

# Cultivation



Cultivation is an important activity for most farms, and requires a lot of forward planning. Cultivation includes mechanical tillage, direct drilling, herbicide spraying, or herbicide spraying followed by over-sowing for pasture or forage crops. It doesn't include any spraying undertaken solely for the control of pest plant species.

**In general you can undertake cultivation on your land without consent if you keep your cultivation:**

- Below 800m above sea level
- Below 20 degrees in slope
- At least 5m back from a waterway or wetland

**If you can't meet the 5m buffer from the waterway or wetland, then you may still be permitted. However, you will need to make sure that you:**

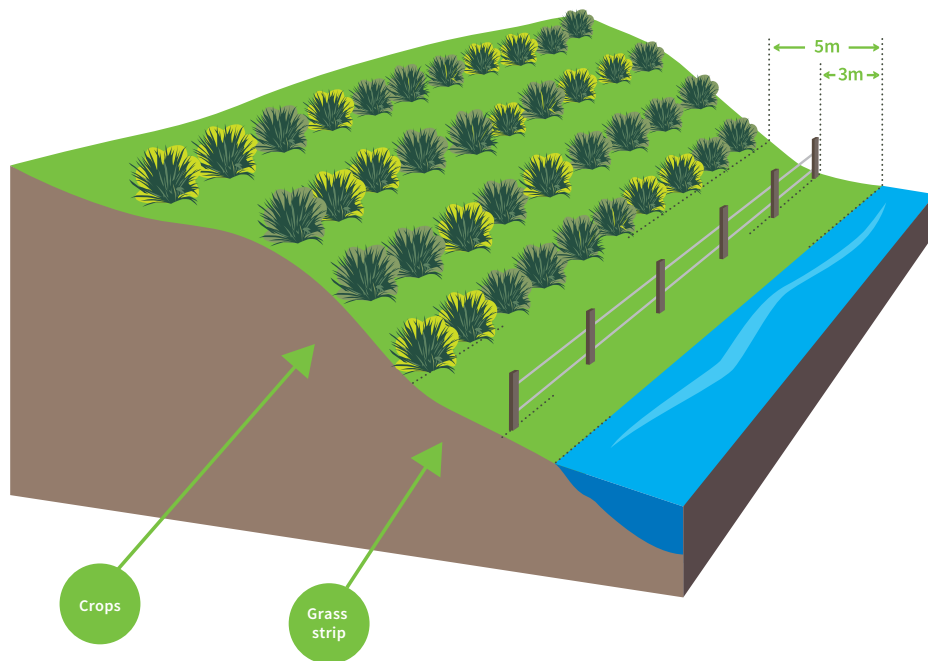
- Don't cultivate within the bed of the waterway;
- Maintain a 3m buffer;
- Don't cultivate more than once in any five year period;
- Keep your cultivation below 800m; and
- Are cultivating for establishing or renewing pasture and not for crop used for intensive winter grazing (even as part of a pasture renewal cycle)

You will need to apply for a consent if you can't meet the permitted criteria. It is recommended that you contact the consents team at Environment Southland to talk about your application. Please note cultivation in ephemeral waterways is permitted under Rule 20(aa).



## Things to consider if you wish to apply for a consent

- i) Consider the potential impacts of sediment and other contaminants coming from critical source areas on water quality and biodiversity; (Refer to the Critical Source Area factsheet)
- ii) Think about the possible mitigation measures for addressing these impacts; and
- iii) Assess the effectiveness of any mitigations you implement through some monitoring and reporting.



## Common questions and answers

**Q:** I am cultivating to establish a crop, what do I need to do to be a permitted activity?

**A:** You need to ensure that your cultivation does not take place within 5m of a waterway (lake, river, artificial watercourse, modified watercourse or natural wetland); it's below 800m above sea level and below 20 degrees in slope.

**Q:** I am cultivating to renew or establish a pasture, what do I need to do to be a permitted activity?

**A:** You need to ensure that your cultivation does not take place within 3m of a waterway (lake, river, artificial watercourse, modified watercourse or natural wetland) and your cultivation doesn't take place more than once in any 5-year period in the same spot.

**Q:** What if I want to cultivate above 800m above mean sea level?

**A:** Even if you meet the other permitted activity criteria you will need a consent. This is a non-complying activity.

## Definitions

**Landholding** - an area of land used as a single operating unit. Please refer to the full definition in the plan, or contact the consents team if you are unsure whether your property is one or more landholdings.

**Ephemeral waterways** - areas that do not have an active bed of a waterway but may contain flowing or standing water during rainfall events.

The information provided is based on Rule 25 in the decisions version of the proposed *Southland Water and Land Plan*, April 2018.

*If you're thinking about making a change to your farming activity, it's important to remember what the*

*proposed Southland Water and Land Plan is striving towards. Don't forget to address the objectives and policies alongside the relevant rules when you are making an application for resource consent. The objectives and policies are the key drivers of the rules and need to be considered carefully.*