

The Control of Soil Erosion in New York

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SUMMARY

Good soil management and soil-erosion control go hand in hand. It is unwise to apply fertilizer, lime, manure, and to sow seed only to have them washed away because of lack of erosion control.

The steeper cropped lands should be occupied most of the time by soil-protecting crops, such as small grains and the pasture and hay grasses and legumes.

The leveler land is the best place to grow such soil-exposing crops as corn, potatoes, and beans.

On nearly all slopes, plowing, harrowing, seeding, and cultivating should be on the contour.

On long slopes particularly, soil-protecting crops in contour strips alternated with soil-exposing crops help greatly to prevent soil erosion. In many places channels are needed to carry water from the slopes.

Steep, eroded, or easily erodible land should be in forest.

Gullies should be checked as soon as possible after formation. Filling them with straw or brush or planting grasses and legumes, vines, shrubs, and trees in them is helpful. In many places, particularly in pastures, shallow channels are used to carry water away from gullies and to give vegetation an opportunity to become established.

Windbreaks and cover crops hold muck and sand from blowing.