



Rules for cultivation

It's important for contractors to know what rules apply. The Southland Water and Land Plan was made partly operative in May 2024, meaning cultivation rules are now operative. Rules apply year-round and apply to the person undertaking the act of cultivation.

If cultivation doesn't meet the following requirements then a landowner may need to consider a resource consent.

General cultivation

- ✔ Cultivate below 800m altitude
- ✔ Manage critical source areas
- ✘ **No cultivation** of the bed of a river, lake, drain or wetland.

Grass OR crop to grass (under 20° slope)

- ✔ Can cultivate critical source areas
- ✔ 0-20° slope = 5m buffer to waterways
- ✔ Once every five years

Grass to crop (for winter grazing)

	For cultivation into crop	During winter grazing (1 May - 30 Sept)
Critical source areas	✘ No cultivation of critical source areas	✘ No grazing of critical source areas
0-10° slope by waterways	✔ 5m buffer **	✔ 10m buffer **
10-20° slope by waterways	✔ 10m buffer **	✔ 20m buffer **
Over 20° slope	✘ No cultivation over 20° slope	-

**Intensive winter grazing buffers are double the cultivation buffer

Grass to grass (over 20° slope)

- ✔ Can cultivate critical source areas
- ✔ Direct drilling = 10m buffer to waterways
- ✔ Sowing, and/or spraying = 20m buffer to waterways
- ✔ Permitted for pasture renewal/establishment only
- ✔ Once every five years

Re-grassing a buffer

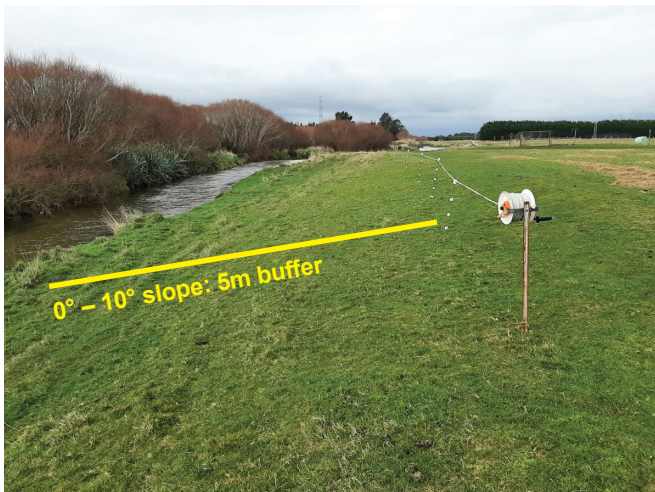
- ✔ Direct drill/over-sow/ spray: only permitted if paddock is in full pasture
- ✔ Once every five years

Key ✔ Activity permitted ✘ Activity not permitted

Slope and runoff examples



Slope is measured over a 20 metre length



Buffer zone – 5m to 10m from waterway



Critical source area

Clinometer slope measuring tool



- 1 Download the '**Clinometer + Bubble Level**' app and the '**Camera Tape Measure**' app from the App Store or Google Play.



- 2 Go to YouTube and search '**Tips on how to measure the slope of your paddocks**' (youtube.com/watch?v=w252co9R_31) to learn how to use the slope measuring tool.



Useful definitions

Critical source area

Landscape feature, such as a gully, swale or depression, that accumulates runoff from adjacent land and delivers (or has the potential to deliver) contaminants to a waterway (excludes subsurface drains).

Swale

Low-lying part of a paddock that can be wet or marshy.

Gully

Small, deep trench, typically on a hillside. It can be a sign of serious soil erosion caused by water runoff.