

# Drainage cuts

*Instead of discharging the drainage water straight into the receiving waterbody, in many cases drainages could be led to the surface first by cutting the drainage. This allows the vegetation and ground to absorb and filtrate some of the nutrients and possible chemicals from the water.*

Similar terms: cutting drainage, digging breaks

Leading the drainage water to the ground surface before entering the receiving waterbody, can reduce the nutrient and chemical loading caused by drainage water.

The vegetation absorbs nutrients available and some of the drainage water will infiltrate the soil.

Drainage cuts also decreases the amount of solid matter flowing in to the waterbody by slowing and spreading water flow.

## Application

This solution is particularly suitable when there is a good slope between the agricultural field and the receiving waterbody. This ensures continuous water flow towards desired direction.

Water can be led to the surface by breaking the ditches or by leading the drainage pipes on ground at suitable locations. Generally the wider the water can be distributed the better the result as more area can take part in the filtration and infiltration process.

At more flat terrain or erosion sensitive soil, the effects on the water level should be carefully estimated in advance.<sup>1)</sup>

## Maintenance

- The filtrating area should be grazed or cut regularly to remove the nutrients absorbed to it

## Economics

- Costs vary depending on the space required (possible loss of cultivated area)
- Labour and machinery costs (establishing and grazing or cutting)

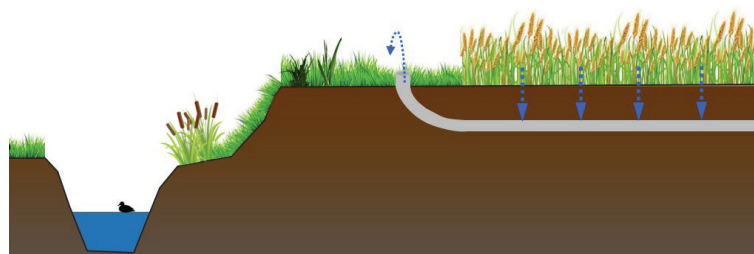


Illustration: Heidi Nurminen, TUAS

## Further information:

[Baltic Deal - Cutting drainage](#)

Sources: 1) Boondgard, F. 2011. Baltic Deal, Cutting drainage. Searched 3/2018. ([Link](#))