Subsurface Drain

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 606

DEFINITION
A Subsurface Drain is a conduit, such as corrugated plastic tubing, tile, or pipe, installed beneath the ground surface to collect and/or convey drainage water.

PRACTICE INFORMATION
The purpose of a subsurface drain is to:

- Improve the environment for vegetation
- Reduce erosion
- Improve water quality
    - Regulate ground water and water table flows
    - Relieve artesian pressures
    - Assist in leaching saline soil
    - Regulate subirrigated areas and waste disposal areas
- Collect ground water for beneficial use
- Remove water from heavy use areas such as recreation areas, or around buildings
- Regulate water to control health hazards caused by pests

The subsurface drain practice is used in areas having a high water table where the benefits of lowering the level are worth the expense. The practice also applies to areas that will benefit from controlling ground water and/or surface runoff. The soil must meet certain suitability requirements and an adequate outlet must be available to assure the drain will function properly.

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