

# Irrigation and Chemigation Management

Ag Water Quality Plan Fact Sheet

April 2002

In addition to creating unnecessary expense, poor irrigation or chemigation practices can cut yields, promote plant diseases, encourage nutrient leaching, and lead to soil erosion. Overspray of chemigated water onto adjacent fields or feedlots may harm neighboring crops or livestock. In order to obtain the best results fertilizers should be applied according to nutrient budgets based on crop types, soil tests, tilth, drainage, tissue tests, and related issues. Always remember that back siphon devices are critical in order to prevent contamination of water sources. It is relatively easy to determine if your land is under compliance with Ag Water Quality Plan guidelines. Applications generally fall into three classes: 1) Irrigation/chemigation BMPs clearly visible and working; 2) No observable problems, but absence of BMPs leaves room for improvement; and, 3) Evidence that unsound practices are leading to surface or ground water pollution.

## 1) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



*Drip irrigation is one practice that conserves water.*



*Testing for moisture and nutrients saves both money and the environment.*



*Make sure that the pesticide you use is compatible with your equipment.*



*The use of anti-siphon check valves ensure the protection of your water supply.*

### **Yamhill River Basin SB 1010 Ag Water Quality Standards**



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## 2) ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



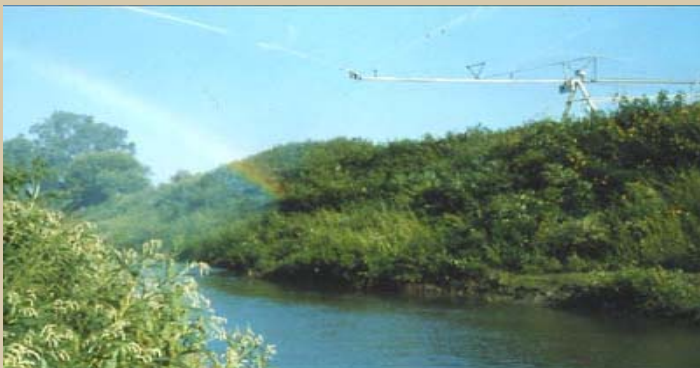
*Applying nutrients or water on a windy day is an inefficient use of resources.*



*Tile outlets that run during the irrigation season are indicators of over watering.*

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## 3) CLEAR INDICATORS OF NON-COMPLIANCE



*Spraying irrigation water directly into open waters of the state demonstrates non-compliance.*



*Irrigation applications on impermeable surfaces is evidence of poor water management.*



*Chemigating when the wind speed exceeds 10 mph may result in crop damage from wind drift.*



*Surface runoff to roadside ditches is wasteful and causes pollution.*