

Machine Laid Plastic Mole Drains Offer Speed, Low-Cost, Efficiency

Plastic-lined mole drains can provide good subsurface drainage at a minimum of effort and lower cost than standard tile drains. The lined channels, developed cooperatively by USDA State scientists and industry fill a need for more flexible drainage methods for poorly-drained soils.

Plastic-lined drains, installed and tested at the New York Agriculture Experiment Station, Ithaca, have served for two years without cave-ins, blockage, or filling in. These drains cost only about eight cents a foot installed, while conventional subsurface tiling costs considerably more. Conventional drainage calls for trenching, laying down bituminous clay, or concrete tile, and allowing the fill dirt to settle before farming. The mole drain can be installed by machine without interruption to farming.

Lining mole channels with plastic is no more difficult than opening a mole drain,

This vinyl strip, its edges slit at intervals in order to minimize stress, is formed into a tight "U" and fed down a chute that is attached behind the standard to guide the plastic into the mole channel. Tension unrolls the plastic into place as the channel is opened.

These simple, effective drains have already found use on wet lands where conventional subsurface drainage had been considered too costly. The liner also has been used for short laterals into outlet ditches.

To date, several types of liner shapes have been con-

sidered. Only a "U"-shaped Florida, and South Agricultural Experimentations are cooperating with their engineering staff to adapt lined mole drains to various soils and land conditions. Further studies are planned for the Midwest.

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First pink buds	X	X	X	X	CURRENT and GOOSE-BERRY every 10 14 days after first leaves unfold
As last petals fall	X	X	X	X	
COVER SPRAYS: 10 days after petals fall & every 10 14 days until 4 weeks before apple, pear harvest, 2 weeks for others	X	X	X	X	
After harvest				X	

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