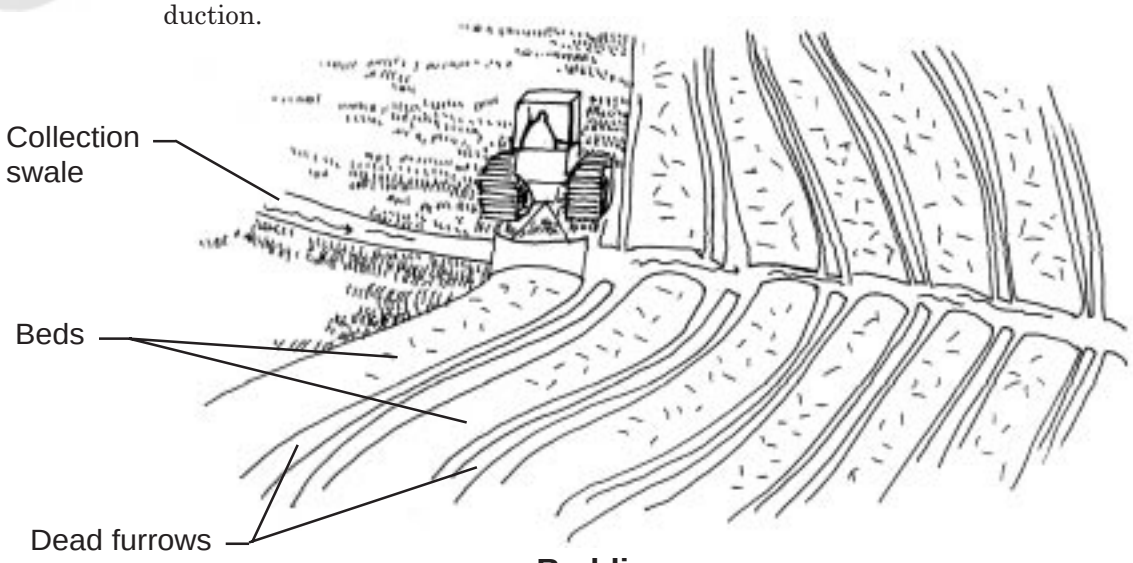
PRIMARY USE: To provide improved surface drainage at relatively low cost.
ADDITIONAL USES: To minimize water pondage; provide gradients for removing runoff; eliminate sources for mosquito production.

BEDDING

What is it? This system consists of narrow width plow lands with equally spaced dead furrows running perpendicular to the prevailing land slope. The area between two adjacent dead furrows is known as a bed. The beds may be of different shapes. Each bed is cultivated separately either parallel or perpendicular to the dead furrows. A collection ditch must be provided to collect the water from the dead furrows and channel it to some outlet ditch.

Purpose

To provide improved surface drainage at relatively low cost by establishing adjoining parallel beds or land running in the direction of the available natural slope. This is accomplished by moving soil toward the center of beds to form a series of ridges and dead furrows (troughs) that will minimize water pondage, provide gradients for removing runoff, permit efficient operation of tillage and harvesting equipment, or eliminate the sources for mosquito production.



Bedding
Perspective View

Limitations

This practice applies to poorly drained areas of flat to nearly flat land usually having slowly permeable soils. It is generally applicable where land use does not warrant more intensive drainage. Soils must be of sufficient depth to provide a satisfactory root zone after bedding.

Materials

This is an earthen structure.

Installation

Bedding shall run in the direction of the available land slope so that drainage can be provided without causing harmful erosion. Bedding is usually established without detailed engineering surveys. Beds shall be shaped and cross-row ditches provided where required to provide free movement of water from the crown to the dead furrow. Crowns shall provide a cross slope of not less than 0.3 percent. Crown height, width, and maximum length of beds shall be determined on the basis of site conditions. Parallel channels may be shallow and side slopes steep or flat, based on the depth of the soil, crops grown, and local construction and maintenance methods. Parallel channels shall be graded toward an outlet. An outlet, natural or constructed, must have sufficient capacity and depth to provide for removal of water from the parallel channels.

Source: NRCS Standard Practice 310