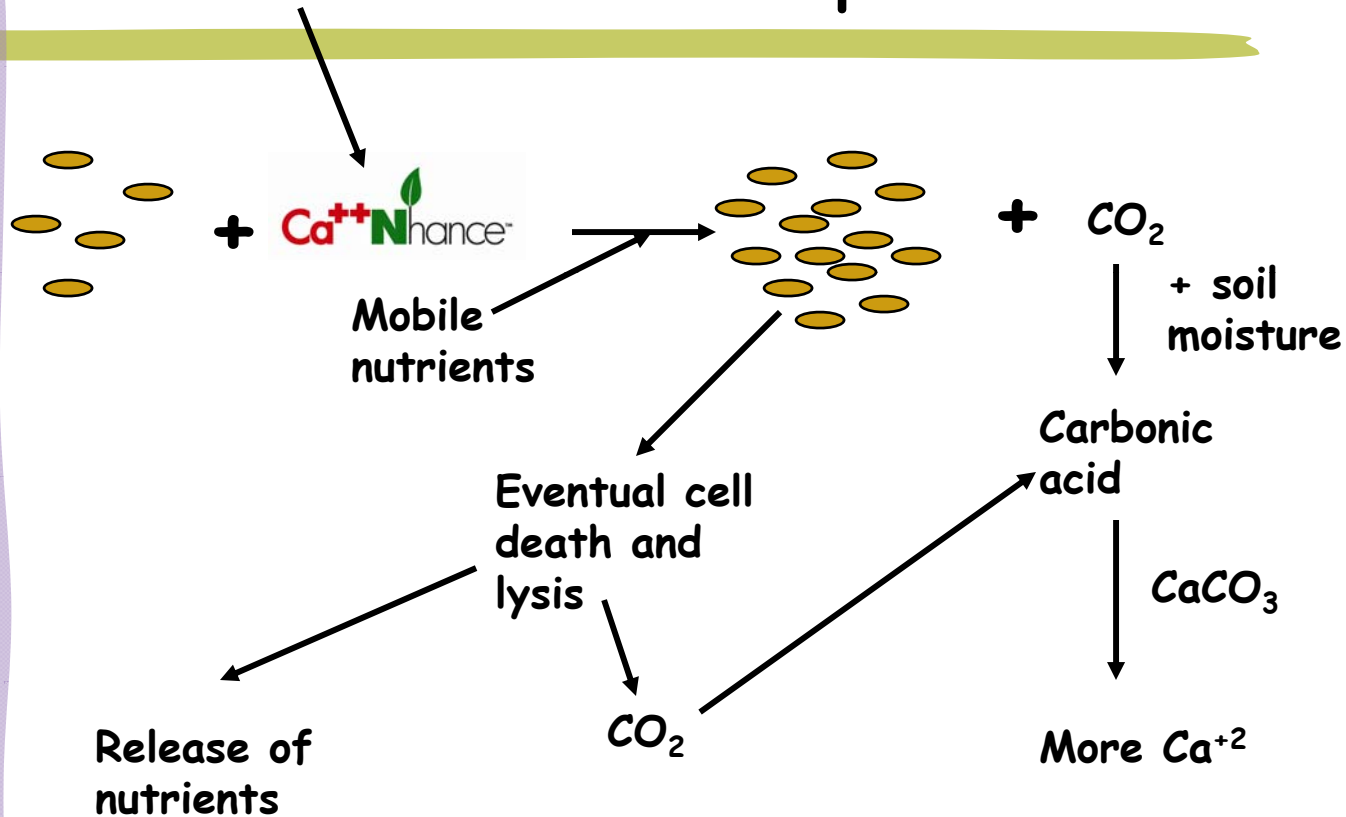
More ecologically acceptable acid former

- # Organic acids with CaCO_3 to produce soluble Ca^{+2} for displacement of Na^+ from clays
 - # $2\text{H}^+ + \text{CaCO}_3 \rightarrow \text{Ca}^{+2} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 \uparrow$
- # Stimulates microbial growth in the soil
 - # Immobilizes nutrients in the soil preventing loss by leaching
 - # Builds soil nutrient pools
- # Commercial source:
 - # Food grade organic acids **Ca⁺⁺Nhance[™]**
 - # (50 lbs/1250 ft² per treatment)

After reacting with calcium

carbonate, **Ca⁺⁺N^{hance}** stimulates microbial growth and eventually more Ca^{+2} production!

No longer acidic after reacting with CaCO_3



Chemical amendments for replacement of exchangeable sodium

Choice of chemical amendments will depend on soil classification as defined by the table below:

Soil Classification	Abundance of CaCO_3
I	yes
II	no

Chemical amendments by class

Class II

Source of calcium (Ca^{+2}) required

■ Choices:

- Calcium nitrate [$\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$], calcium chloride (CaCl_2)
 - # Provide high concentrations of soluble Ca^{+2} but easily leached out of the soil because of their high water solubility
 - Not much more effective than fresh water
 - # Calcium nitrate cannot be used over shallow groundwater
- Gypsum (calcium sulfate, CaSO_4)
 - # Mined as agricultural amendment
 - # Can be problematic
- Limestone (calcium carbonate, CaCO_3) + acid former
 - # Such as CaCO_3 +

Gypsum issues: Macro and micro composition of mined gypsum



Component	Units (ppm = mg/kg)	Mined gypsum [Average (std dev)]
Calcium (Ca)	%	19.1 (2.2)
Magnesium (Mg)	%	1.35 (0.3)
Sulfur (S)	%	19.2 (0.2)
Boron (B)	ppm	9.4 (0.9)
Iron (Fe)	ppm	1045 (148)
Manganese (Mn)	ppm	14.6 (2.9)
Phosphorus (P)	ppm	30.6 (7.6)
Insoluble residue	%	12.9 (8.1)

Gypsum issues: Trace composition of mined gypsum



Component	Units (ppm = mg/kg)	Mined gypsum [Average (std dev)]
Arsenic (As)	ppm	trace
Cadmium (Cd)	ppm	trace
Chromium (Cr)	ppm	1.4 (0.3)
Cobalt (Co)	ppm	0.53 (0.04)
Copper (Cu)	ppm	1.33 (0.30)
Lead (Pb)	ppm	2.9 (0.3)
Mercury (Hg)	ppm	trace
Molybdenum (Mb)	ppm	1.3 (0.04)
Nickel (Ni)	ppm	1.4 (0.23)
Selenium (Se)	ppm	trace
Zinc (Zn)	ppm	0.9 (0.5)

Gypsum issues: Plant Nutrients

Major Nutrients

- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Potassium
- Calcium
- Magnesium
- Sulfur

Micronutrients

- Boron
- Iron
- Manganese
- Zinc
- Copper
- Chloride
- Molybdenum

Mobile vs. immobile nutrients

- # Mobile nutrients: N, S, B, Cl
 - ▣ Found primarily in the soil solution
- # Immobile nutrients: K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Zn, Mn, Cu, Mb
 - ▣ Found primarily associated with soil particles and soil organic matter

Gypsum issues: Gypsum mobilizes certain immobile nutrients

- # Gypsum mobilizes Mg^{+2} and K^{+}
 - In one test of the surface application of gypsum resulted in a leaching losses of 71% of soil Mg^{+2}
 - # Ritchey et al. (1999): Center for Applied Energy Research, University of Kentucky
 - Wheat plants grown in gypsum treated soils have been shown to be seriously deficient in Mg^{+2}
 - # Zaifnejad et al. (1996): Crop Science 36, 968



How much gypsum is required to replace a given amount of exchangeable sodium?

$$\frac{(ESP_{\text{now}} - ESP_{\text{required}}) \times CEC \times 1720}{\% \text{ Gypsum}} =$$

lbs gypsum/acre/6" increment



How much gypsum is required to replace a given amount of exchangeable sodium? cont.

Sample calculation:

- $ESP_{\text{now}} = 50\%$
- $ESP_{\text{required}} = 10\%$
- $CEC = 30$
- $\% \text{ gypsum} = 90\%$

$$\frac{(50 - 10) \times 30 \times 1720}{90} = 22,933 \text{ lbs/acre/6"}$$

= increment

or

$$527 \text{ lb/1000 ft}^2$$

How much water is required to convert that gypsum to soluble Ca^{+2} ?

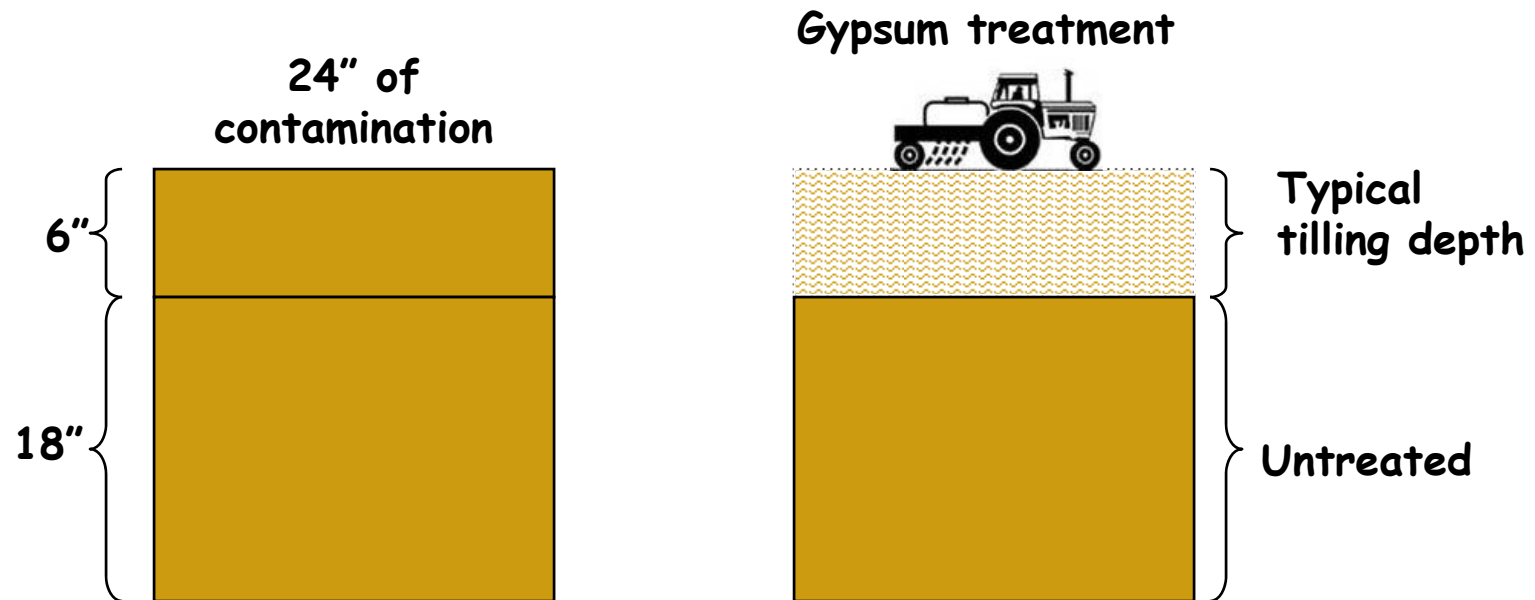
$$\frac{527 \text{ lbs (454.6 g/lb)}}{2.5 \text{ g/L (28.3 L/ft}^3)} = 5891 \text{ ft}^3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Inches of water} &= \frac{3386 \text{ ft}^3 (12 \text{ inches/ft})}{1000 \text{ ft}^2} \\ &= 40.6 \text{ inches} \end{aligned}$$

How much water for greater depths of contamination?

Increment thickness treated	lbs gypsum per 1000 ft ²	Inches of infiltration water required
6	527	40.6
12	1054	81.2
18	1581	121.8
24	2108	162.4

Due to the low solubility of gypsum, gypsum is typically effective only within the depth to which it is incorporated into soil

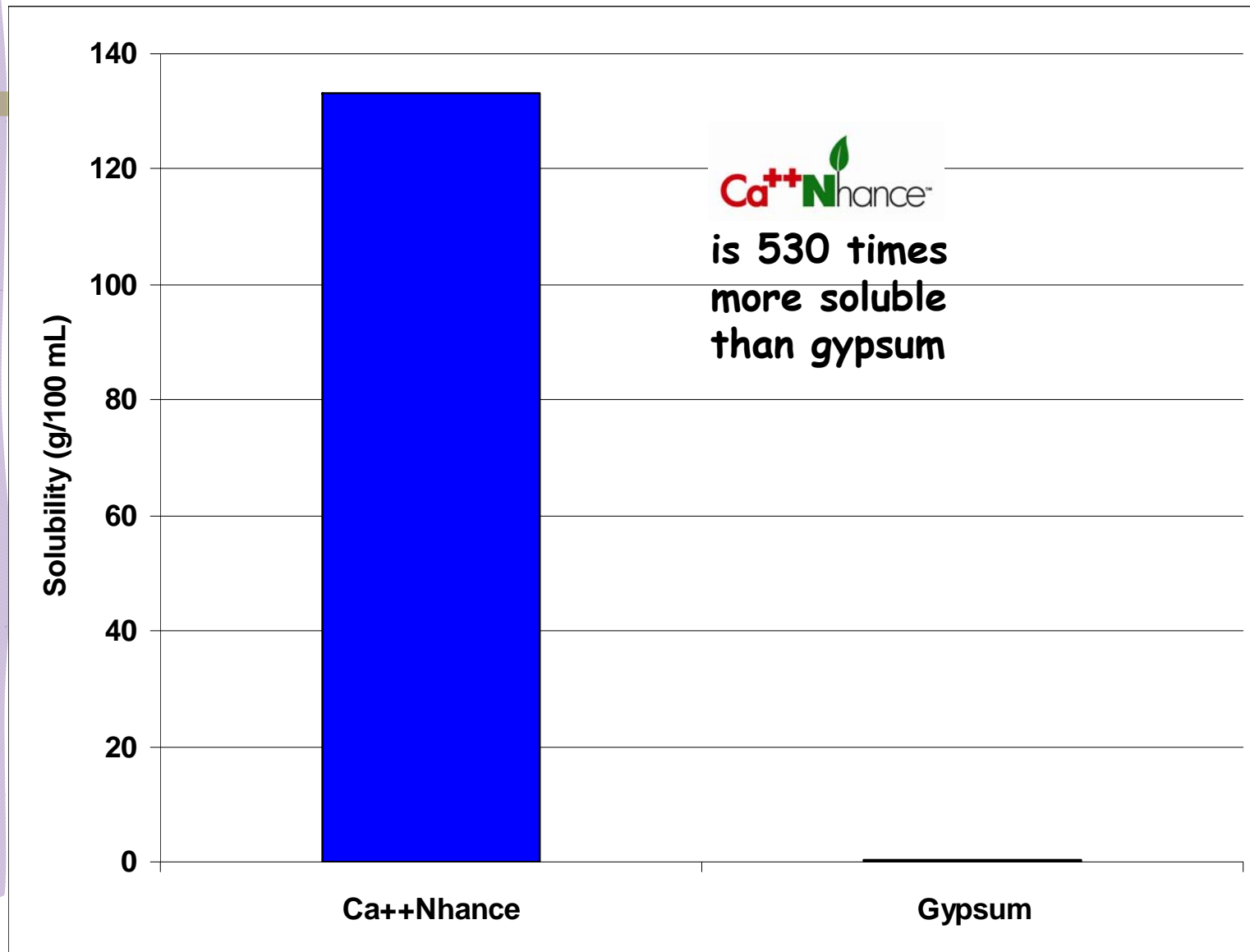


Sulfate in the soil can render gypsum totally ineffective

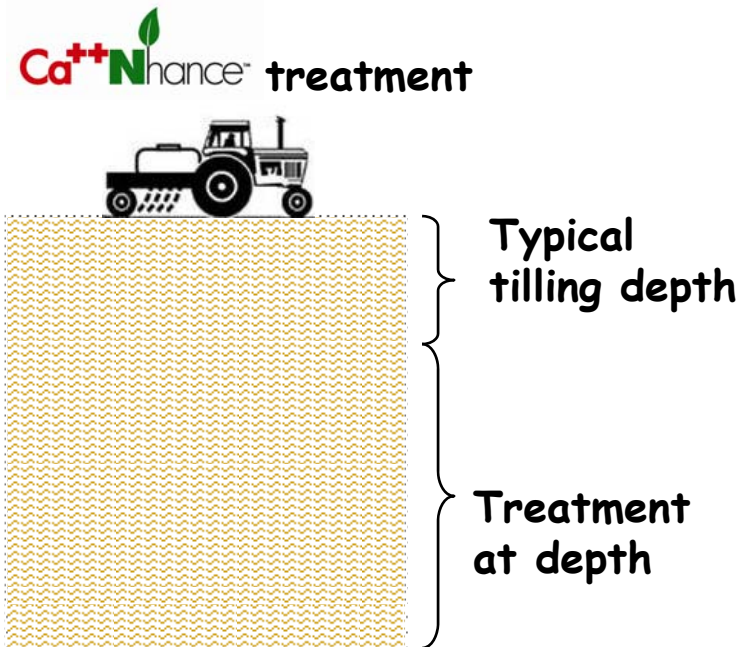
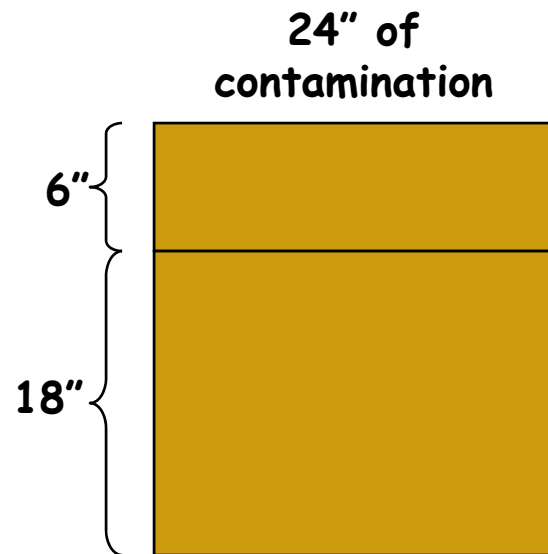
- # It's called the common ion effect
- # Sulfate in the soil reduces gypsum solubility and, therefore, availability of soluble calcium



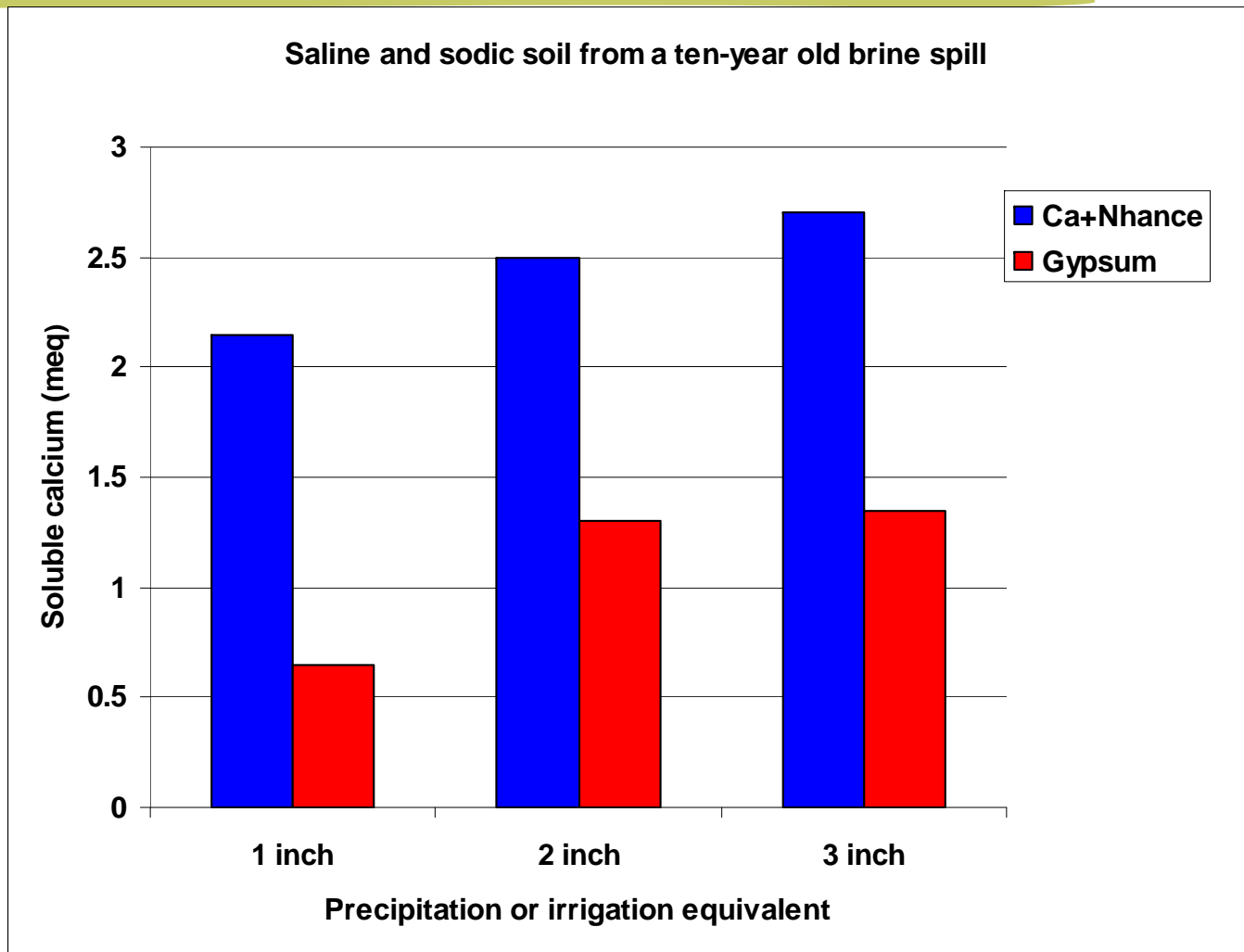
Solubility of **Ca⁺⁺Nhance[™]** vs. gypsum



The much higher solubility of **Ca⁺⁺Nhance[™]** results in deeper penetration into the soil profile treating sodicity below tillage depth



Generation of soluble calcium in brine-impacted soil by **Ca⁺⁺Nhance[™]** and gypsum



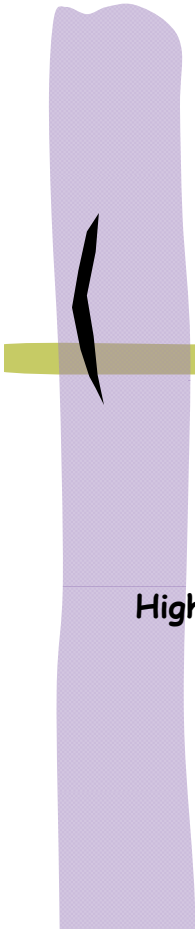
Brine spill remediation protocol

- # Establish remediation goals with regulator and landowner
 - Type of vegetation
 - Required EC and SAR
 - Timeframe
 - Can the landowner provide equipment, hay, etc.?
- # Site investigation and characterization
 - Has the source been removed?
 - How bad is the problem?
 - EC, SAR, and maybe CEC
 - # 0-6 inches
 - # 6-12 inches
 - # 12-24 inches
 - # Deeper?
 - Site map and photos

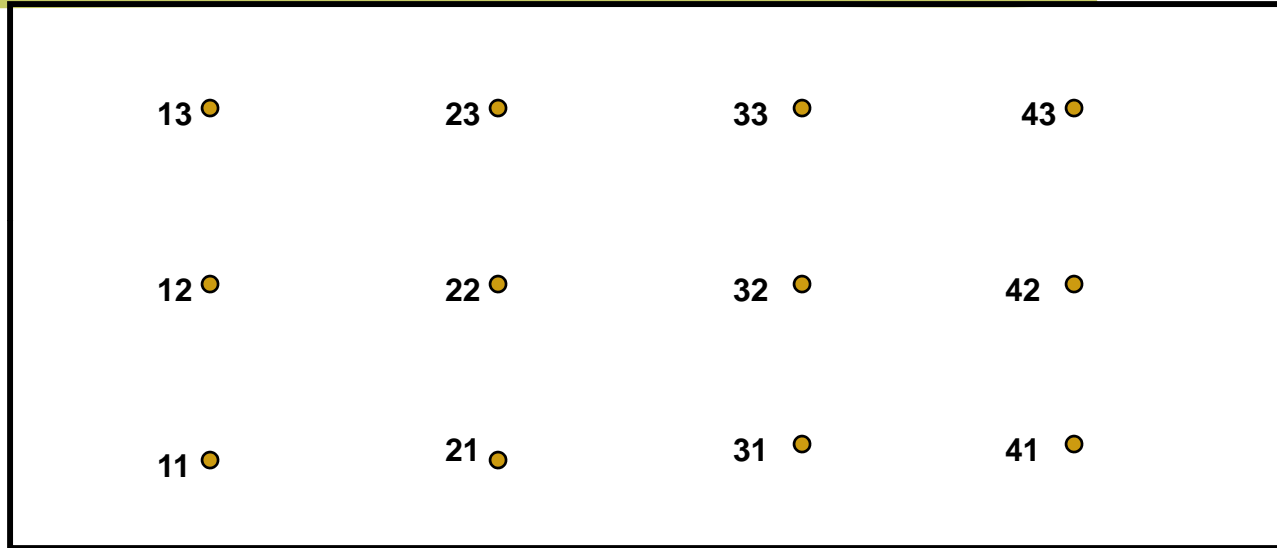


Osage County Remediation Site Sampling Grid

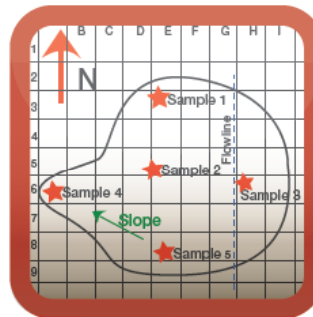
Injection well



High end



Low end





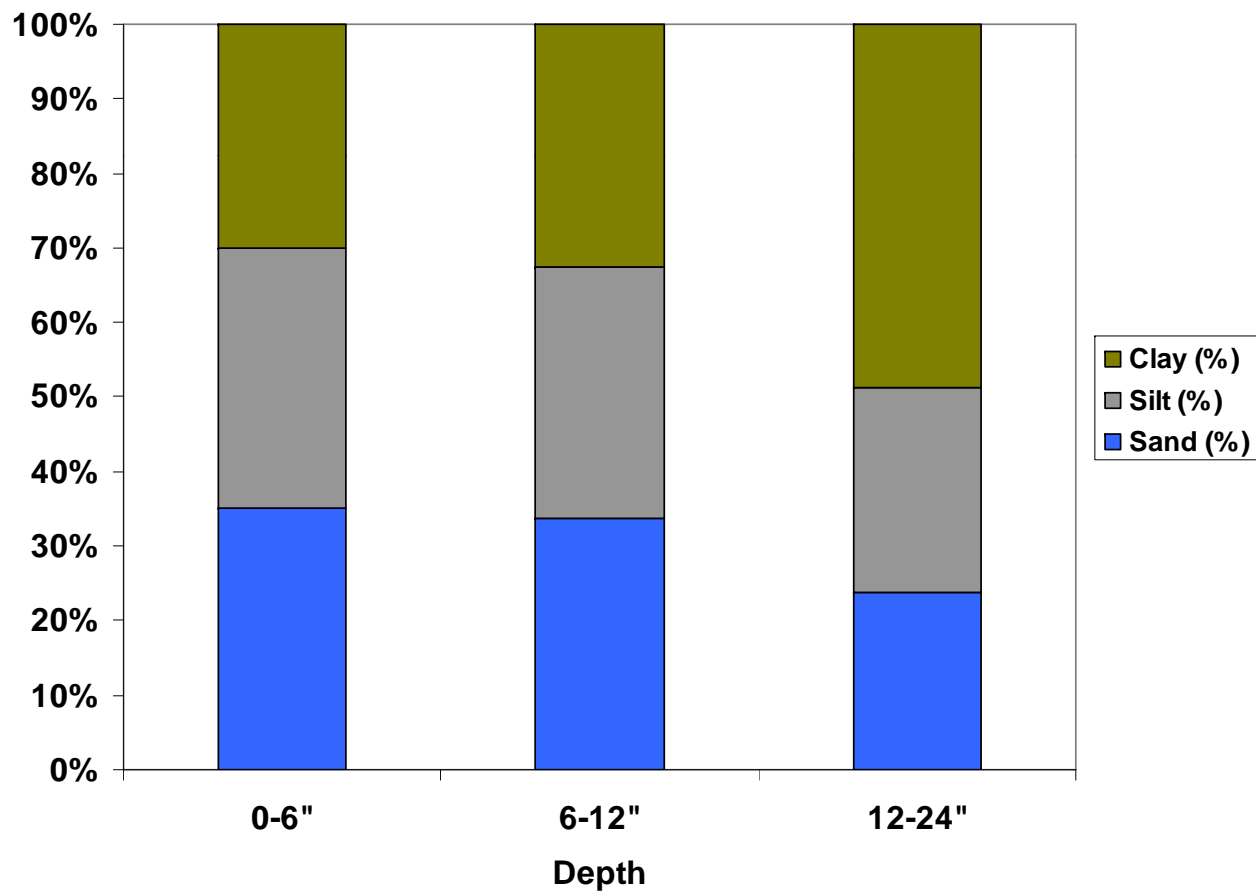
Photos to document site conditions



Photos to document sampling locations

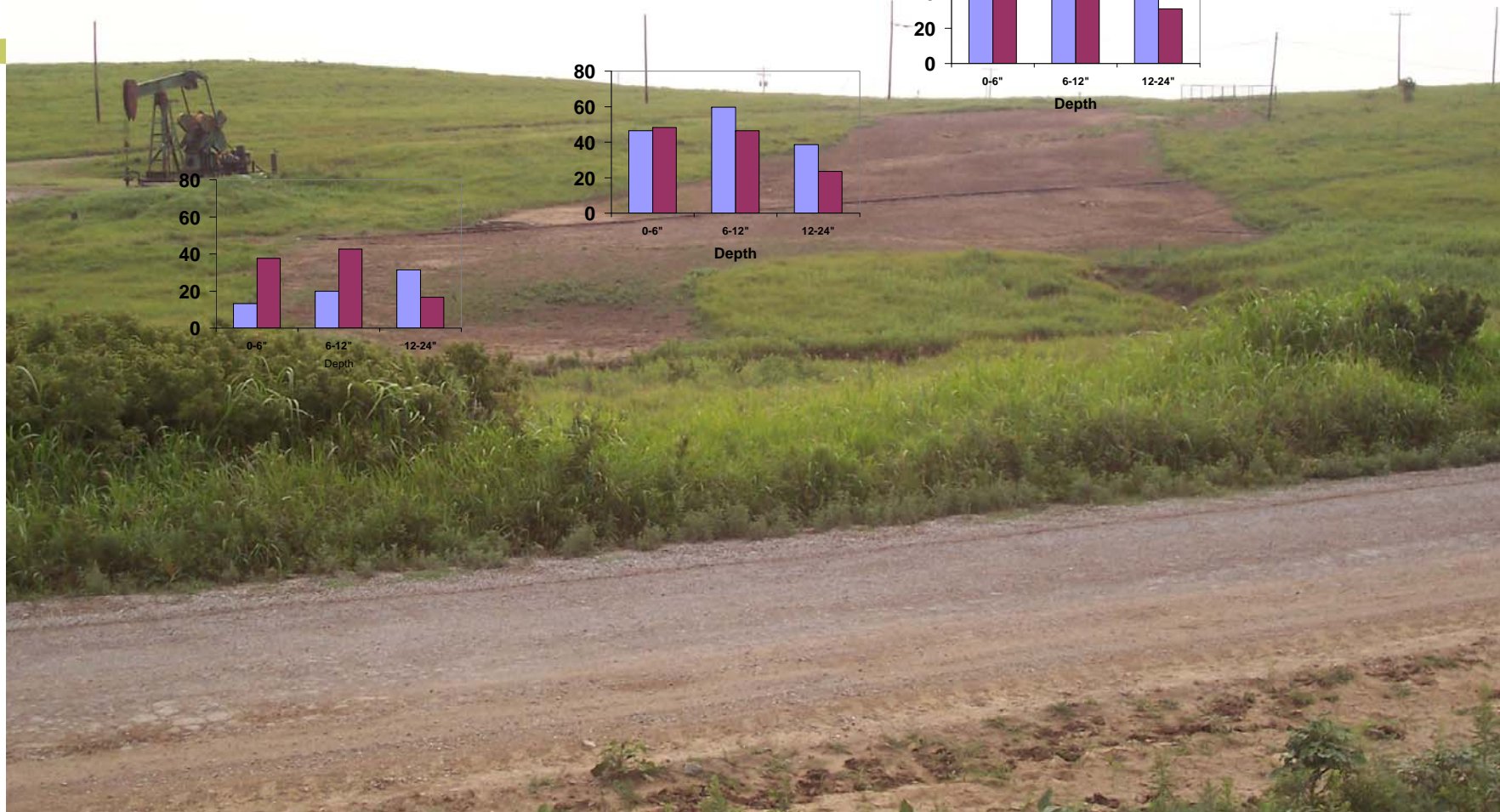
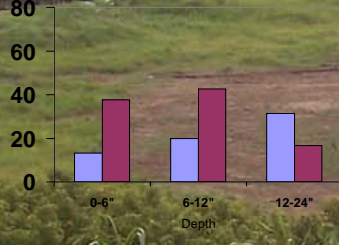
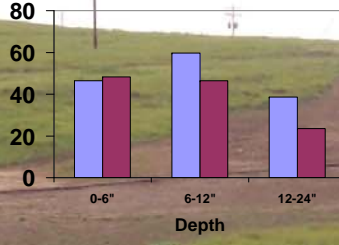
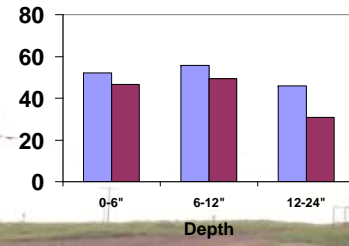


Typical texture profile for pictured site



EC (mS/cm)

SAR

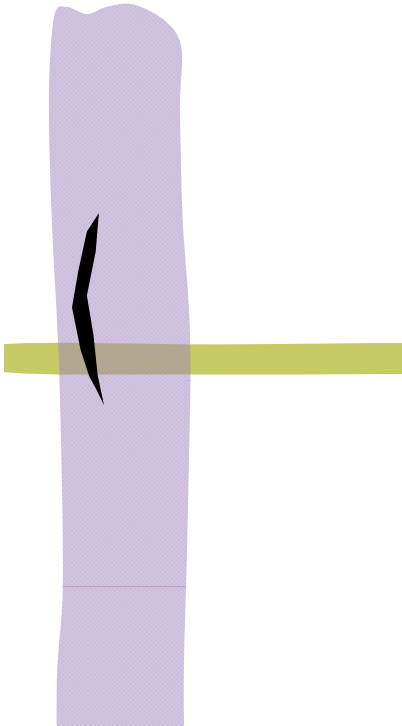


Brine spill remediation protocol

- # Site investigation and characterization, cont.
 - What are the drainage possibilities?
 - Look for impermeable layers
 - Vertical vs. lateral?
 - Soil profile modification?
 - Artificial drainage?

Photos to document key site features





Brine spill remediation protocol

Site investigation and characterization, cont.

- What amendments will be necessary? Source?
- Is there calcium carbonate in the soil?
- Will erosion control be required?
- Swelling clays?
- Source and quality of water?



Swelling clays



Brine spill remediation protocol

- # Site preparation
 - Eliminate high spots (less infiltration on high spots means less leaching)
 - Perform soil profile modification if necessary
 - Install drainage system if necessary
 - Mechanically loosen soil and incorporate biodegradable organic matter and fertilizer and till in as deep as possible but at least to 6 inches
 - Add calcium source and/or acid formers and till in as deep as possible but at least to 6 inches
 - Erosion control





**Initial
ripping of
brine
impacted soil**





Incorporating hay

Adding organic acid remediation amendment

Ca⁺⁺Nhance[®]



Tilling in remediation amendment and hay



Brine spill remediation protocol

- # Site preparation, cont.
 - # Surface treatment for swelling clays
 - # Add top dressing of organic matter
 - # Install irrigation system if necessary
- # Site maintenance
 - # Check irrigation system for coverage; monitor quantity of irrigation water applied or rainfall received
 - # Look for signs of reduced drainage (ponding, excessive runoff); correct as required
 - # Monitor EC and SAR quarterly in the first year
 - # 0-6 inches
 - # 6-12 inches
 - # 12-24 inches
 - # Deeper?



Surface application
of clay swelling
agent

InfiltrationN^hance™

Top dressing of
hay to retain
moisture







Fence the site if there is livestock in the area





Livestock damage



Brine spill remediation protocol



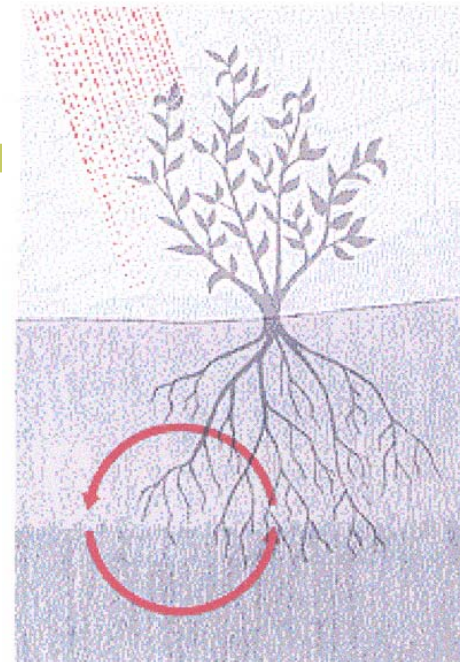
- Till the site as necessary to maintain permeability
 - reapply clay swelling agent if applicable
 - reapply top dressing of organic matter after each tilling
- Till in more organic matter if there are obvious changes in permeability or if EC reduction slows significantly
- Reapply calcium source and/or acid formers if SAR reduction slows significantly



Brine spill remediation protocol

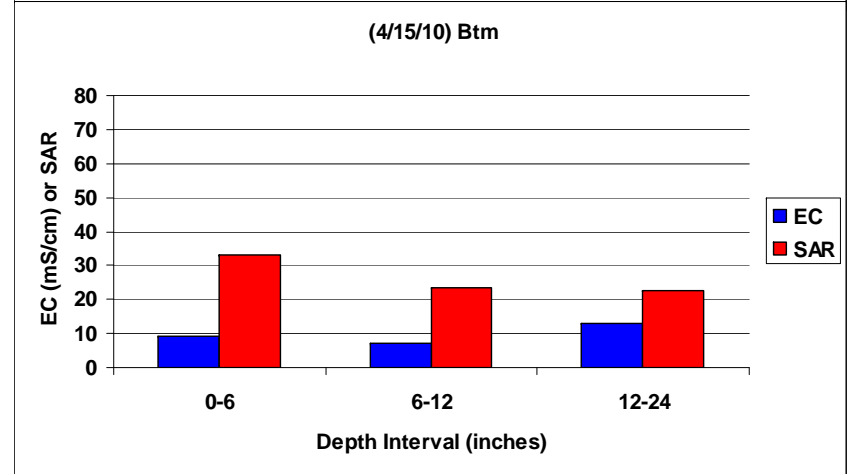
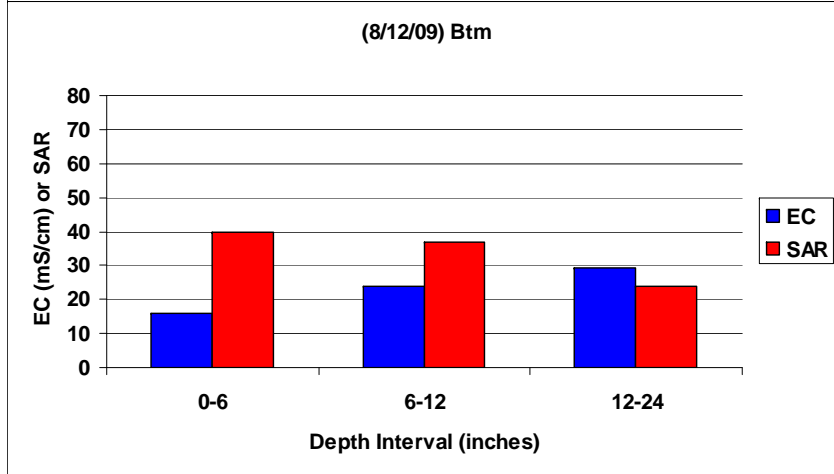
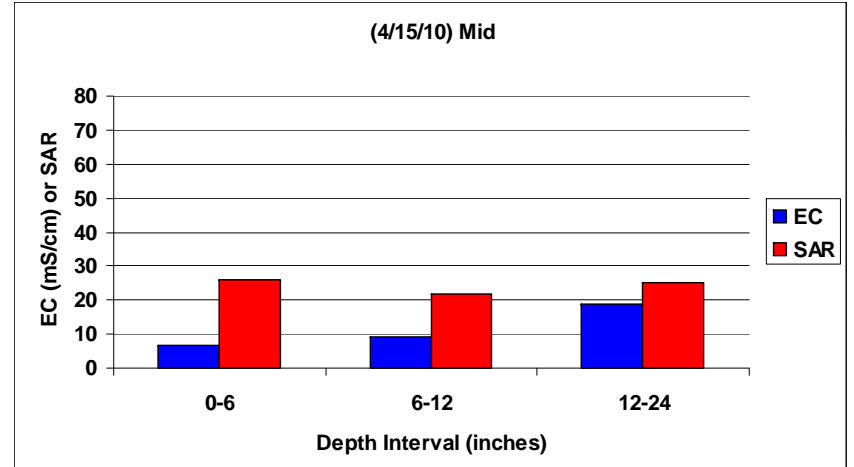
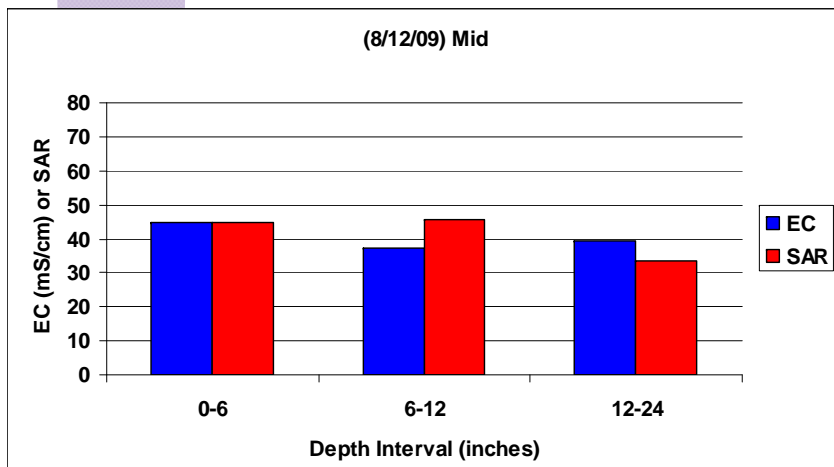
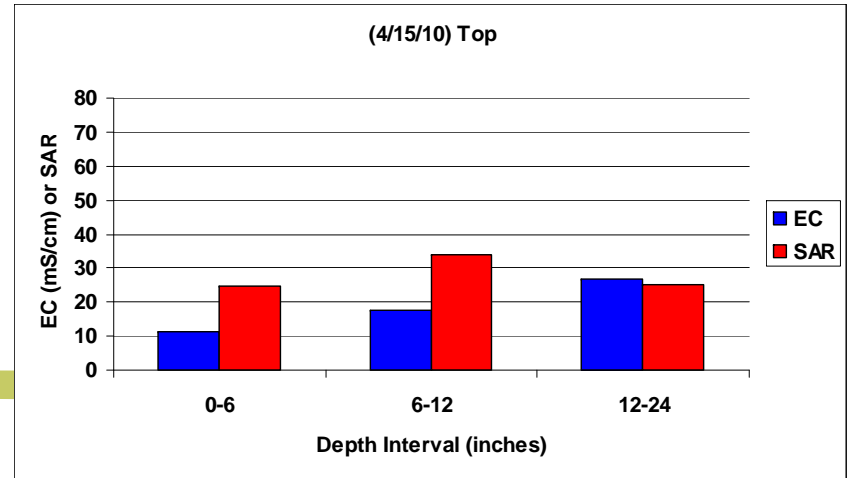
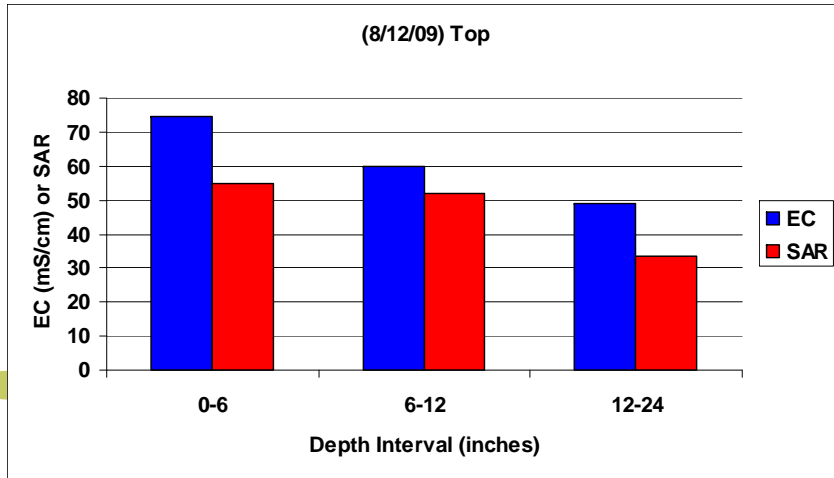
- If any part of the site begins to naturally revegetate do not disturb the vegetation; this applies to any stand of vegetation with a percent coverage of > 70%
 - stops loss of topsoil
 - stimulates soil biota
 - root system increases infiltration
 - Roots also release acids which solubilizes calcium (from natural or amended calcium carbonate) and further reduces sodicity

Revegetation



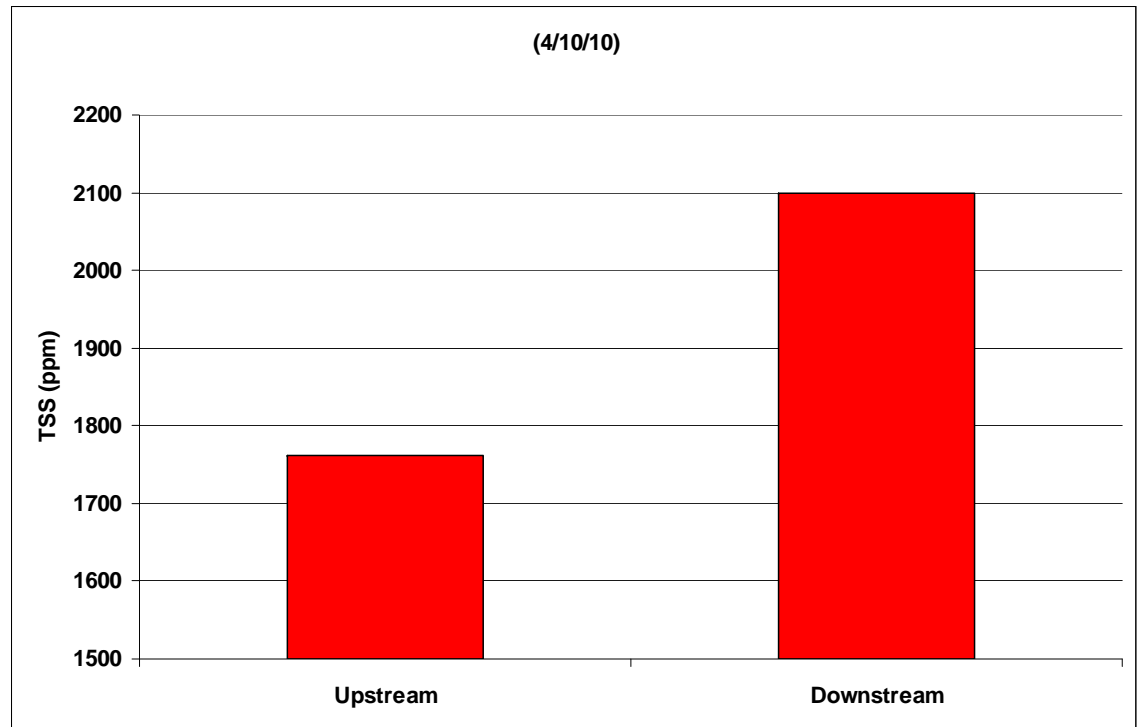
After 6 months of treatment







**4 lb salt/d for
every 1 gal/min
flow**



May 2010 (7 months of treatment)



May 2010 (7 months of treatment)



May 2010 (7 months of treatment)



July 2010



Field brome:
Cool season grass
12" root system
No salt tolerance

July 2010



July 2010



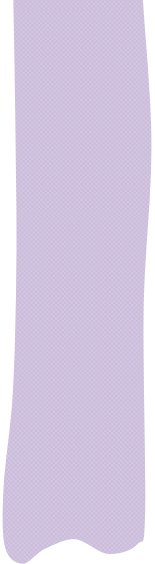
July 2010

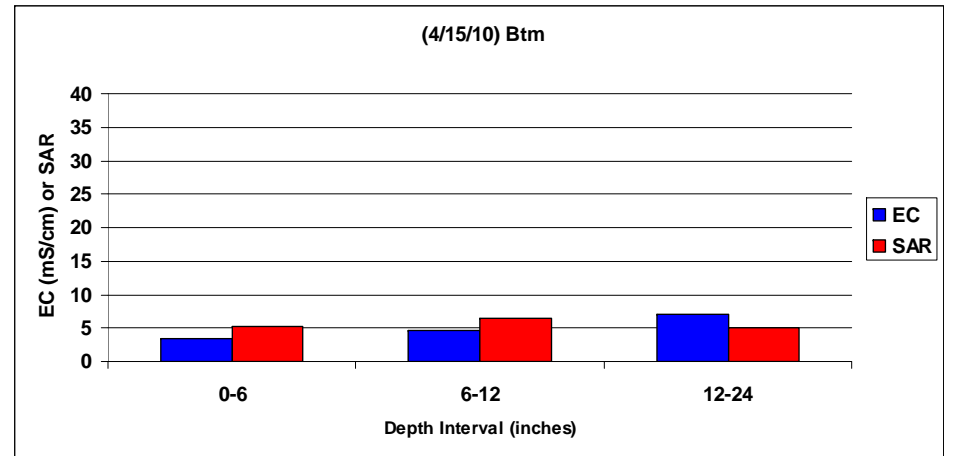
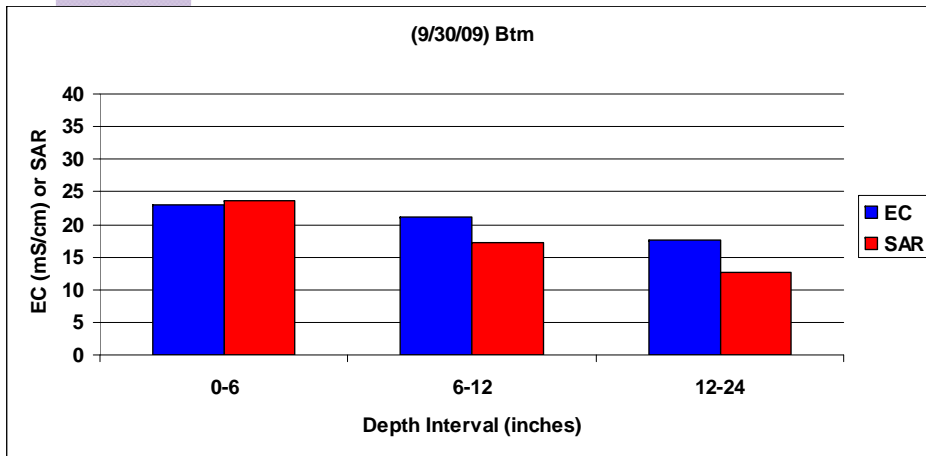
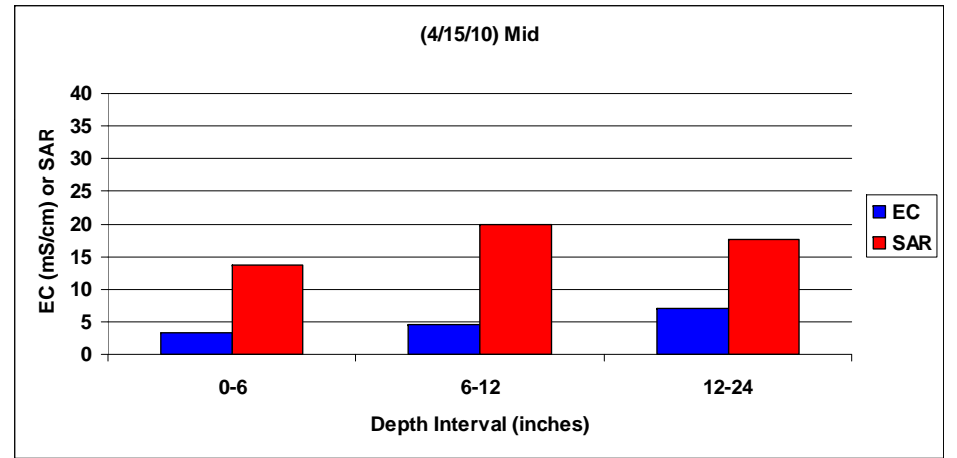
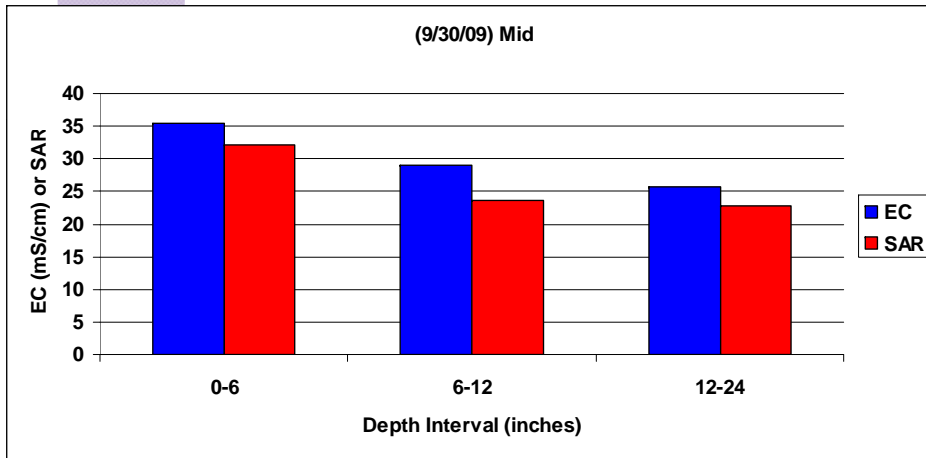
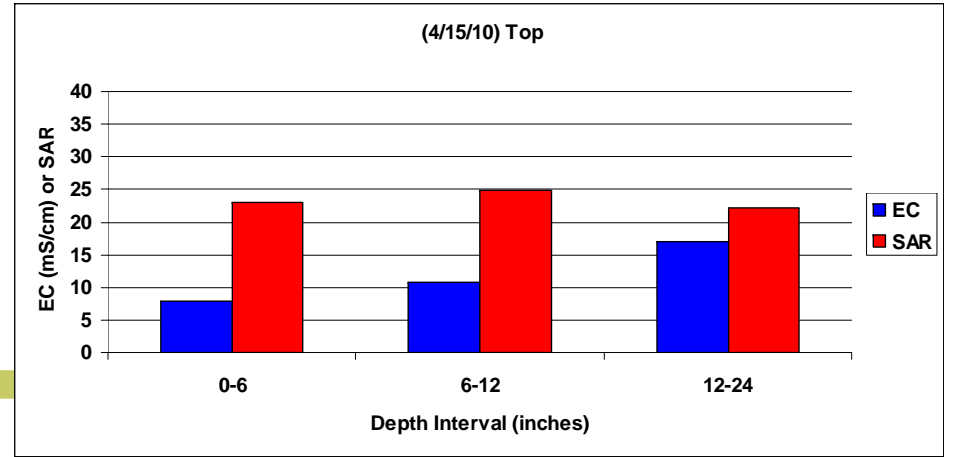
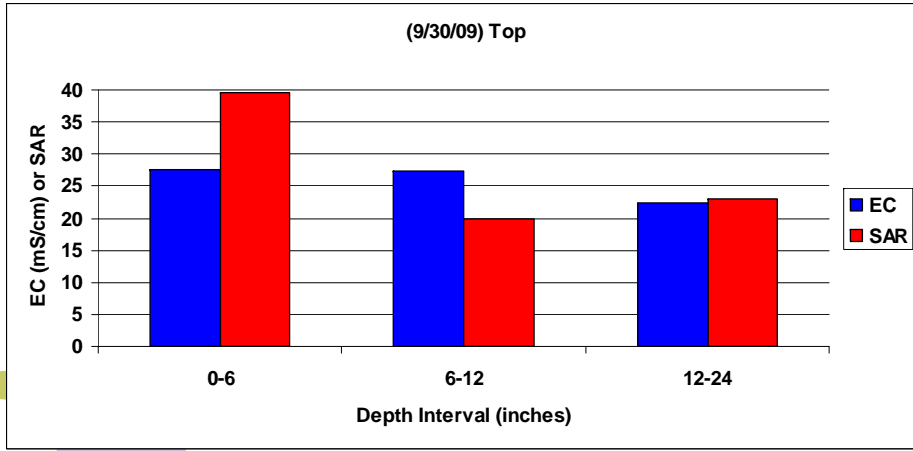


**Another site with remediation
initiated in fall '09**









May 2010 (7 months of treatment)

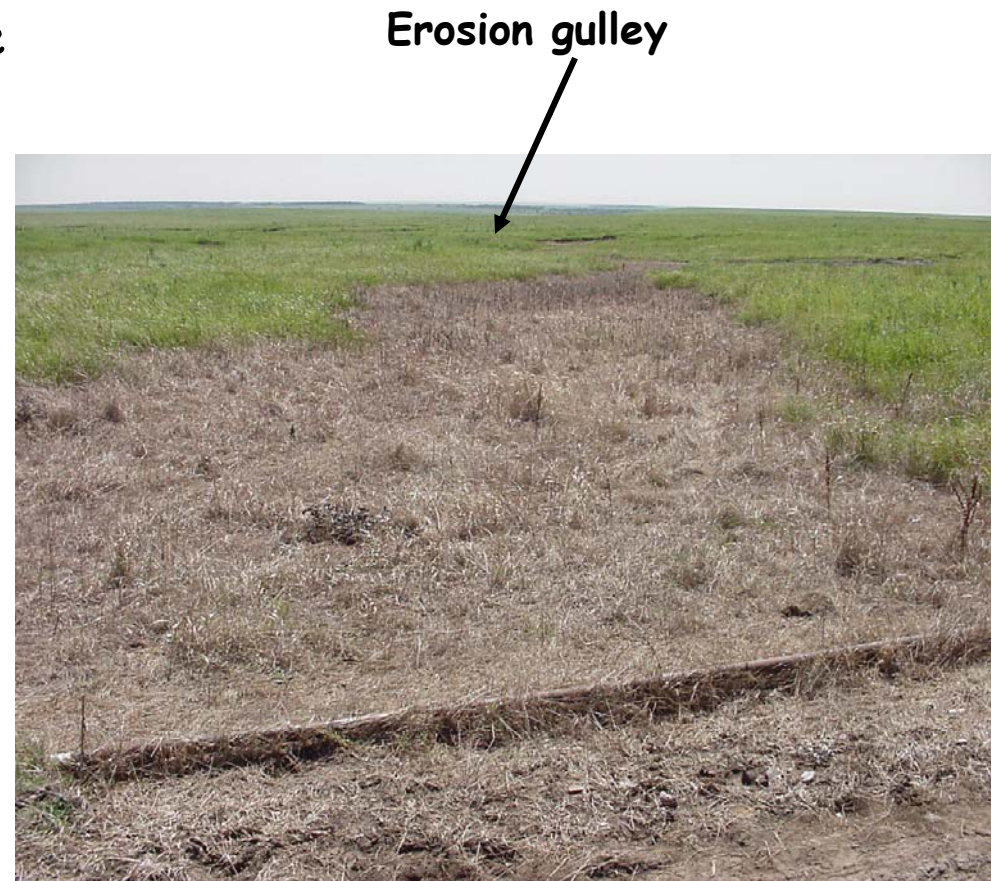


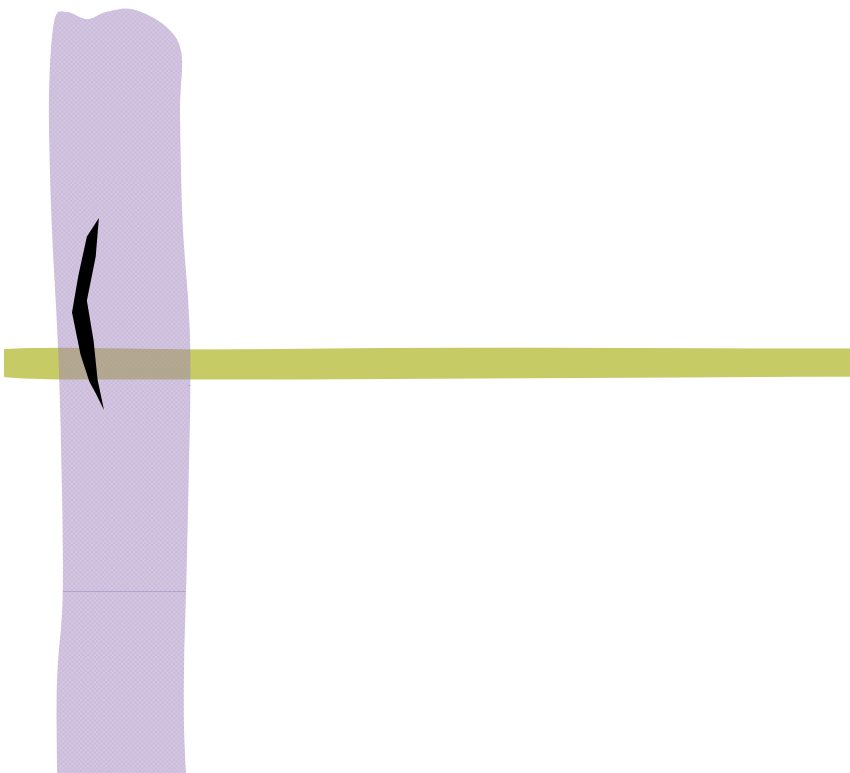
May 2010 (7 months of treatment)



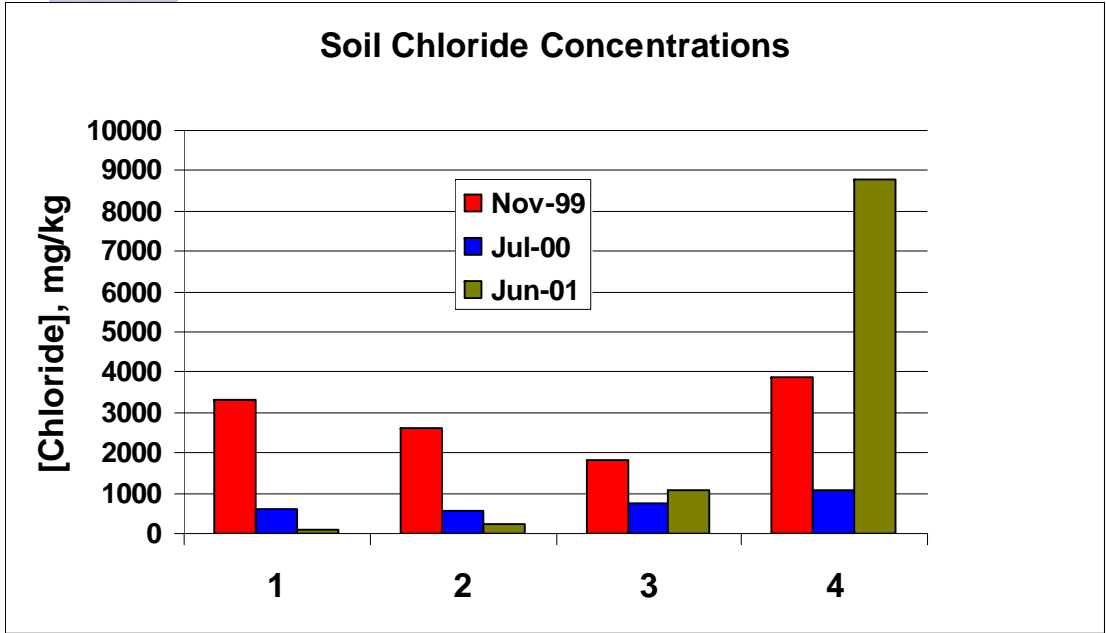
An older case study - Remediation of brine spill using lateral drainage

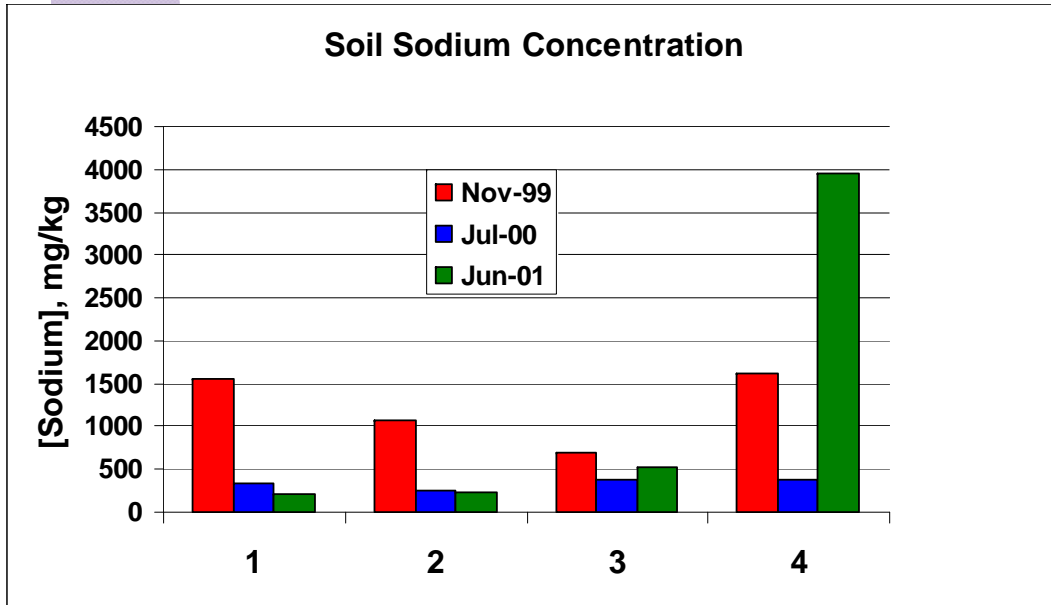
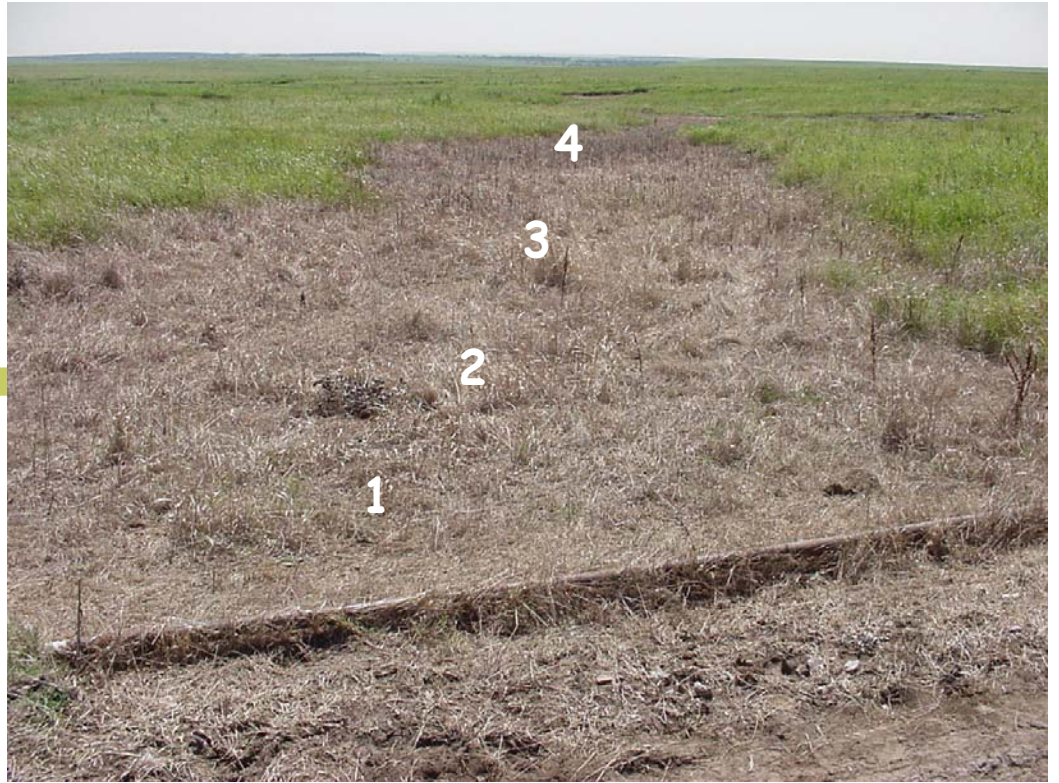
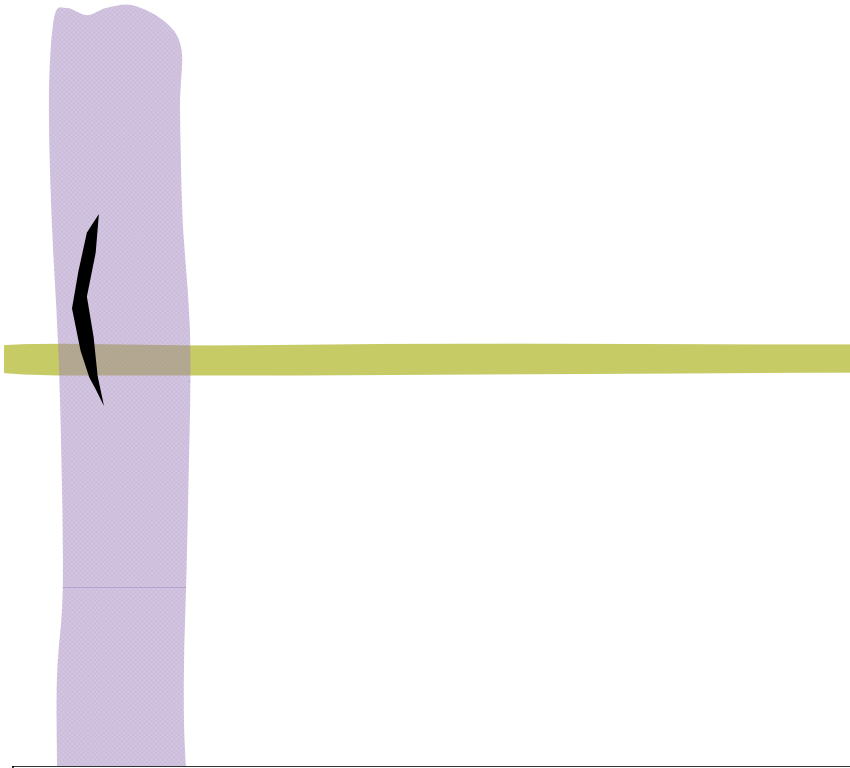
- # Rupture of a salt water line in July 1999 in Osage County, OK
- # Underlying clay layer at about 3 ft; site slopes to natural drainage
- # Class I soil
- # Hay and fertilizer tilled in November 1999
- # Natural precipitation





Soil Chloride Concentrations





Late spring 2000; a good crop of ragweed



Late spring 2001; still some ragweed but lots of grasses

SAR<8

A wide-angle photograph of a grassland landscape. The foreground is dominated by dense, green grasses with some yellow flowers. The middle ground shows a mix of green and brownish patches, indicating the presence of ragweed. The background is a flat, open plain extending to a distant horizon under a clear sky. The text "SAR<8" is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

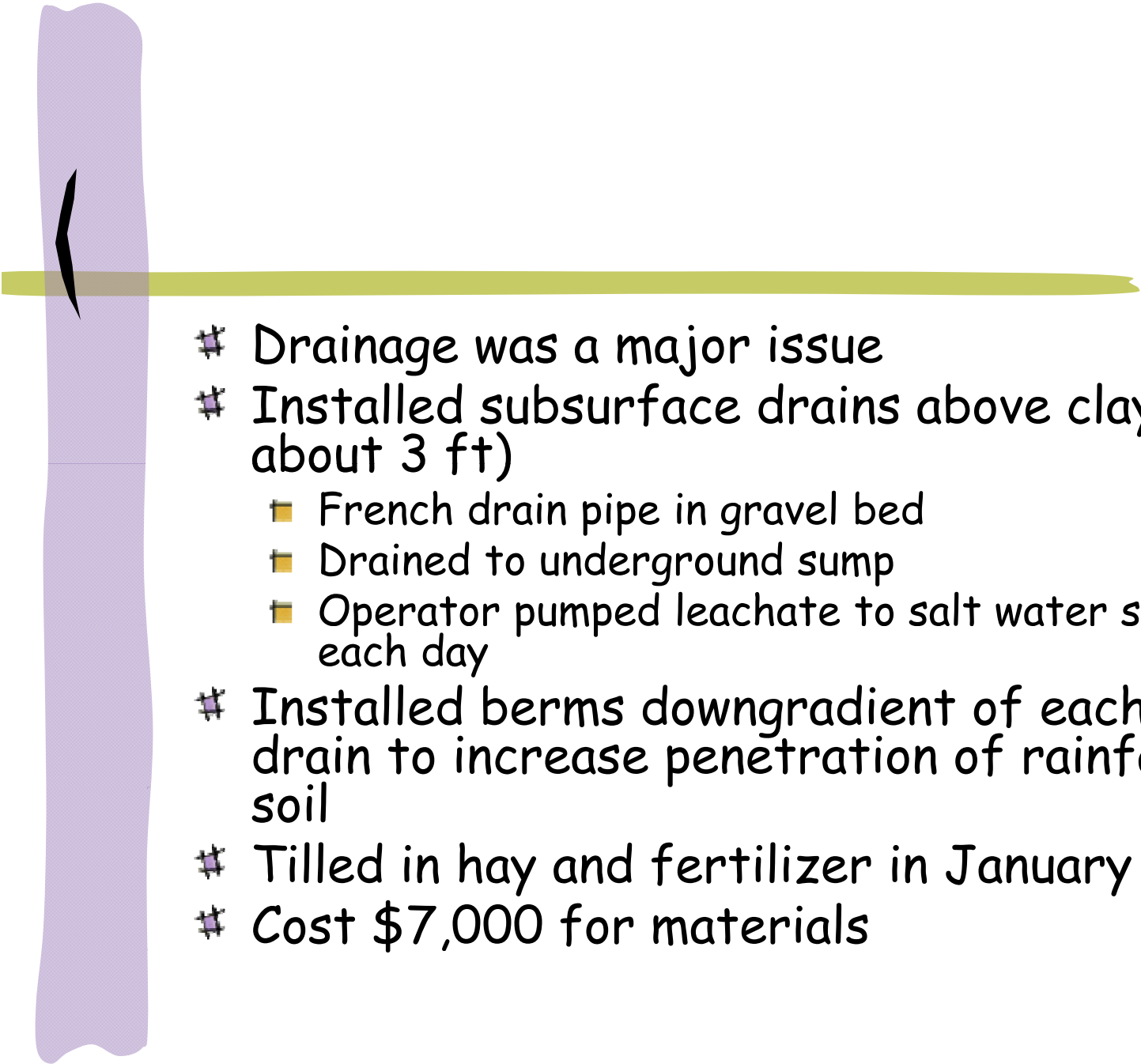
Late spring 2001; a closer look

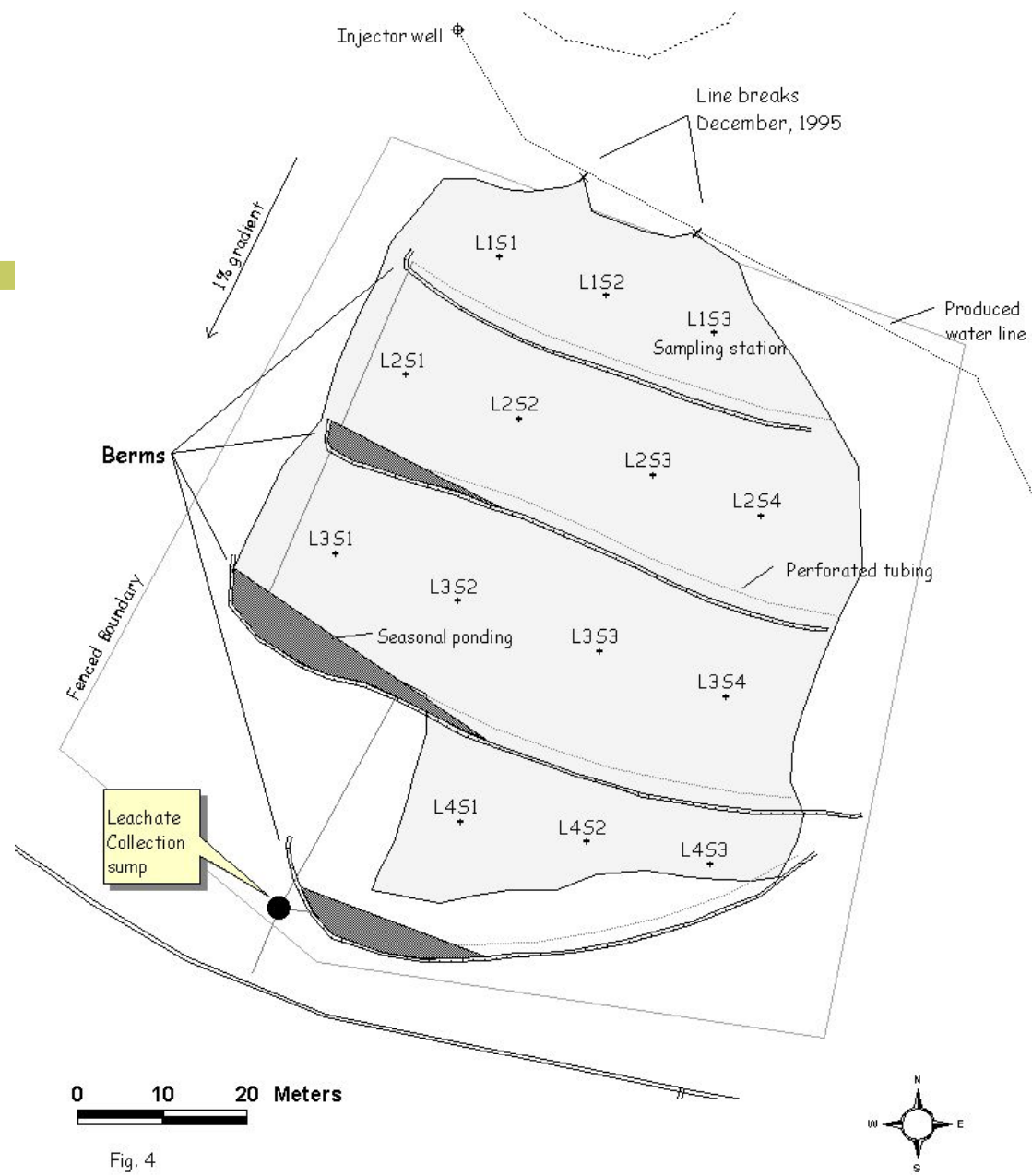


Another older case study - Remediation of a brine spill using a subsurface drain

- # Rupture of a salt water line in December 1995 in Osage County, OK; about two acres impacted
- # Essentially untreated for two years*
- # Underlying clay layer at about 3 ft
- # Site drained to a farm pond 600 yds away
- # All aquatic life in pond killed

*Producer and landowner tried a number of commercial products for brine spills with no success

- 
- # Drainage was a major issue
 - # Installed subsurface drains above clay layer (at about 3 ft)
 - # French drain pipe in gravel bed
 - # Drained to underground sump
 - # Operator pumped leachate to salt water storage tank each day
 - # Installed berms downgradient of each subsurface drain to increase penetration of rainfall into the soil
 - # Tilled in hay and fertilizer in January 1998
 - # Cost \$7,000 for materials



Sodium Ion Concentration (ppm)

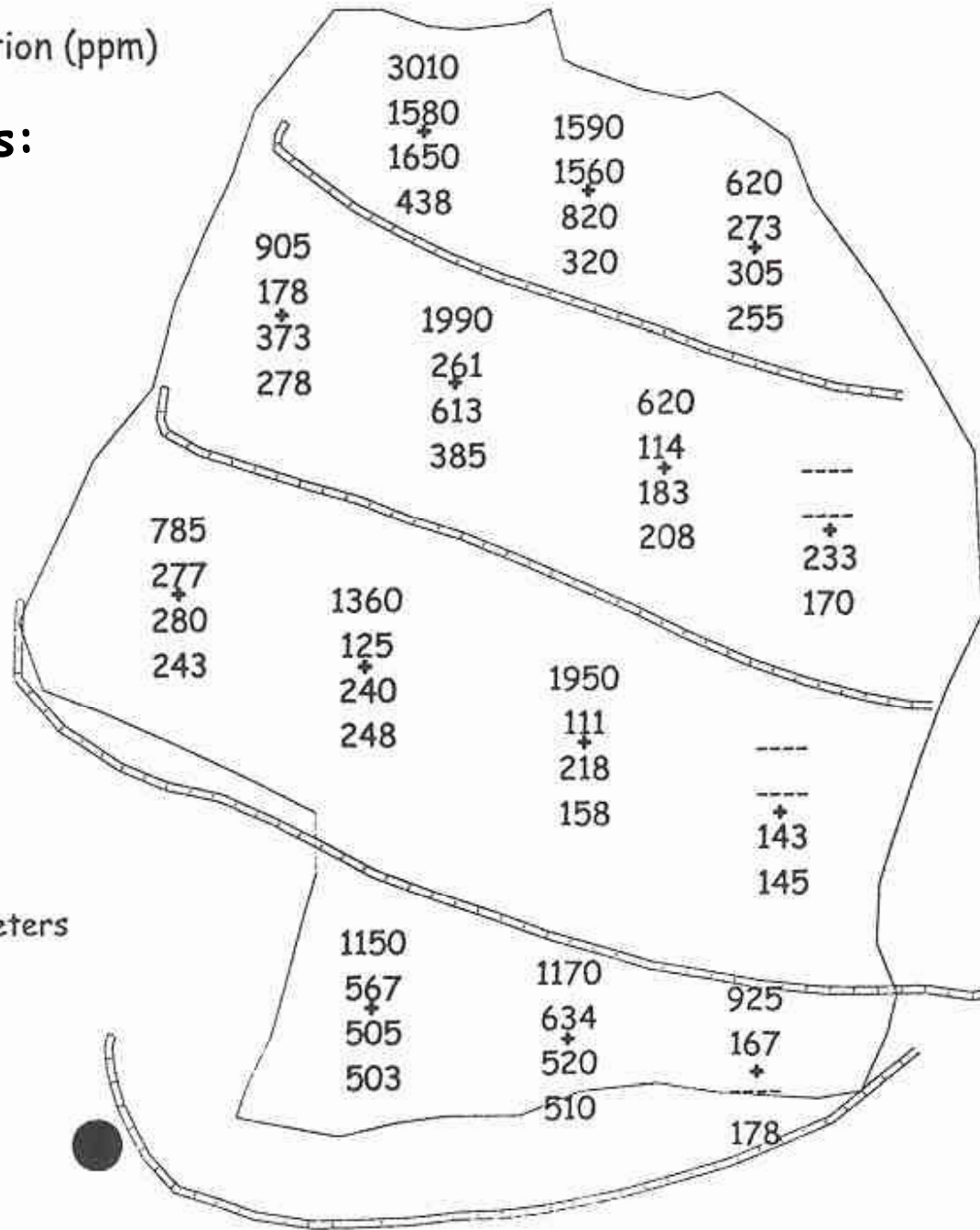
Sampling dates:

2/98

3/99

7/00

5/01



Chloride Ion Concentration (ppm)

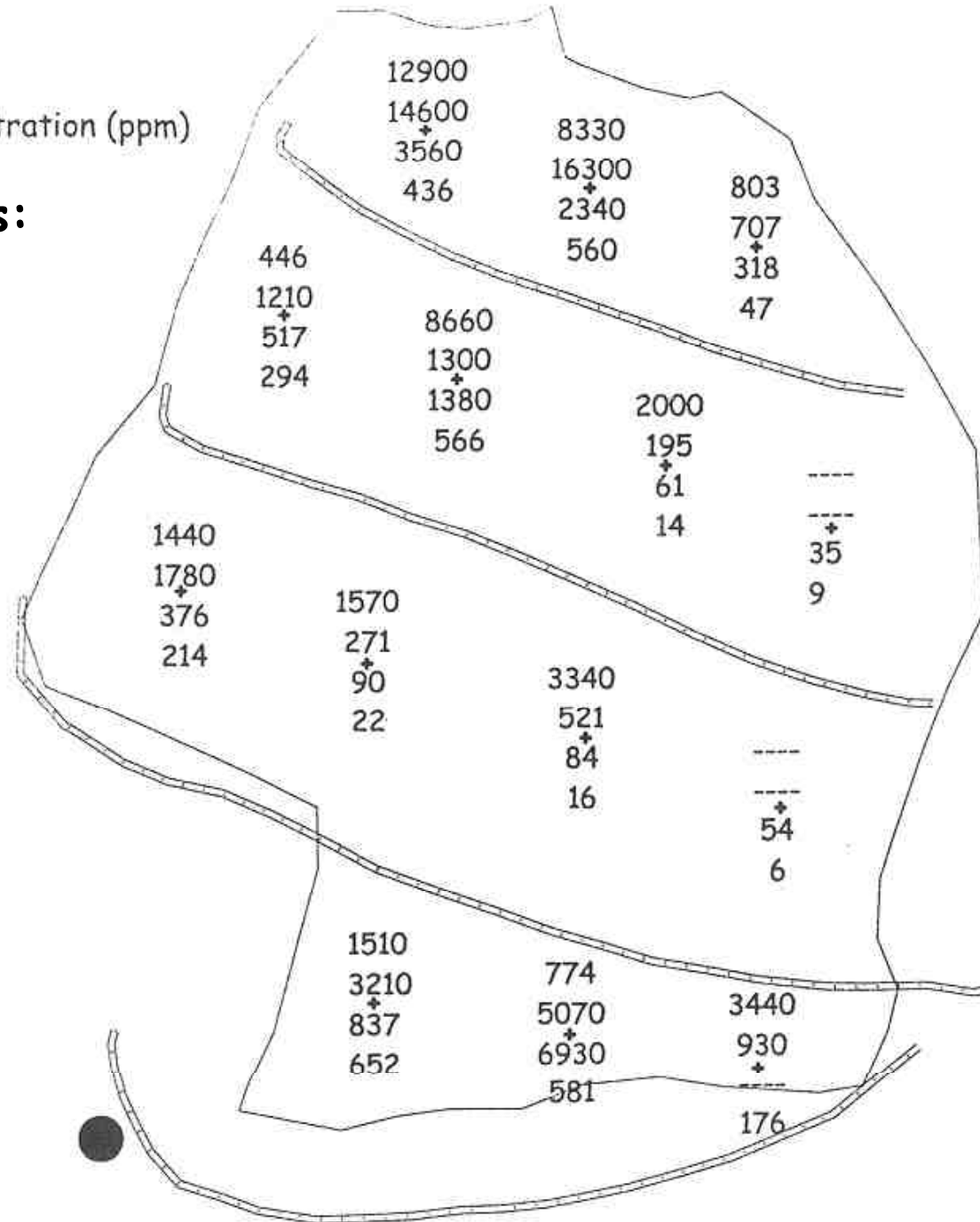
Sampling dates:

2/98

3/99

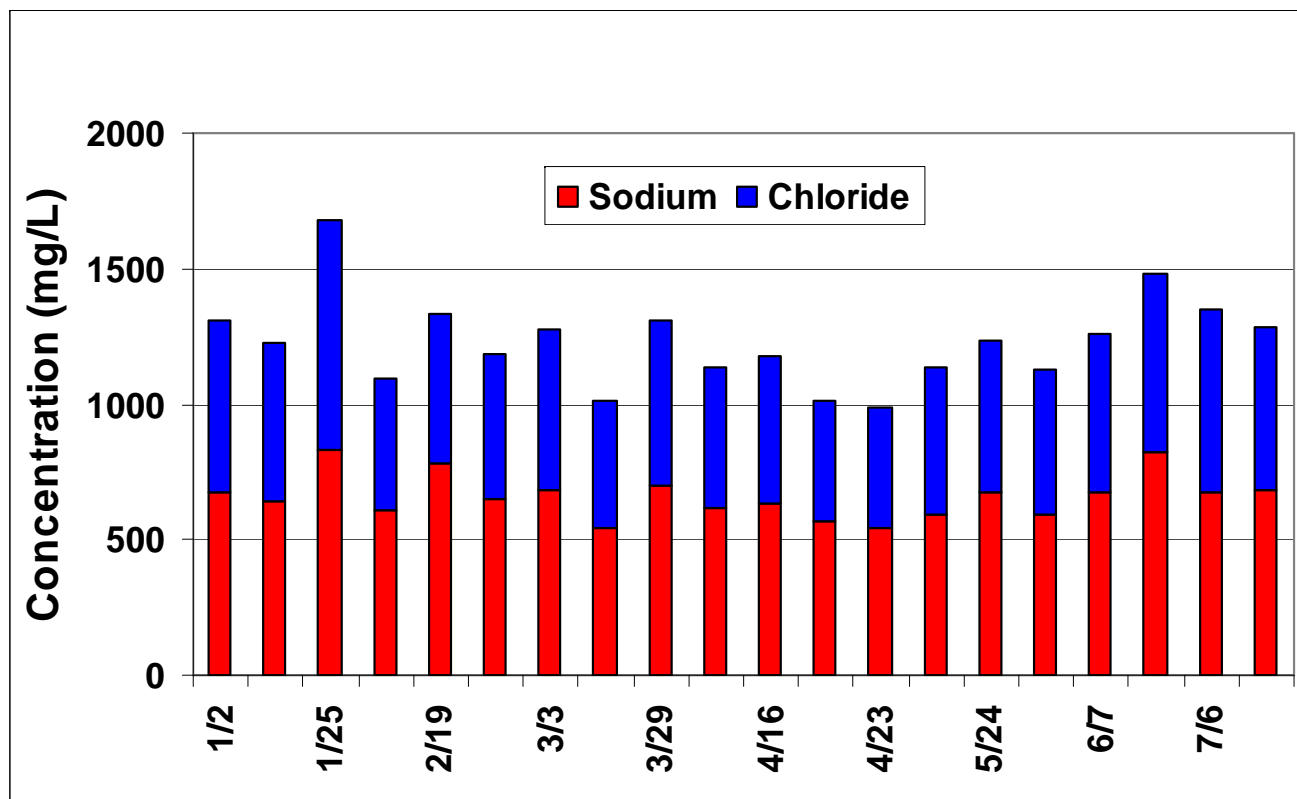
7/00

5/01



Leachate characteristics - first 6 months

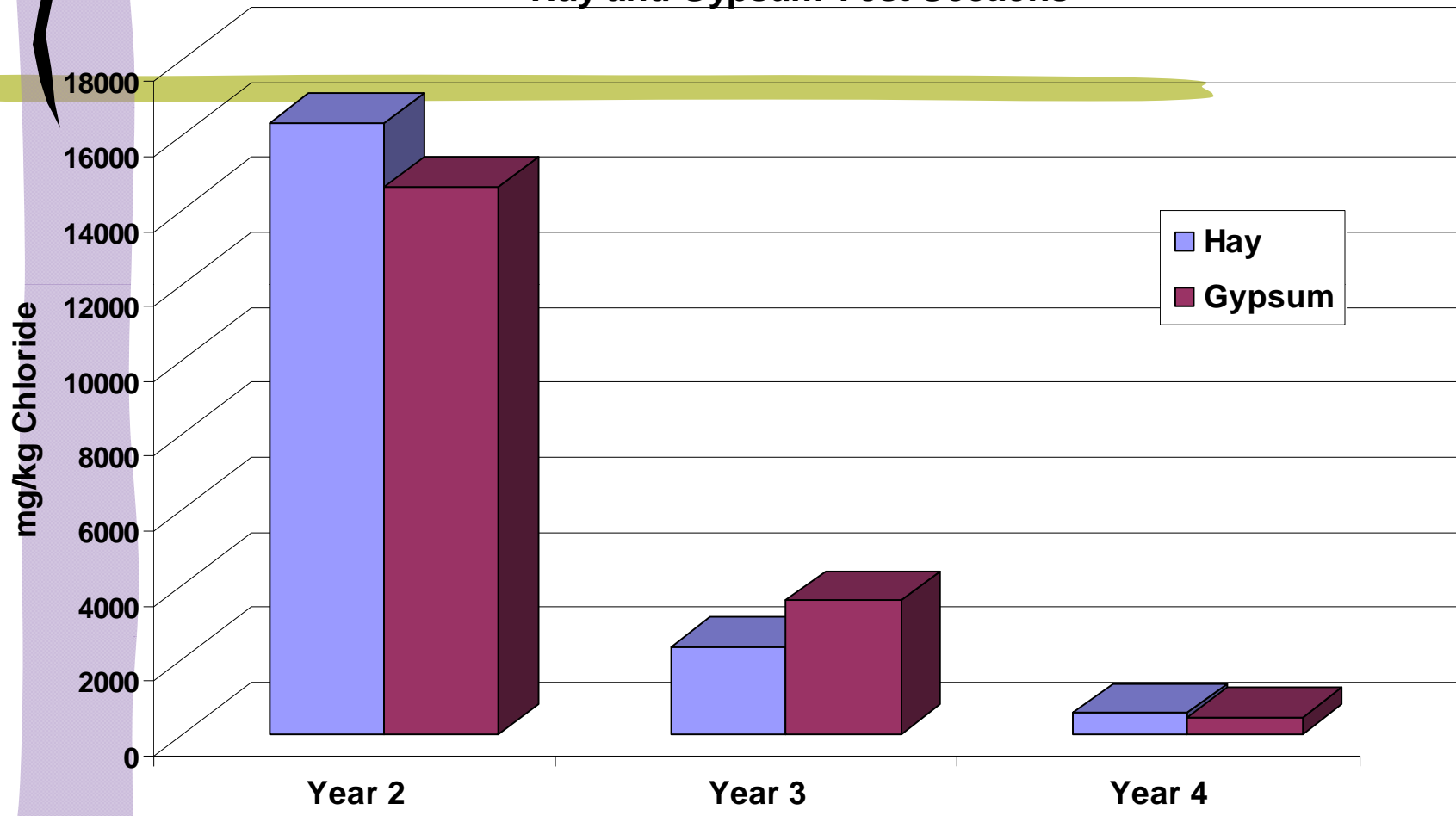
- # About 7000 bbl collected
- # Salt concentrations 1000-1700 mg/L



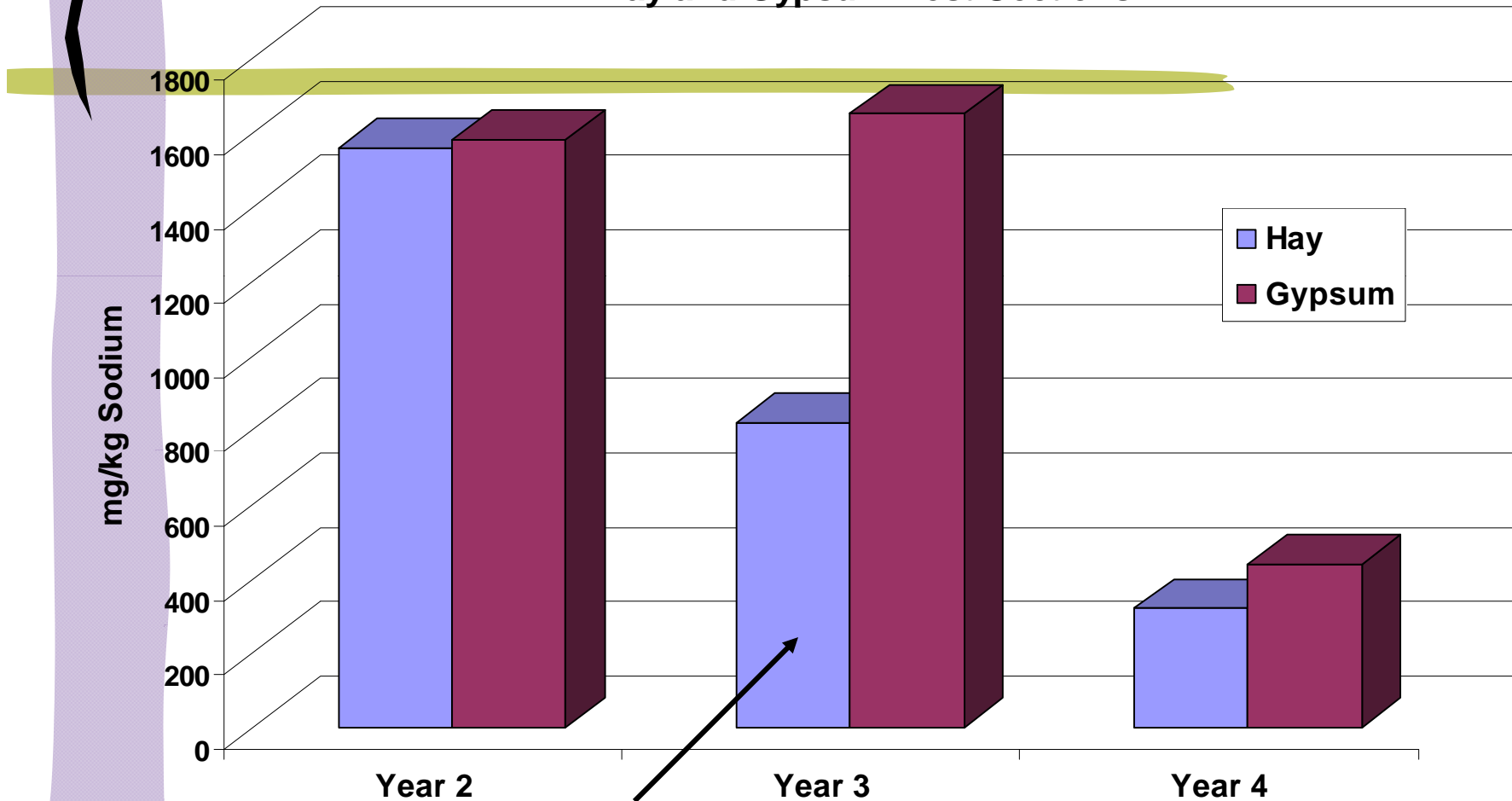
An interesting observation

- # In year 2 the effects of the addition of more hay vs. gypsum application were compared in the two most contaminated sections nearest the source which were not showing any signs of revegetation (upper left in previous diagrams):
- # Observations:
 - Faster sodium removal with hay
 - Faster revegetation with hay - section with hay was two years ahead of the section treated with gypsum- this is a soil fertility effect!

Soil Chloride Concentrations (mg/kg) Hay and Gypsum Test Sections



Soil Sodium Concentrations (mg/kg) Hay and Gypsum Test Sections



Organic acids solubilized calcium from calcium carbonate in the soil without negative effects of sulfate on plant growth

Early spring 1998



Late spring 1999; good crop of ragweed, some bare spots still



Spring 2000; lots of ragweed but lots of grasses too!



Spring 2002; buffalo now graze here!



Spring 2002; a closer look - lots of grass!

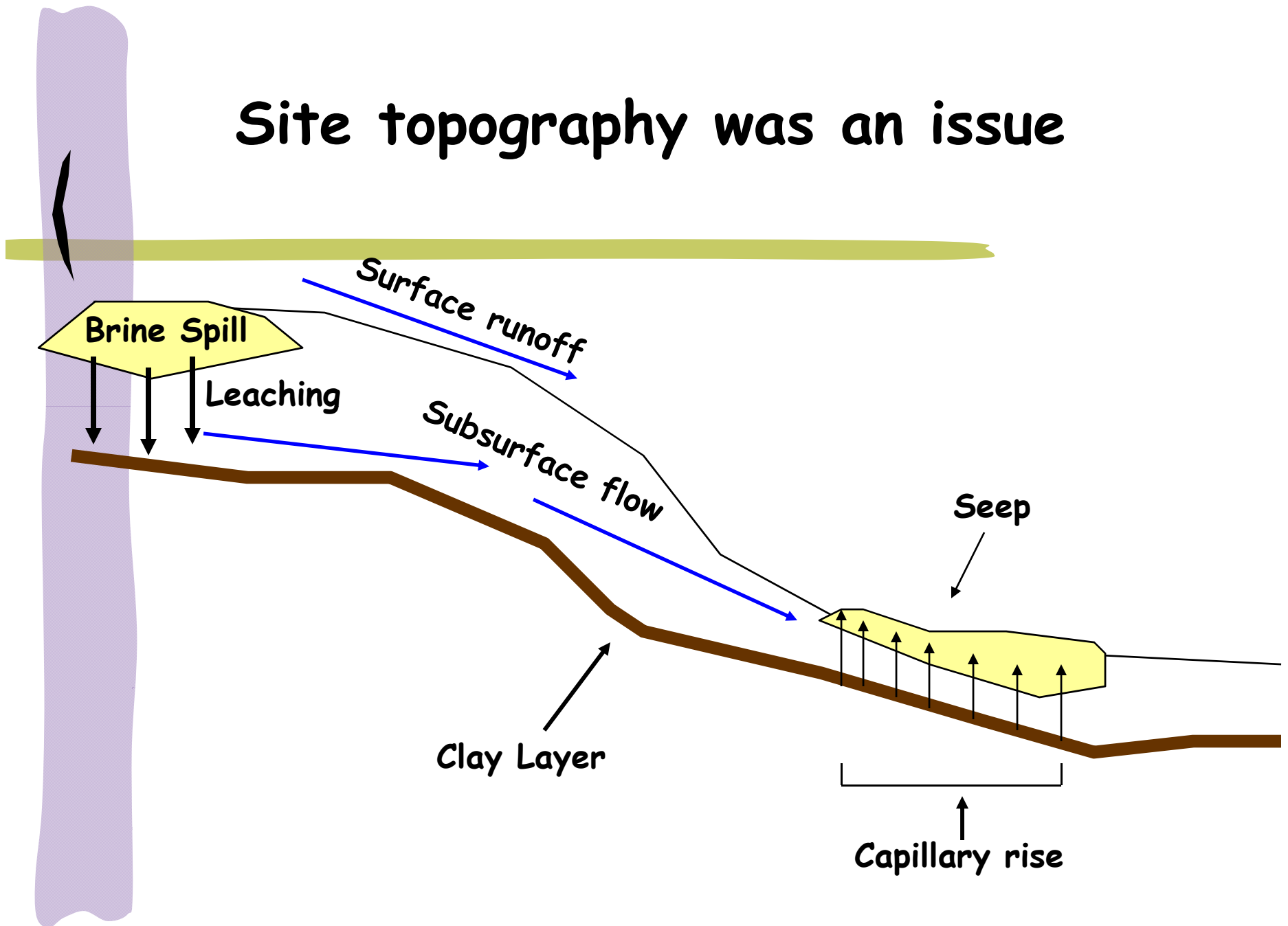
SAR < 10



Case study in what not to do



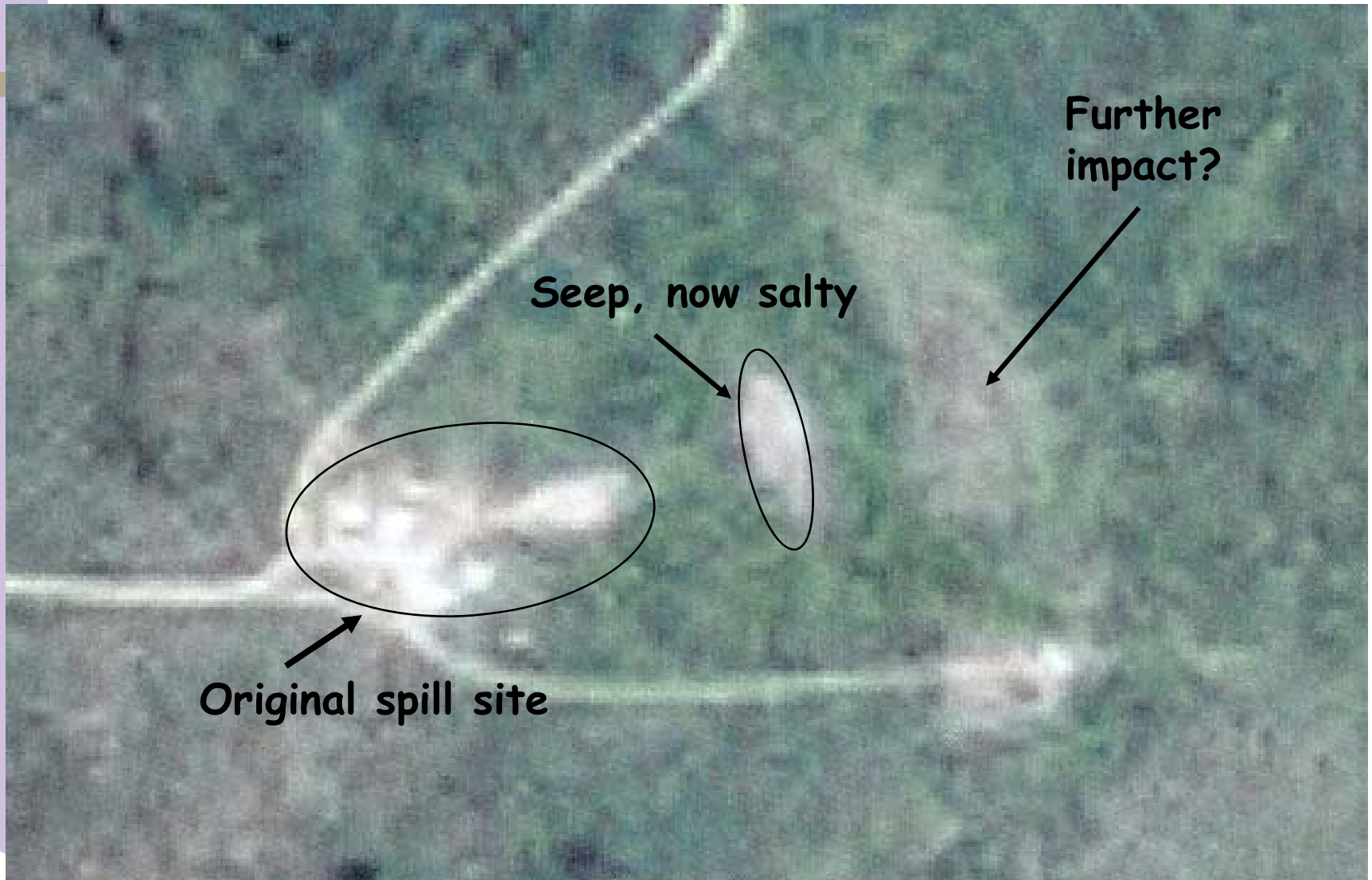
Site topography was an issue

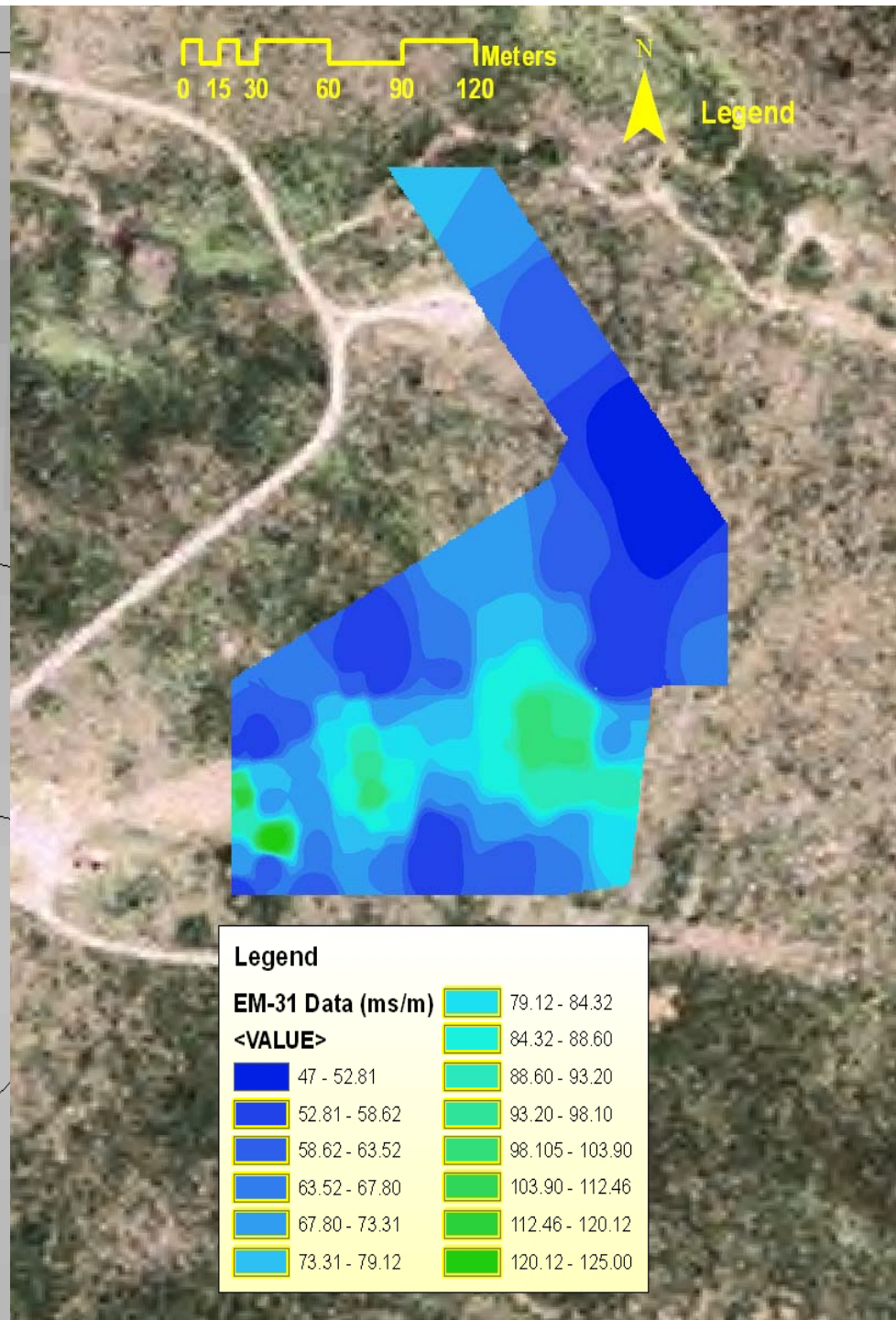
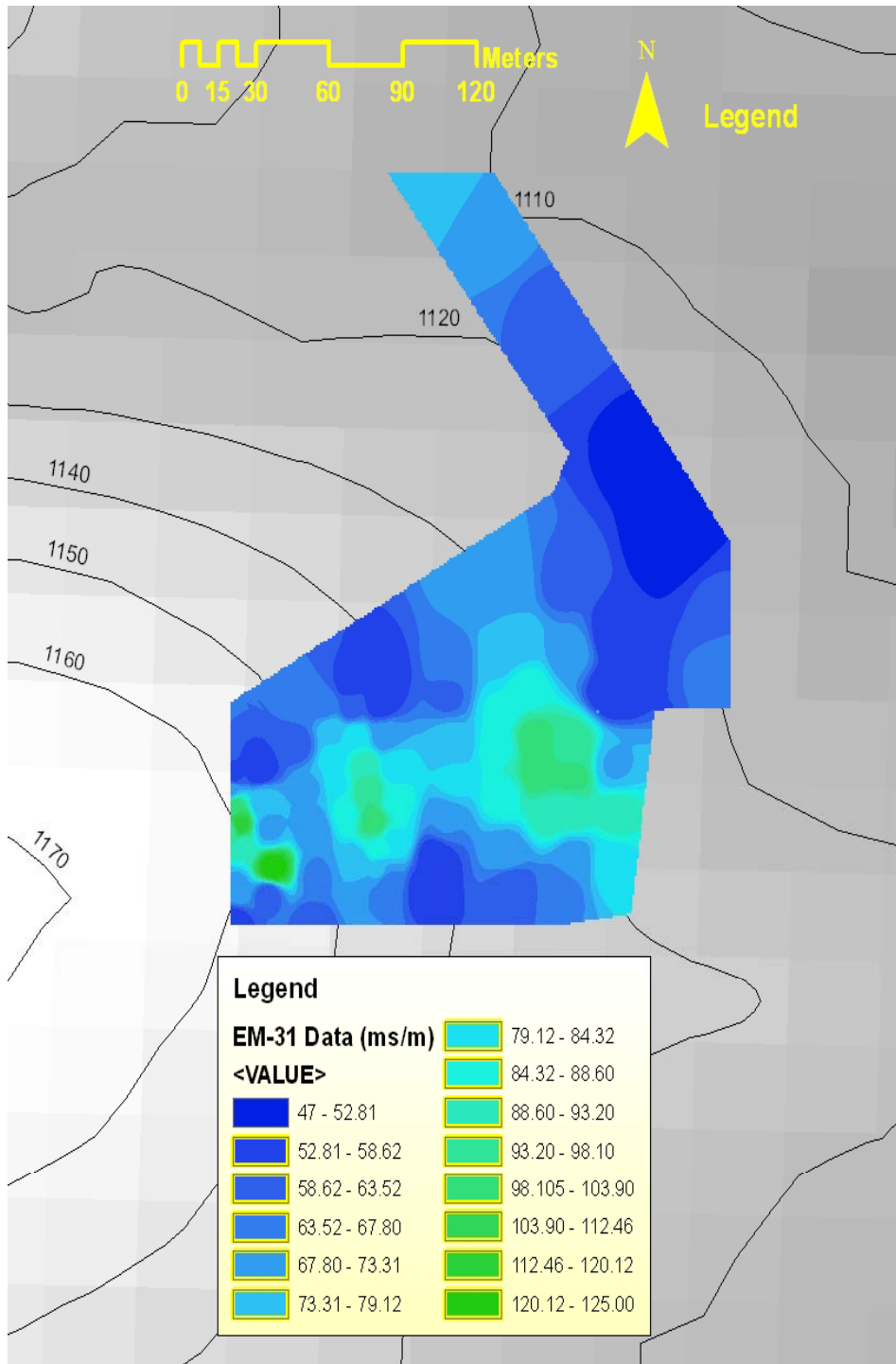


Recommended remediation method

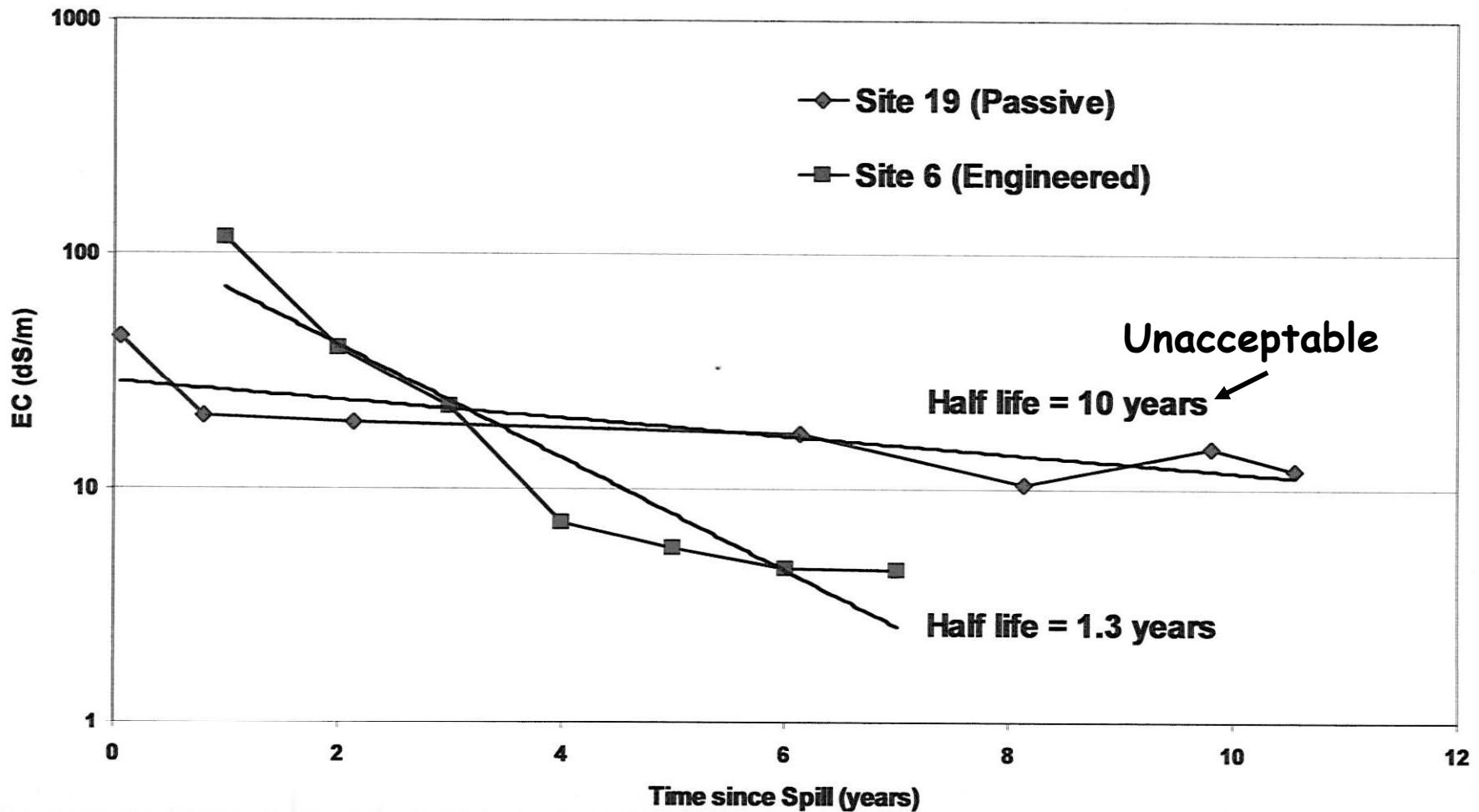
- # Ripping, tilling with hay and fertilizer application
- # Subsurface drain at the bottom of the spill
 - Predicted that the salt was going to continue down slope and pool
- # Only hay and fertilizer application with tilling was done; no artificial drainage used

Google Earth 2004





How long does it take to remediate a brine spill?
Below is a summary of a large Canadian study:



Costs of remediation

- # Costs are highly variable depending on
 - Size of spill
 - Salt mass loading
 - Depth of contamination
 - Soil types
 - Drainage requirements
 - Water availability
 - Etc., etc.
- # Compare to dig and haul at about \$50 yd³
 - 0.5 acres excavated to 2 ft, disposal and replacement with clean soil, about \$85,000
 - You still have to revegetate!

Impact of brine on surface waters

- # Chloride is not toxic so maximum permissible chloride levels in water are typically determined by restriction in beneficial use
 - Drinking water: chlorides > 250 mg/L produce a salty taste
 - Protection of aquatic life
 - Criteria for exposure developed by EPA
 - # Acute exposure < 860 mg/L
 - # Chronic exposure < 230 mg/L
 - Agricultural uses
 - Irrigation quality standards (salinity and SAR)
 - Health effects on livestock

