

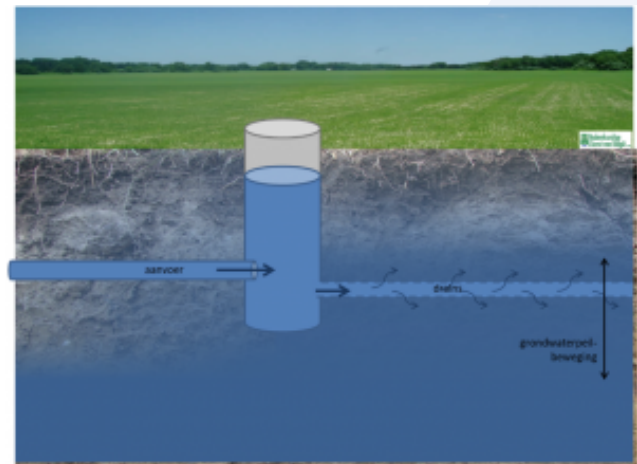
Why

Subirrigation involves infiltrating water into the soil of an agricultural plot via the drainage system. The aim is to replenish the groundwater and moisten the soil around the drains. The latter can have a beneficial effect on crops, as part of their water requirements is met through capillary rise. This technique is used, for example, to allow runoff from paved surfaces, peak flows in a river or water collected in a flood basin to infiltrate agricultural land rather than being allowed to run off.

What

Instead of draining, the drainage system is used to introduce water into the plot at certain times of the year. This technique is essentially an extension of level-controlled drainage (see the level-controlled drainage fact sheet), where the drainage system is already connected to a control well and level control is possible. The desired groundwater level can be set so that water is no longer supplied once the desired level has been reached. This level can be adjusted depending on the crops.

With sub-irrigation, it is also recommended to provide ventilation, so that the water entering via the control well can spread optimally throughout the drainage system and air can escape from the pipes. This technique is also worth combining with the use of weirs in field ditches to maintain the groundwater level as effectively as possible during the summer.



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