

Clean Water Project by Central Coast Vineyard Team

THE PROGRAM

In 2002, the Central Coast Vineyard Team received a three-year grant to help growers adopt practices that protect water quality and extend information to a larger grower audience. Concerns arise when water moves over the soil surface or percolates downward through the soil profile and picks up materials commonly associated with agriculture including sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides. Water containing any of these constituents reduces the potential of it being beneficially used for drinking, irrigation, recreation, and the environment.

Quotes from the Field

"Every year soil washes to the bottom of the roads within the vineyard. In the past this was not an issue, but now we have to put in water bars and add cover to stabilize the road so that we don't continually loose soil. The more demonstration sites available, the more information available to growers on practical techniques to address problem areas."

Daryl Salm,
Valley Farm Management

"I like projects like these because they demonstrate to growers different practices that they can incorporate to reduce non-point source pollution."

Alison Jones,
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Planting ground cover between and under the vines reduces soil delivery to the water bodies.

Before (runoff - 2.35 tons/acre/year)



After (runoff - 0.22 tons/acre/year)

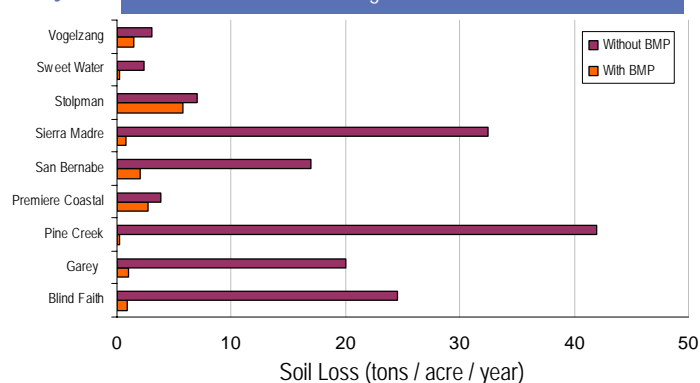


Best Management Practices Used at this Site

Annual Erosion Mix (crimson clover, rose clover, sub clover, medic, Persian clover, annual fescue, blando brome) was drilled in at 35 pounds per acre in rows 1 - 10 (including under the vines). Drought Annual Mix (crimson clover, rose clover, sub clover, medic, Persian clover) was drilled in at 35 pounds per acre in rows 11 - 20 (including under vines).

Participating Vineyards

Soil Loss Comparisons With and Without Best Management Practices*

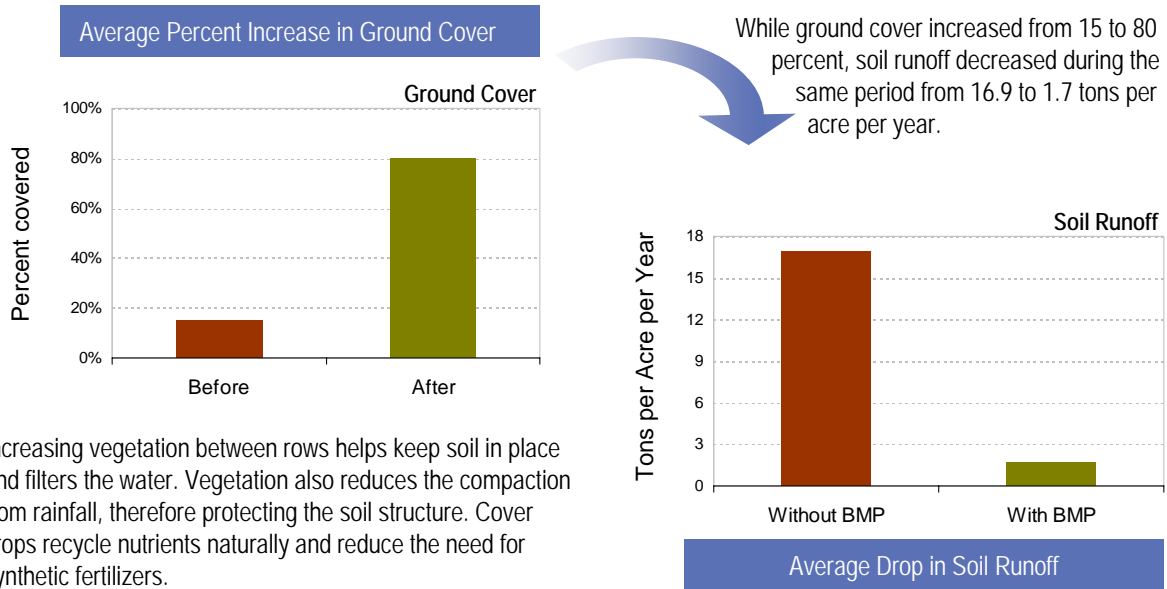


Best Management Practices— like planting ground cover between and under the vines— dramatically reduces soil delivery to the water bodies. The average reduction in soil loss by implementing Best Management Practices was 15.3 tons / acre / year.*

**Source: RUSSELL 2 Calculations, 2004*

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CCVT's Clean Water Project Update 2004



Increasing vegetation between rows helps keep soil in place and filters the water. Vegetation also reduces the compaction from rainfall, therefore protecting the soil structure. Cover crops recycle nutrients naturally and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers.

Average program cost was \$115 per acre in Year 1 and \$90 per acre in Year 2 among the eight vineyards that participated both years. That represents an average 21% reduction in annual costs.

