

Salinity and Sodic Soil Management

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 610



DEFINITION

This practice is designed to reduce or redistribute harmful concentrations of salt and/or sodium in a saline soil.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Salinity reduction (leaching) is used in arid and semiarid areas where rainfall is insufficient to reduce salt concentration on or near the soil surface. The source of the salt is generally irrigation water. Plants utilize the water but leave the salt in the soil to accumulate and cause problems. When

soluble salt begins to have adverse effects on plants the soil is considered saline.

The purpose of the practice is to reduce the accumulation of salt in the soil to permit desirable plants to grow. This practice applies primarily to irrigated land because the leaching process depends on surface applied water to dissolve the salt and carry it deeper into the soil profile.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.