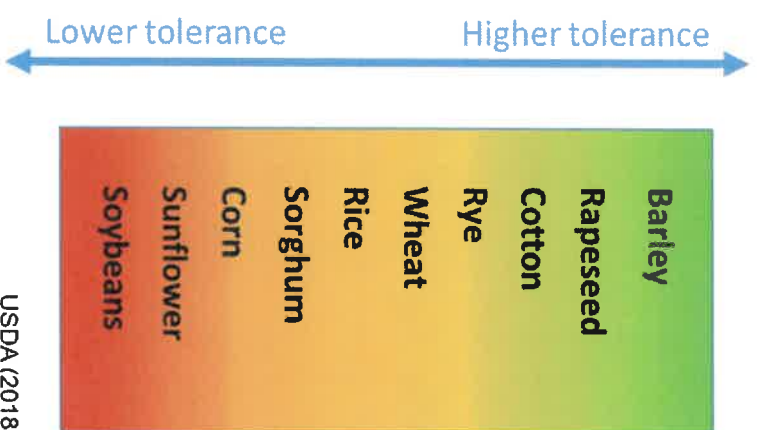
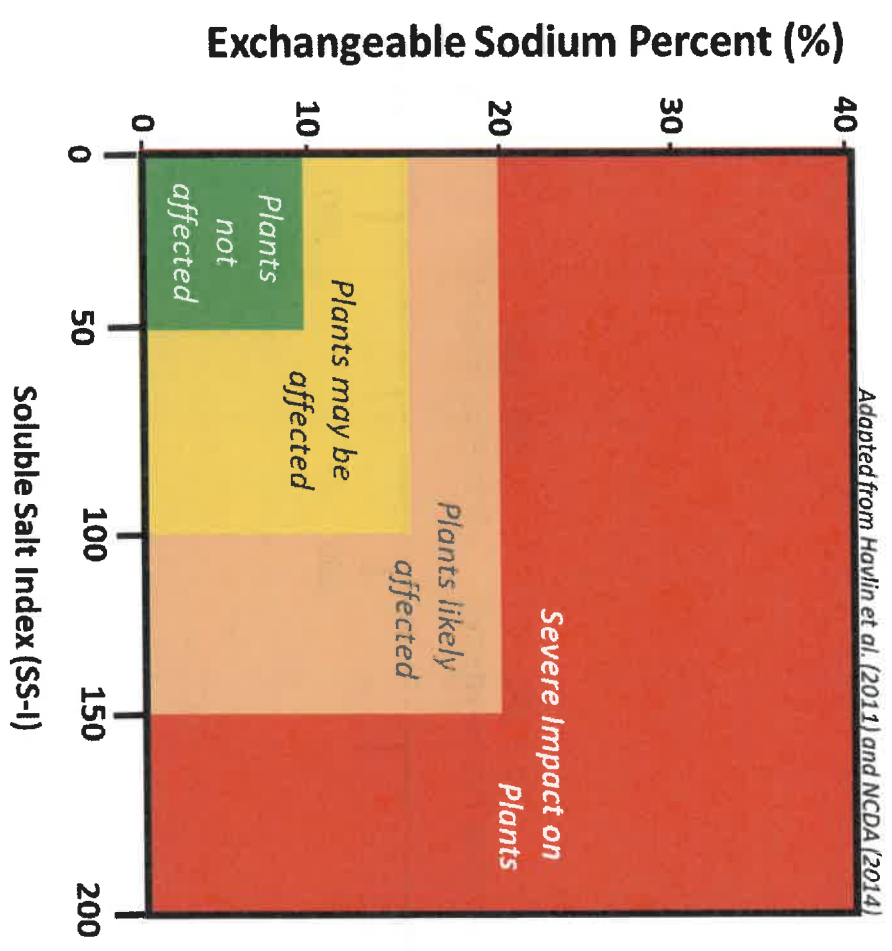


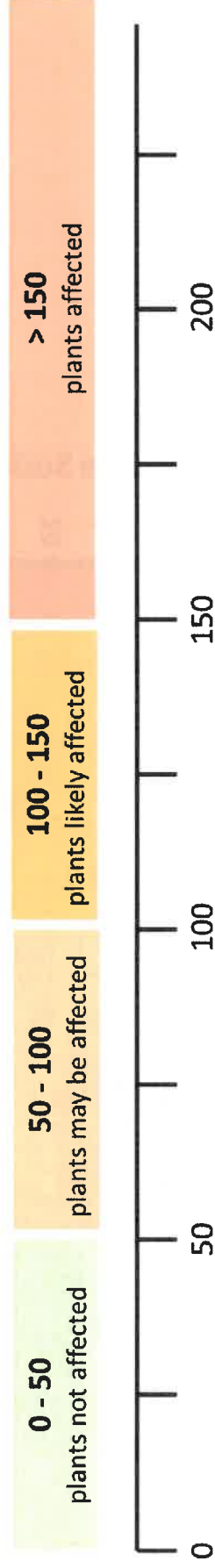
Use of Tolerant Plants



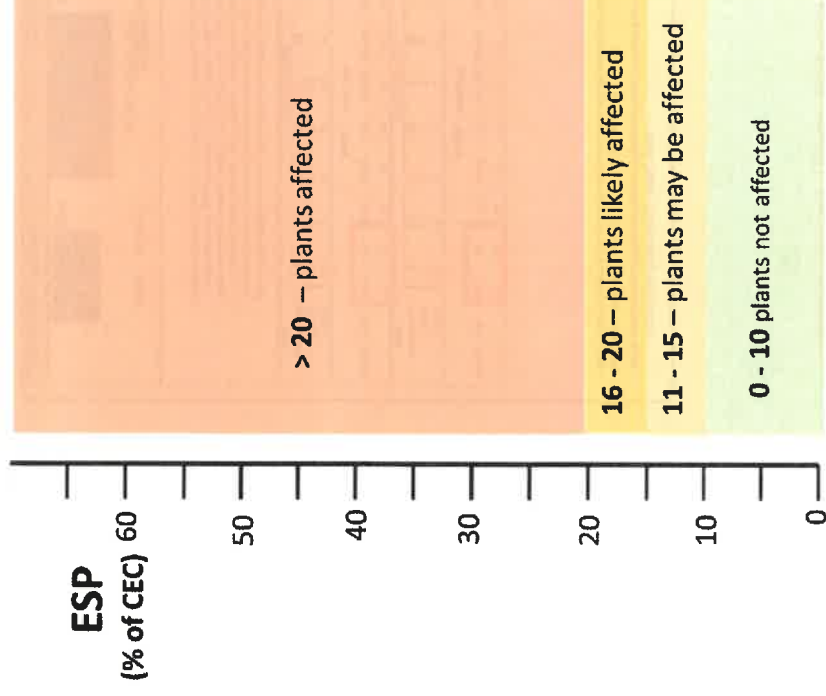
USDA (2018)



SS-I : Soluble Salt Index



Exchangeable Sodium Percent (ESP)



Consider Crops that have more Salt Tolerance

Table 1. Tolerance of crops to soil salinity.*

	High Tolerance	Medium Tolerance	Low Tolerance
Field crops	Barley, sugar beet, rapeseed, cotton	Rye, wheat, oats, rice, sorghum, corn, flax, sunflower, castorbeans, soybeans	Beans
Forages	Alkali sacaton, saltgrass, nuttall alkaligrass, bermudagrass, Rhodes grass, Canada wildrye, western wheatgrass, barley, birdsfoot trefoil	White sweet clover, perennial ryegrass, mountain brome, strawberry clover, dallis grass, sudan grass, hubam clover, alfalfa, tall fescue	White clover, meadow foxtail, alsike clover, red clover, ladino clover, burnet
Vegetables	Asparagus, spinach	Tomato, broccoli, cabbage, bell pepper, cauliflower, lettuce, sweet corn, potatoes, sweet melon	Radish, celery, green beans, strawberries
Fruit crops	Date palm	Pomegranate, fig, olive, grape	Pear, apple, orange, grapefruit, prune, plum, almond, apricot, lemon, avocado

*In each class, crops are listed in order of salt tolerance.

From Diagnosis and Improvement of Saline and Alkali Soils, U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Agricultural Handbook No. 60, 1954.*



Methods to Mitigate Issues with High Salinity Source Water

- ◆ Natural Precipitation
- ◆ Subsurface Drainage Systems (Ditches and Tile)
 - Promotes leaching by moving soil through the soil profile
- ◆ Surface Drainage (Precision Grading)
- ◆ Irrigation Application Uniformity
 - Adequate coverage (Proper nozzle spacing and operation)
 - Reduce over-application
- ◆ Irrigation Scheduling (Soil Moisture Monitoring)
- ◆ Alternative Water Sources
- ◆ Consider Salt Tolerant Crops

Crop Rescue Irrigations

TABLE NC3-3 PERMISSIBLE NUMBER OF IRRIGATIONS WITH BRACKISH WATER BETWEEN LEACHING RAINS FOR CROPS OF DIFFERENT SALT TOLERANCES 1/

Total Salts (ppm)	Electrical Conductivity (millimhos per cm at 25° C)	Irrigations allowed between Leaching (heavy) Rainfalls			
		Good Salt Tolerance	Moderate Salt Tolerance	Poor Salt Tolerance	
640	1		15	7	
1280	2	11	7	4	
1920	3	7	5	2	
2560	4	5	3	2	
3200	5	4	2-3	1	
3840	6	3	2	1	
4480	7	2-3	1-2		
5120	8	2	1		

1/ The information in this table was obtained from USDA Agriculture Information Bulletins Nos. 213 and 283.

Assumptions

1. No leaching rainfalls between irrigations
2. There is no existing salt accumulation in the soil

Irrigation Water (EC_w) Thresholds for Yield Reduction by Crop

Crop	No Reduction		10% Reduction	
	mmhos/cm	ppm	mmhos/cm	ppm
Cotton	5.1	3264	6.4	4096
Soybean	3.3	2112	3.7	2368
Peanuts ¹	1.1	704	1.4	896
Potato	1.1	704	1.7	1088
Sweet Potato	1	640	1.6	1024
Watermelon ¹	1.3	832	na	na
Canteloupe	1.5	960	2.4	1536
Cabbage ¹	1.2	768	1.9	1216
Corn	1.1	704	1.7	1088

*Levels Reported by Texas A&M University Extension- Irrigation Water Quality Standards

¹Levels Reported By New South Wales Department of Primary Industries

Soil Root Zone Salt Tolerance of Selected Crops

Table 2-34 Salt tolerance of selected crops ¹

Common name	Botanical name	Salt tolerance threshold ² (EC _t)	Yield decline ³ (Y _d)	Qualitative salt tolerance rating ⁴
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Field crops		mmho/cm	% per mmho/cm	
Barley	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	8.0	5.0	T
Bean	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	1.0	19	S
Broad bean	<i>Vicia faba</i>	1.6	9.6	MS
Corn	<i>Zea Mays</i>	1.7	12	MS
Cotton	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	7.7	5.2	T
Cowpea	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	4.9	12	MT
Flax	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	1.7	12	MS
Guar	<i>Cyamopsis tetragonoloba</i>	8.8	17.0	T
Millet, foxtail	<i>Setaria italica</i>	—	—	MS
Oats	<i>Avena sativa</i>	—	—	MT
Peanut	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>	3.2	29	MS
Rice, paddy ⁵	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	3.0	12	S
Rye	<i>Secale cereale</i>	11.4	10.8	T
Safflower	<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	—	—	MT
Sesame	<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	—	—	S
Sorghum	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	6.8	16	MT
Soybean	<i>Glycine max</i>	5.0	20	MT
Sugar beet	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	7.0	5.9	T
Sugarcane	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	1.7	5.9	MS
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	—	—	MS
Triticale	<i>x Triticosecale</i>	6.1	2.5	T
Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	6.0	7.1	MT
Wheat (semidwarf)	<i>T. aestivum</i>	8.6	3.0	T
Wheat, durum	<i>T. turgidum</i>	5.9	3.8	T

Example: Corn

$$EC_e = 5.4 \text{ mmho/cm}$$

$$EC_t = 1.7 \text{ mmho/cm}$$

$$Y_d = 12 \% \text{ per mmho/cm}$$

$$Y_r = 100 - 12(5.4 - 1.7)$$

$$Y_r = 55.6 \%$$

Example: Cotton

$$EC_e = 5.4 \text{ mmho/cm}$$

$$EC_t = 7.7 \text{ mmho/cm}$$

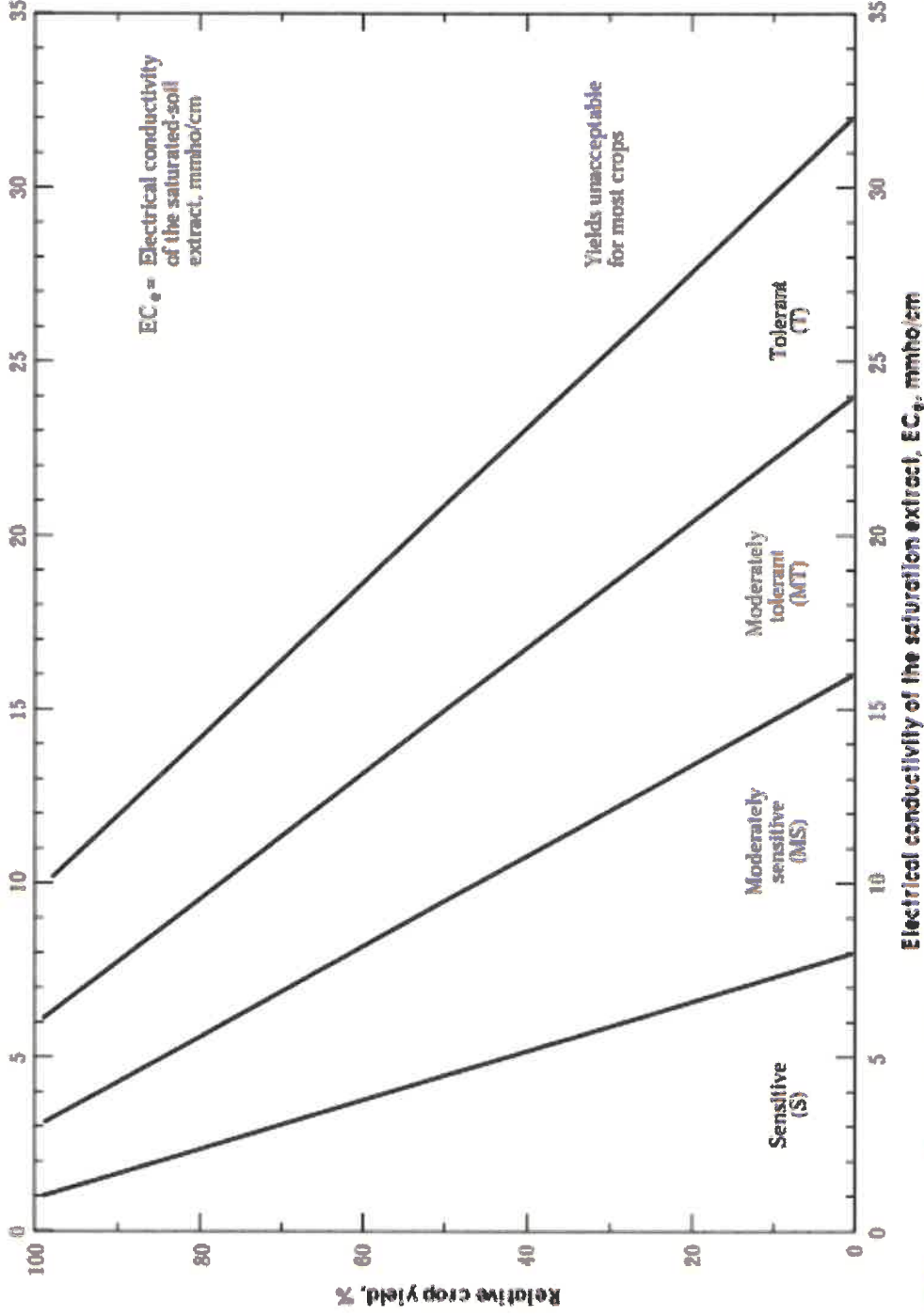
$$Y_d = 5.2 \% \text{ per mmho/cm}$$

$$EC_e < EC_t$$

$$Y_r = 100 \%$$

Yield Declines

Figure 2-32 Divisions for classifying crop tolerance to salinity (adapted from Maas 1986)



$$Y_r = 100 - Y_d(EC_e - EC_t)$$

Where:

Y_r = Relative Yield

Y_d = yield decrease/
unit salinity
increase

EC_e = avg root zone
salinity

EC_t = threshold salinity

Leaching Accumulated Salts out of the Root Zone

Determining Required

Leaching Fraction

The leaching fraction is commonly calculated using the following relationship:

$$LF = \frac{EC_{iw}}{EC_e} \quad (1)$$

where

LF = leaching fraction

- the fraction of applied irrigation water that must be leached through the root zone

EC_{iw} = electric conductivity of the irrigation water

EC_e = the electric conductivity of the soil in the root zone

- Depends on irrigation water quality
- Accumulated salts
- Crop tolerance
- Internal soil drainage capacity

Estimated leaching requirements to remove salts	
Volume of salt-free water	Reduction of salt content in soil
6 inches	50%
12 inches	80%
24 inches	90%

*University of Georgia Extension
"Soil Salinity Testing, Data Interpretation and Recommendations"
-Assumes good internal drainage and well structured soils.

Relative tolerance of selected crops to **foliar injury**
from saline water applied with **sprinklers**

	Na	Cl
◆ Potato	5-10 meq/L	(115-230 ppm) (175-350 ppm)
◆ Corn	10-20 meq/L	(230-460 ppm) (350-700 ppm)
◆ Cotton	>20 meq/L	(>460 ppm) (>700 ppm)

Typically, NCDA recommends not spraying if Na or Cl is greater than 70 ppm!

Irrigation Water Quality - Salinity

Typical values for source water

Freshwater: < 1,000 ppm (1 ppt)

Slightly saline: 1,000 to 3,000 ppm (1-3 ppt)

Moderate saline: 3,000 to 10,000 ppm (3-10 ppt)

Highly saline: 10,000 to 35,000 ppm (10-35 ppt)

Ocean water: 35,000 ppm (+35 ppt)



- ◆ **Low Salinity, No Restrictions**

$EC_i < 0.7$ mmho/cm, **450 ppm** (0.45 ppt) or 450 mg/L

- ◆ **Moderate Restrictions**

$EC_i < 0.7$ - 3.0 mmho/cm, **448-1920 ppm** (0.45-1.9 ppt) or 450 mg/L-2000 mg/L

- ◆ **Severe Restrictions**

$EC_i > 3.0$ mmho/cm, **>2000 ppm** (>2 ppt) or 2000 mg/L

Salinity and Irrigation Management

- ◆ Salts in water are measured with:

-EC_e or electrical conductivity

Units are dS/m, where:

1 dS/m = 1 mmho/cm = 1 mS/cm = 640 ppm or 640 mg/L

Useful Conversions: 1 ppm = 1 mg/L, 1 % = 10,000 ppm

- ◆ Salt accumulation due to irrigation depends on:

- water quality (salt content)
- irrigation volume
- amount and distribution of rainfall
- internal drainage