

**Land Resource Unit**

Brandon Research Centre

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

**Rural Municipality of Rhineland**

**Information Bulletin 97-12**

## Soils and Terrain

An introduction  
to the land resource



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## **Rural Municipality of Rhineland**

### **Information Bulletin 97-12**

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## PREFACE

This is one of a new series of information bulletins for individual rural municipalities of Manitoba. They serve to introduce the newly developed digital soil databases and illustrate several typical derived and interpretive map products for agricultural land use planning applications. The bulletins will also be available in diskette format for each rural municipality.

Information contained in this bulletin may be quoted and utilized with appropriate reference to the originating agencies. The authors and originating agencies assume no responsibility for the misuse, alteration, re-packaging, or re-interpretation of the information.

This information bulletin serves as an introduction to the land resource information available for the municipality. More detailed information, including copies of the primary soil and terrain maps at larger scales, may be obtained by contacting

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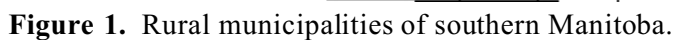
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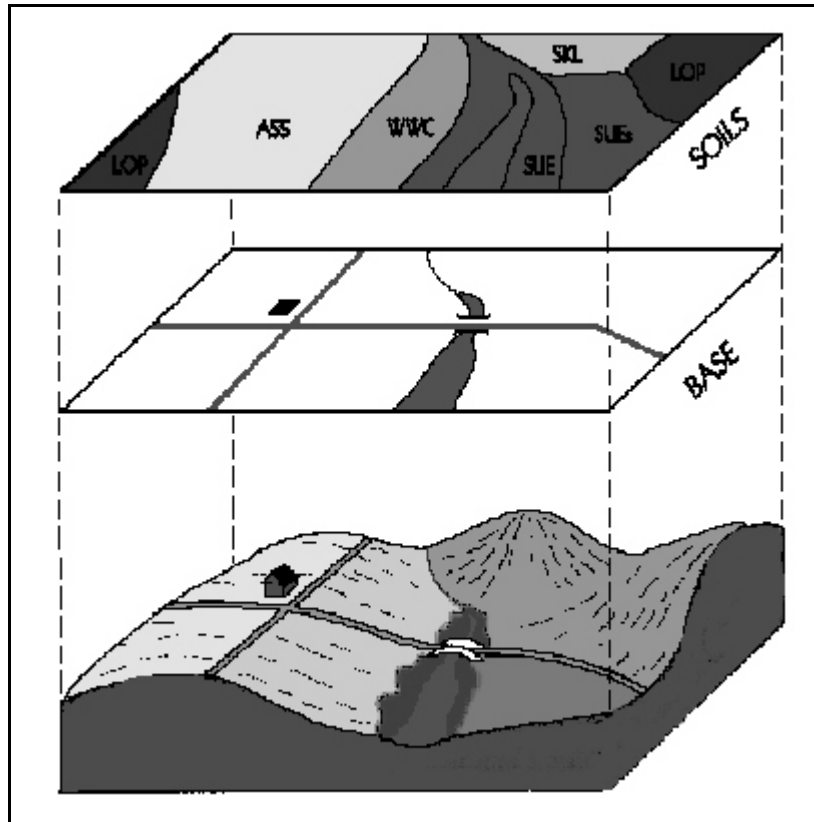
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This bulletin is available in printed or digital format. The digital bulletin is a Windows based executable file which offers additional display options, including the capability to print any portion of the bulletin.

## LAND RESOURCE DATA

The soil and terrain information presented in this bulletin was compiled as part of a larger project to provide a uniform level of land resource information for agricultural and regional planning purposes throughout Agro-Manitoba. This information was compiled and analysed in two distinct layers as shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Soil and Base Map data.

## Base Layer

Digital base map information includes the municipality and township boundaries, along with major streams, roads and highways. Major rivers and lakes from the base layer were also used as common boundaries for the soil map layer. Water bodies larger than 25 ha in size were digitized as separate polygons.

## Soil Layer

The most detailed soil information currently available was selected as the data source for the digital soil layer for each rural municipality.

Comprehensive detailed soil maps (1:20 000 to 1:50 000 scale) have been published for many rural municipalities. Where they were available, the individual soil map sheets were digitized and compiled as a single georeferenced layer to match the digital RM base. Map polygons have one or more soil series components, as well as slope and stoniness classes. Soil database information was produced for each polygon, to meet national standards (MacDonald and Valentine, 1992). Slope length classes were also added, based on photo-interpretation.

Older, reconnaissance scale soil maps (1:126 720 scale) represented the only available soil data source for many rural municipalities. These maps were compiled on a **soil association** basis, in which soil landscape patterns were identified with unique surficial geological deposits and textures. Each soil association consists of a range of different soils ("associates") each of which occurs in a repetitive position in the landscape. Modern soil series that best represent the soil association were identified for each soil polygon. The soil and modifier codes provide a link to additional databases of soil properties. In this way, both detailed and reconnaissance soil map polygons were related to soil drainage, surface texture, and other soil properties to produce various interpretive maps. Slope length classes were also added, based on photo-interpretation.

## LAND RESOURCE OVERVIEW

The Rural Municipality (RM) of Rhineland is located just north of the Canada-United States border in south-central Manitoba, 60 km south of Winnipeg (page 3). It covers an area of 10 Townships (approximately 96 992 ha). The towns of Plum Coulee, Gretna and Altona are the largest population and agriculture service centres.

The climate in the municipality can be described from weather data from Altona. The mean annual temperature is 3.1 °C; and the mean annual precipitation is 511.9 mm (Environment Canada, 1993). The average frost-free period is 127 days (Ash, 1991). The calculated seasonal moisture deficit between May and September for the area is 250 mm. The estimated effective growing degree-days (EGDD) above 5°C accumulated from May to September is 1600. These parameters provide an indication of moisture and heat energy available for crop growth (Agronomic Interpretations Working Group, 1995).

Physiographically, the RM of Rhineland occurs entirely within the Red River Valley Section of the Manitoba Plain (Canada-Manitoba Soil Survey, 1980). This portion of the plain is very flat with slopes less than 2% (page 9). A very gradual regional slope from the southwest corner of the RM at about 275 metres above sea level (m asl) to the northeast corner, at an elevation of approximately 240 m asl results in a low gradient and very slow surface drainage. With this low gradient (1m/km or 6 ft/mi) surface drainage is slow. Several small streams and creeks flow eastward from the Manitoba Escarpment to the Red River. This landscape is also characterized by an intricate network of man-made surface drains which have been constructed to enhance runoff and reduce the duration of surface ponding.

The soil materials in this RM consist primarily of clayey and loamy textured lake sediments deposited during the time of glacial Lake Agassiz. Surface texture varies from coarse loamy and loamy

sediments in the southwest to relatively heavy clay textured soils to the east and northeast (page 11). The combination of flat topography and high clay content makes the drainage of these soils relatively slow. The majority of soils are classified as imperfectly to poorly drained (page 13).

Soils in the municipality have been mapped at a detailed level (1:20 000 scale) and published in the report, Soils of the Rural Municipality of Rhineland (Podolsky, 1991). According to the Canadian System of Soil Classification (Expert Committee on Soil Survey, 1987), the majority of soils in the municipality are classified as Black Chernozems and Humic Gleysols, with some stratified Regosols associated with the minor stream deposits. Local areas of Solonchic Black Chernozem soils are associated with the clayey lacustrine sediments. A more detailed and complete description of the type, distribution and textural variability of soils in the municipality is provided in the detailed soil report.

Minor areas of localized surface soil salinity (page 15) are usually associated with the imperfectly drained soils. However, less obvious subsoil salinity (below 50 cm) commonly occurs throughout the municipality. In addition to salinity, other management considerations are primarily related to fine soil texture and wetness (page 17). There is no significant relief and no bedrock or stoniness to contend with in this municipality.

Typically the clay soils have been rated as **Class 2** and **3** for agricultural capability (page 19) and **Poor** for irrigation suitability (page 21). Excess moisture and the occurrence of salinity are generally the main limitations for agriculture. Soils with a loamy texture generally have slightly better drainage and are rated **Class 1** and **2** for agricultural capability and **Good to Fair** for irrigation suitability.

One of the issues currently receiving considerable attention is the sustainability of agricultural practices and their potential impact on

the soil and groundwater environment. To assist in highlighting this concern to land planners and agricultural producers, an assessment of potential environmental impact (EI) under irrigation has been included in this bulletin (page 23). The majority of the RM is at **Minimal** to **Low** risk of degradation due mainly to the heavy texture of the soil and the slow drainage. These conditions reduce the risk of deep leaching of potential contaminants on the soil surface. This EI map is intended to be used in association with the irrigation suitability map.

Another issue of concern to producers, soil conservation and land use specialists is soil erosion caused by agricultural cropping and tillage practices. To highlight areas with potential for water erosion, a risk map has been included to show where special practices should be adopted to mitigate this risk (page 25). Over 90 percent of the land in the municipality is at a **Low** to **Negligible** risk of degradation due to water erosion. The very flat topography and the fine texture of the soils are the main reasons for the low risk. Management practices focus primarily on maintaining adequate crop residues to provide sufficient surface cover.

Land use in the RM of Rhineland is primarily agricultural, with small areas of woodland, pasture, urban development and recreation. An assessment of the status of land use in 1994 was obtained through an analysis of satellite imagery. Annual crops occupied about 89.2% of the land in the RM, while the remaining areas were in trees (1.3%), grassland (3.9%), and forage production (0.6%). Various non-agricultural uses such as infrastructure for urban areas, transportation and recreation occupy about 5.0% of the RM (page 27).

While most of the soils in the RM of Rhineland have minimal limitations for arable agriculture, the clayey textured soils require maintenance of adequate surface drainage, soil structure and tilth. The coarser textured loamy soils, require careful management to protect against the risk of wind erosion. This includes leaving

adequate crop residues on the surface to provide sufficient trash cover during the early spring period. The provision of shelter belts, minimum tillage practices, and crop rotations including forage will help to reduce the risk of soil degradation and maintain productivity.

Probably the most important factor affecting long-term agricultural land use in this municipality is maintenance of the intricate network of surface drains. The clayey soils have slow to very slow permeability, high shrink-swell properties and are very plastic. They are subject to surface ponding and slow runoff unless adequate drainage is provided. The loamy textured soils are somewhat more permeable near the surface but because of the presence of a clayey subsoil, they typically have seasonal high water tables and are frequently saturated, particularly in spring or following heavy rains. The lack of relief, and close proximity to the Red River also put the municipality at high risk of seasonal spring flooding. Maintenance of the man-made network of surface drains and control structures facilitates the efficient removal of annual surface flood waters.

## DERIVED AND INTERPRETIVE MAPS

A large variety of computer derived and interpretive maps can be generated from the digital soil and landscape databases. These maps are based on selected combinations of database values and assumptions.

**Derived maps** show information that is given in one or more columns in the computer map legend (such as soil drainage, soil salinity, or slope class).

**Interpretive maps** portray more complex land evaluations based on a combination of soil and landscape information. Interpretations are based on soil and landscape conditions in each polygon. Interpretative maps typically show land capabilities, suitabilities, or risks related to sustainability.

Several examples of derived and interpretive maps are included in this information bulletin:

### Derived Maps

Slope

Surface Texture

Drainage

Salinity

Management Considerations

### Interpretative Maps

Agricultural Capability

Irrigation Suitability

Potential Environmental Impact

Water Erosion Risk

Land Use.

localized site specific land use suitability requirements.

Digital databases derived from recent detailed soil inventories contain additional detailed information about significant inclusions of differing soil and slope conditions in each map polygon. This information can be portrayed at larger map scale than shown in this bulletin.

Information concerning particular interpretive maps, and the primary soil and terrain map data, can be obtained by contacting the Manitoba Soil Resource Section of Manitoba Agriculture, the local PFRA office, or the Manitoba Land Resource Unit.

The maps have all been reduced in size and generalized (simplified) in order to portray conditions for an entire rural municipality on one page. These generalized maps provide a useful overview of conditions within a municipality, but are not intended to apply to site specific land parcels. On-site evaluations are recommended for



**Slope Map.**

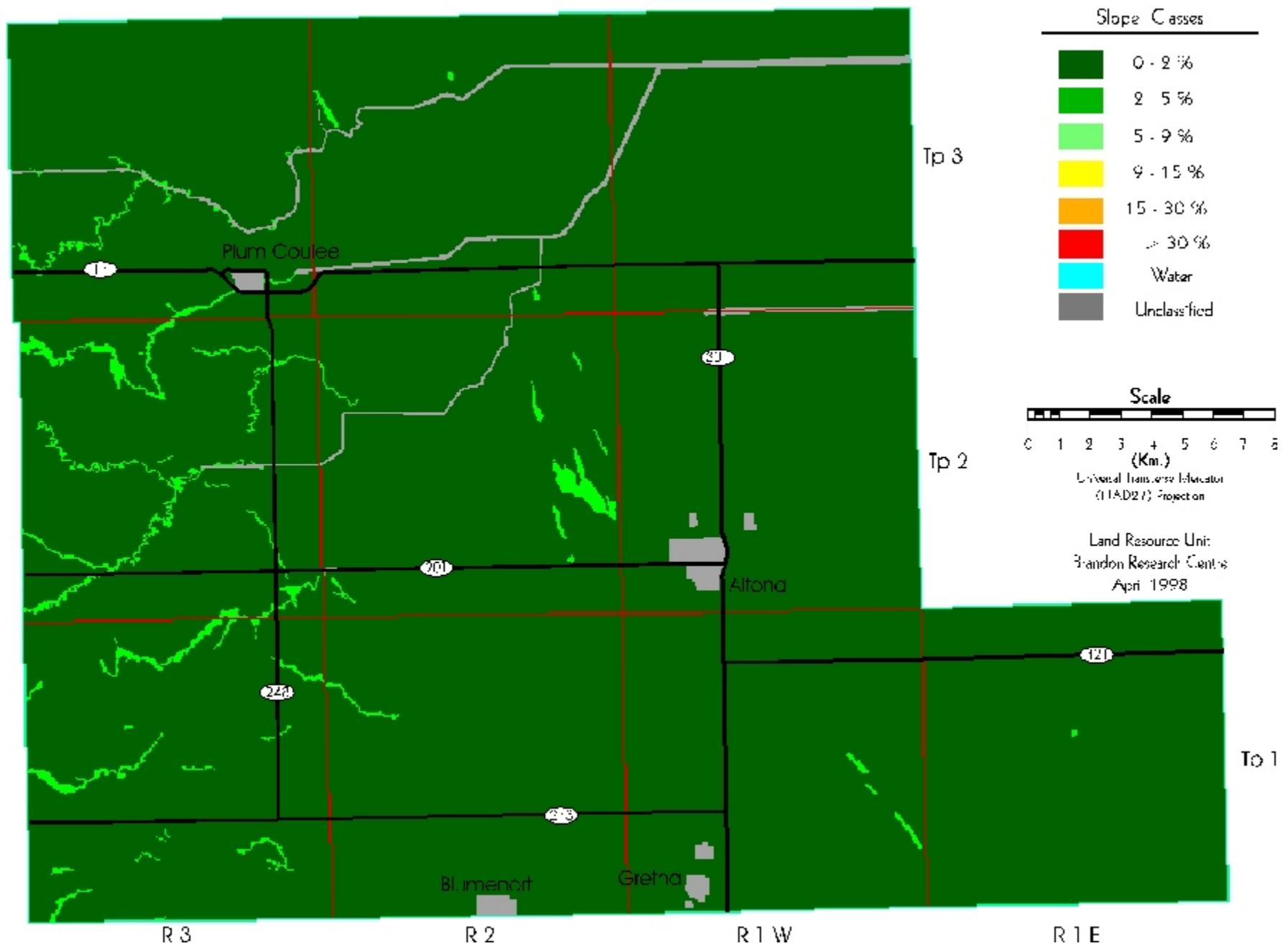
Slope describes the steepness of the landscape surface. The slope classes shown on this map are derived from the digital soil layer database. Specific colours are used to indicate the dominant slope class for each soil polygon in the RM. Additional slope classes may occur in each polygon area, but cannot be portrayed at this reduced map scale.

**Table 1. Slope Classes<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Slope Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>0 - 2 %</b>	<b>94196</b>	<b>97.1</b>
<b>2 - 5 %</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>5 - 9 %</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>9 - 15 %</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>15 - 30 %</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>&gt; 30 %</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Area has been assigned to the dominant slope class in each soil polygon.

## Slope Map



**Surface Texture Map.**

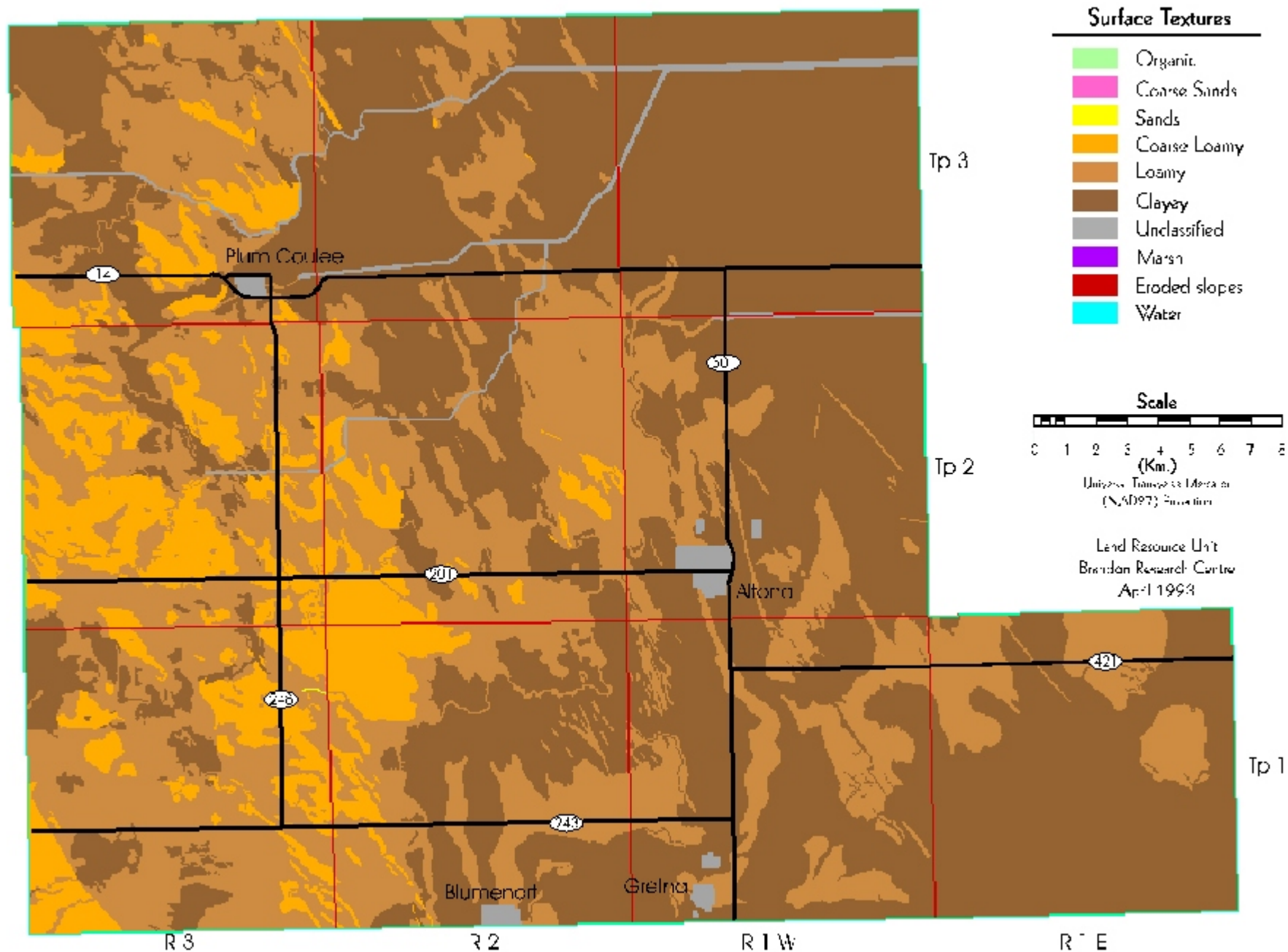
The soil textural class for the upper most soil horizon of the dominant soil series within a soil polygon was utilized for classification. Texture may vary from that shown with soil depth and location within the polygon.

**Table 2. Surface Texture<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Surface Texture</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>Organics</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Coarse Sands</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Sands</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Coarse Loamy</b>	<b>10013</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>Loamy</b>	<b>34122</b>	<b>35.2</b>
<b>Clayey</b>	<b>51364</b>	<b>53.0</b>
<b>Eroded Slopes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Marsh</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on the **dominant** soil series for each soil polygon.

## Surface Texture Map



**Soil Drainage Map.**

Drainage is described on the basis of actual moisture content in excess of field capacity, and the length of the saturation period within the plant root zone. Six drainage classes plus four land classes are shown on this map.

**Very Poor** - Water is removed from the soil so slowly that the water table remains at or on the soil surface for the greater part of the time the soil is not frozen. Excess water is present in the soil throughout most of the year.

**Poor** - Water is removed so slowly in relation to supply that the soil remains wet for a large part of the time the soil is not frozen. Excess water is available within the soil for a large part of the time.

**Imperfect** - Water is removed from the soil sufficiently slowly in relation to supply to keep the soil wet for a significant part of the growing season. Excess water moves slowly down the profile if precipitation is the major source.

**Well** - Water is removed from the soil readily but not rapidly. Excess water flows downward readily into underlying materials or laterally as subsurface flow.

**Rapid** - Water is removed from the soil rapidly in relation to supply. Excess water flows downward if underlying material is pervious. Subsurface flow may occur on steep slopes during heavy rainfall.

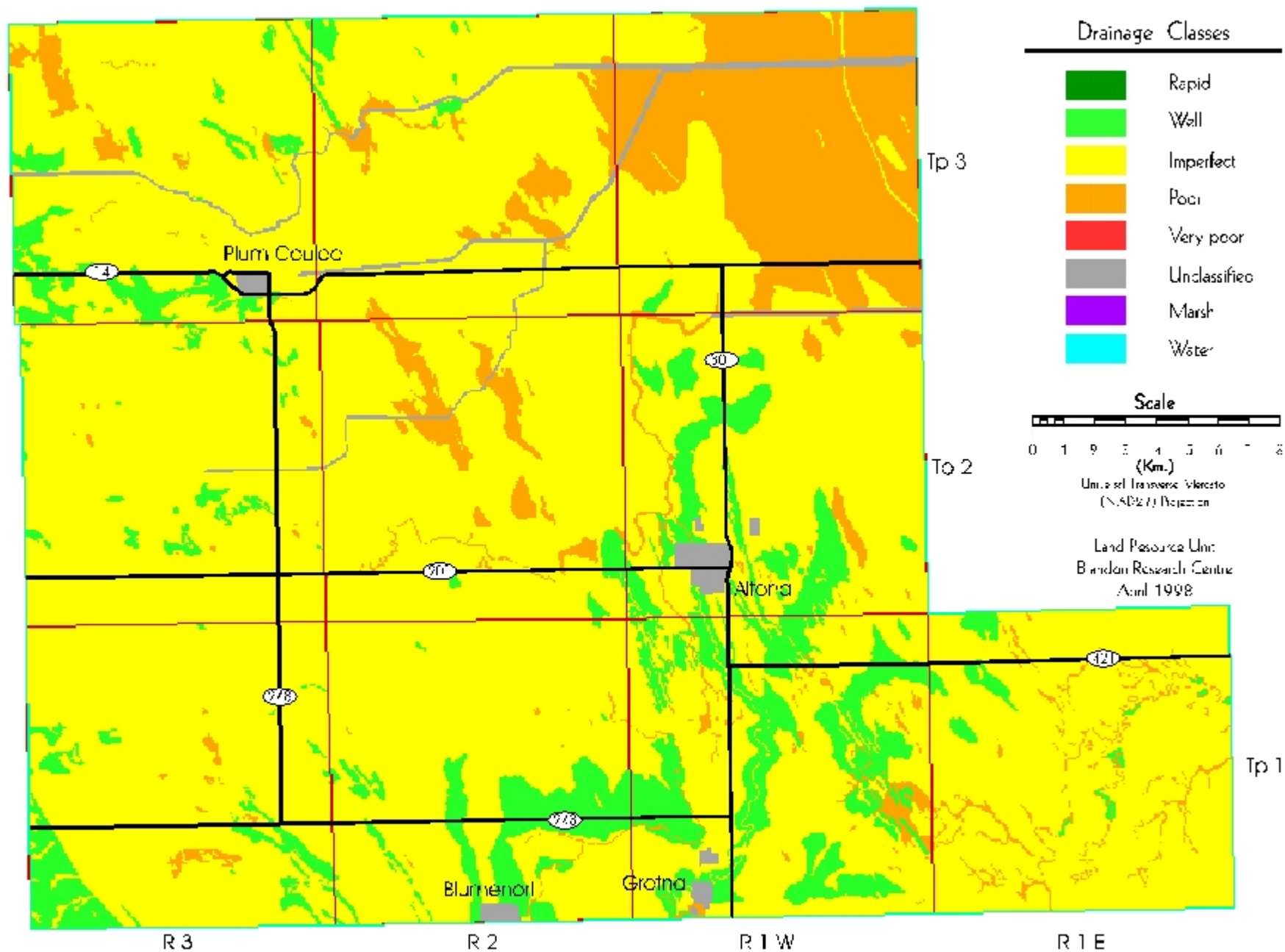
Drainage classification is based on the dominant soil series within each individual soil polygon.

**Table 3. Drainage Classes<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Drainage Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>10148</b>	<b>10.5</b>
<b>Imperfect</b>	<b>76412</b>	<b>78.8</b>
<b>Well</b>	<b>8944</b>	<b>9.2</b>
<b>Rapid</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Marsh</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Area has been assigned to the dominant drainage class for each soil polygon.

## Soil Drainage Map



**Soil Salinity Map.**

A saline soil contains soluble salts in such quantities that they interfere with the growth of most crops. Soil salinity is determined by the electrical conductivity of the saturation extract in decisiemens per metre (dS/m). Approximate limits of salinity classes are:

<b>non-saline</b>	< 4 dS/m
<b>weakly saline</b>	4 to 8 dS/m
<b>moderately saline</b>	8 to 15 dS/m
<b>strongly saline</b>	> 15 dS/m.

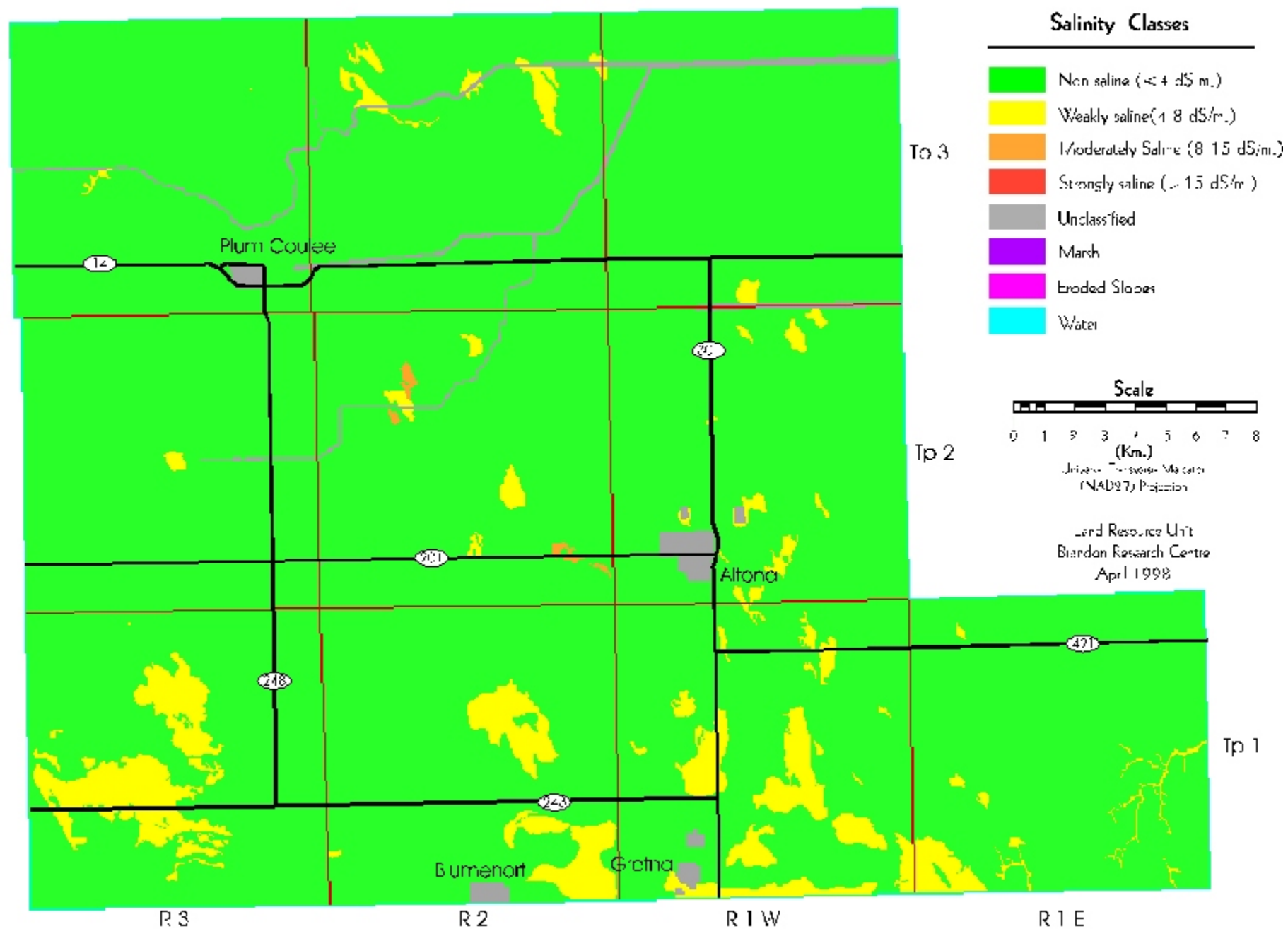
The salinity classification of each individual soil polygon was determined by the most severe salinity classification present within that polygon.

**Table 4. Salinity Classes<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Salinity Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>Non Saline</b>	<b>88294</b>	<b>91.0</b>
<b>Weakly Saline</b>	<b>7117</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Moderately Saline</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Strongly Saline</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Eroded Slopes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Marsh</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Area has been assigned to the most severe salinity class for each soil polygon.

## Soil Salinity Map





### Management Considerations Map.

Management consideration maps are provided to focus on awareness of land resource characteristics important to land use. This map does not presume a specific land use. Rather it portrays the most common and wide spread attributes that apply to most soil landscapes in the province.

These maps **highlight attributes** of soil-landscapes that the land manager must consider for any intended land use.

- **Fine texture**
- **Medium texture**
- **Coarse texture**
- **Topography**
- **Wetness**
- **Organic**
- **Bedrock**

**F = Fine texture** - soil landscapes with **fine textured soils (clays and silty clays)**, have low infiltration and internal permeability rates. These require special considerations to mitigate surface ponding (water logging), runoff, and trafficability. Timing and type of tillage practices used may be restricted.

**M = Medium texture** - soil landscapes with medium to moderately fine textures (**loams to clay loams**), and good water and nutrient retention properties. Good management and cropping practices to are required minimize leaching and the risk of erosion.

**C = Coarse texture** - soil landscapes with **coarse to very coarse textured soils (loamy sands, sands and gravels)** have a high permeability throughout the profile, and require special management practices related to application of agricultural chemicals, animal wastes, and municipal effluent to protect and sustain the long term quality of the soil and water resources. The risk of soil erosion can be minimized through the use of shelterbelts and maintenance of crop residues.

**T = Topography** - soil landscapes with **slopes greater than 5 %** are steep enough to require special management practices to minimize the risk of erosion.

**W = Wetness** - soil landscapes that have **poorly drained soils and/or >50 % wetlands** (due to seasonal and annual flooding, surface ponding, permanent water bodies (sloughs), and/or high water tables), require special management practices to mitigate adverse impact on water quality, protect subsurface aquifers, and sustain crop production during periods of high risk of water logging.

**O = Organic** - soil landscapes with organic soils, requiring special management considerations of drainage, tillage, and cropping to sustain productivity and minimize subsidence and erosion.

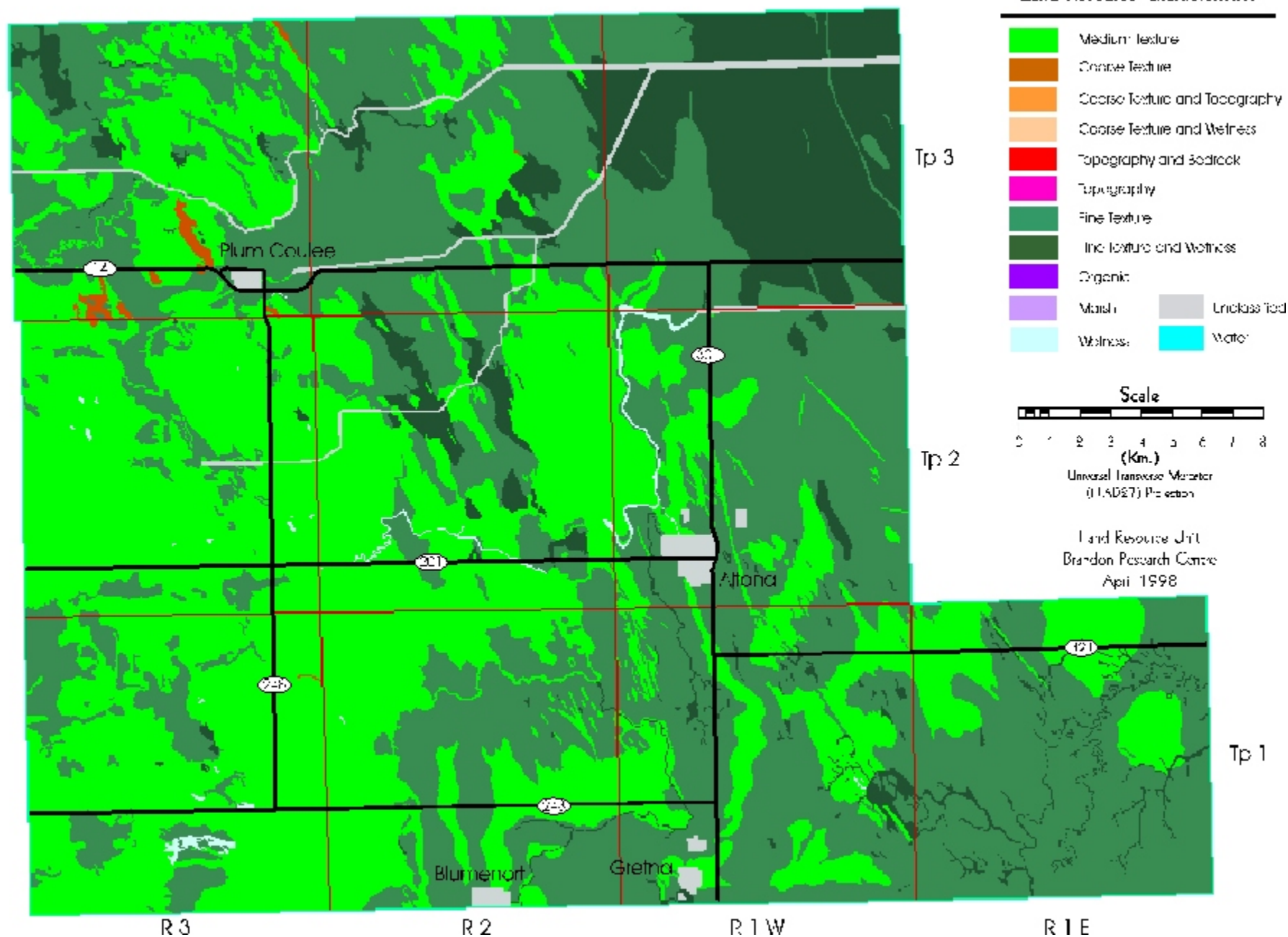
**R = Bedrock** - soil landscapes that have **shallow depth to bedrock (< 50 cm) and/or exposed bedrock** which may prevent the use of some or all tillage practices as well as the range of potential crops. They require special cropping and management practices to sustain agricultural production.

**Table 5. Management Considerations<sup>1</sup>**

Land Resource Characteristics	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
<b>Fine Texture</b>	<b>43455</b>	<b>44.8</b>
<b>Fine Texture and Wetness</b>	<b>9801</b>	<b>10.1</b>
<b>Fine Texture and Topography</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Medium Texture</b>	<b>41653</b>	<b>42.9</b>
<b>Coarse Texture</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Coarse Texture and Wetness</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Coarse Texture and Topography</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Topography</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Topography and Bedrock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Wetness</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Wetness and Topography</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Bedrock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Organic</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Marsh</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on **dominant** soil series for each soil polygon.

## Management Considerations Map



**Agricultural Capability Map.**

This evaluation utilizes the 7 class Canada Land Inventory system (CLI, 1965). Classes 1 to 3 represent the prime agricultural land, class 4 land is marginal for sustained cultivation, class 5 land is capable of perennial forages and improvement is feasible, class 6 land is capable of producing native forages and pasture but improvement is not feasible, and class 7 land is considered unsuitable for dryland agriculture. Subclass modifiers include structure and/or permeability (D), erosion (E), inundation (I), moisture limitation (M), salinity (N), stoniness (P), consolidated bedrock (R), topography (T), excess water (W) and cumulative minor adverse characteristics (X).

This generalized interpretive map is based on the dominant soil series and phases for each soil polygon. The CLI subclass limitations cannot be portrayed at this generalized map scale.

**Table 6. Agricultural Capability<sup>1</sup>**

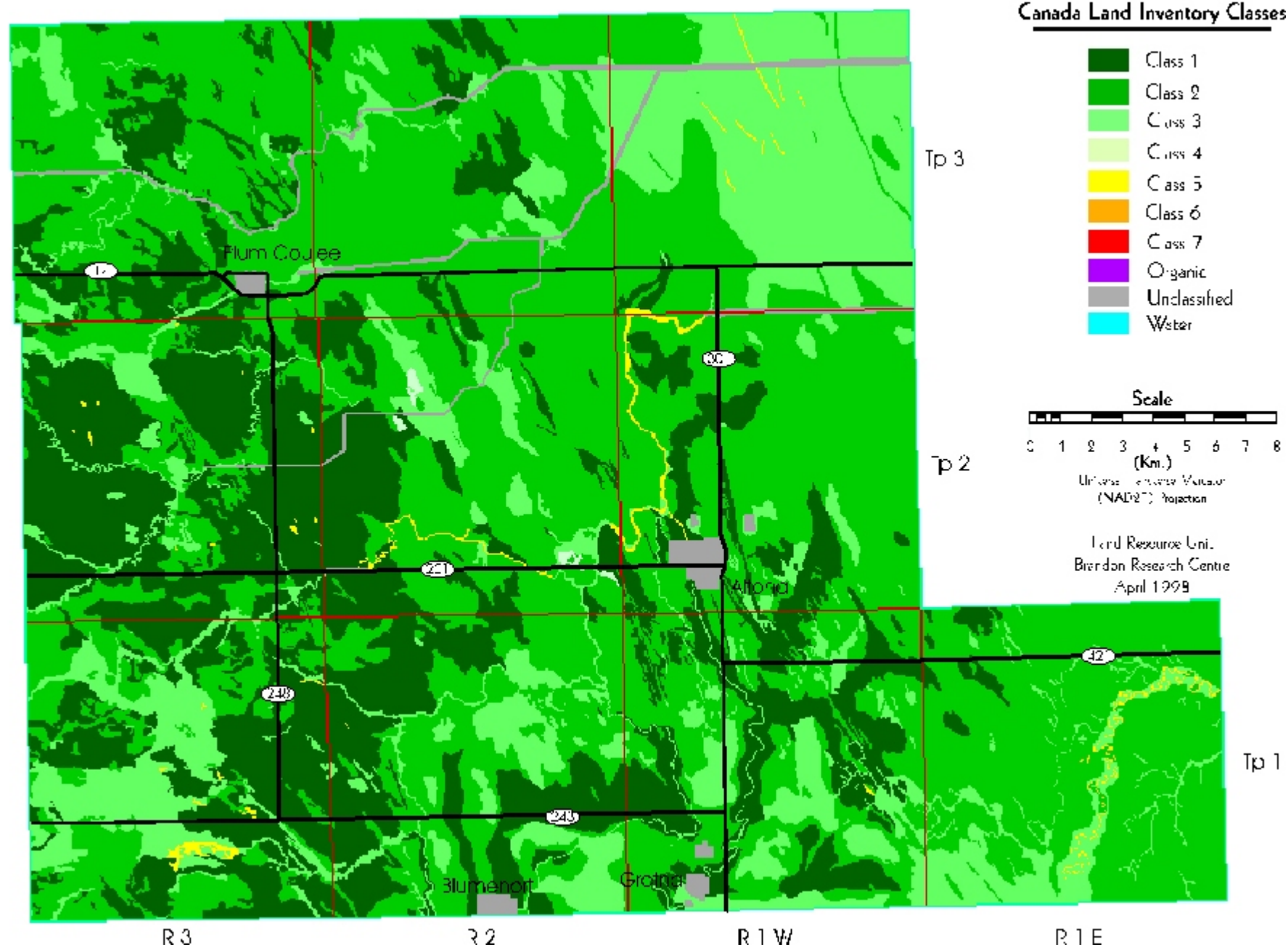
<b>Class Subclass</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>25756</b>	<b>26.6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>50651</b>	<b>52.3</b>
2DW	2206	2.3
2I	65	0.1
2M	2881	3.0
2MT	21	0.0
2T	240	0.2
2TW	18	0.0
2W	45219	46.7
<b>3</b>	<b>18403</b>	<b>19.0</b>
3D	835	0.9
3DN	2260	2.3
3I	2470	2.5
3M	561	0.6
3N	2646	2.7
3NW	526	0.5

**Table 6. Agricultural Capability<sup>1</sup> (cont.)**

<b>Class Subclass</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
3W	9107	9.4
<b>4</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>0.1</b>
4N	97	0.1
<b>5</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>0.5</b>
5M	5	0.0
5W	183	0.2
5WI	322	0.3
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1498</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96915</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on **dominant** soil, slope gradient, and slope length of each soil polygon.

## Agriculture Capability Map



### Irrigation Suitability Map.

Irrigation ratings are based on an assessment of the most limiting combination of soil and landscape conditions. Soils in the same class have a similar relative suitability or degree of limitation for irrigation use, although the specific limiting factors may differ. These limiting factors are described by subclass symbols at detailed map scales. The irrigation rating system does not consider water availability, method of application, water quality, or economics of irrigated land use.

Irrigation suitability is a four class rating system. Areas with no or slight soil and/or landscape limitations are rated **Excellent** to **Good** and can be considered irrigable. Areas with moderate soil and/or landscape limitations are rated as **Fair** and considered marginal for irrigation providing adequate management exists so that the soil and adjacent areas are not adversely affected by water application. Soil and landscape areas rated as **Poor** have severe limitations for irrigation.

This generalized interpretive map is based on the dominant soil series for each soil polygon, in combination with the dominant slope class. The nature of the subclass limitations and the classification of subdominant components is not shown at this generalized map scale.

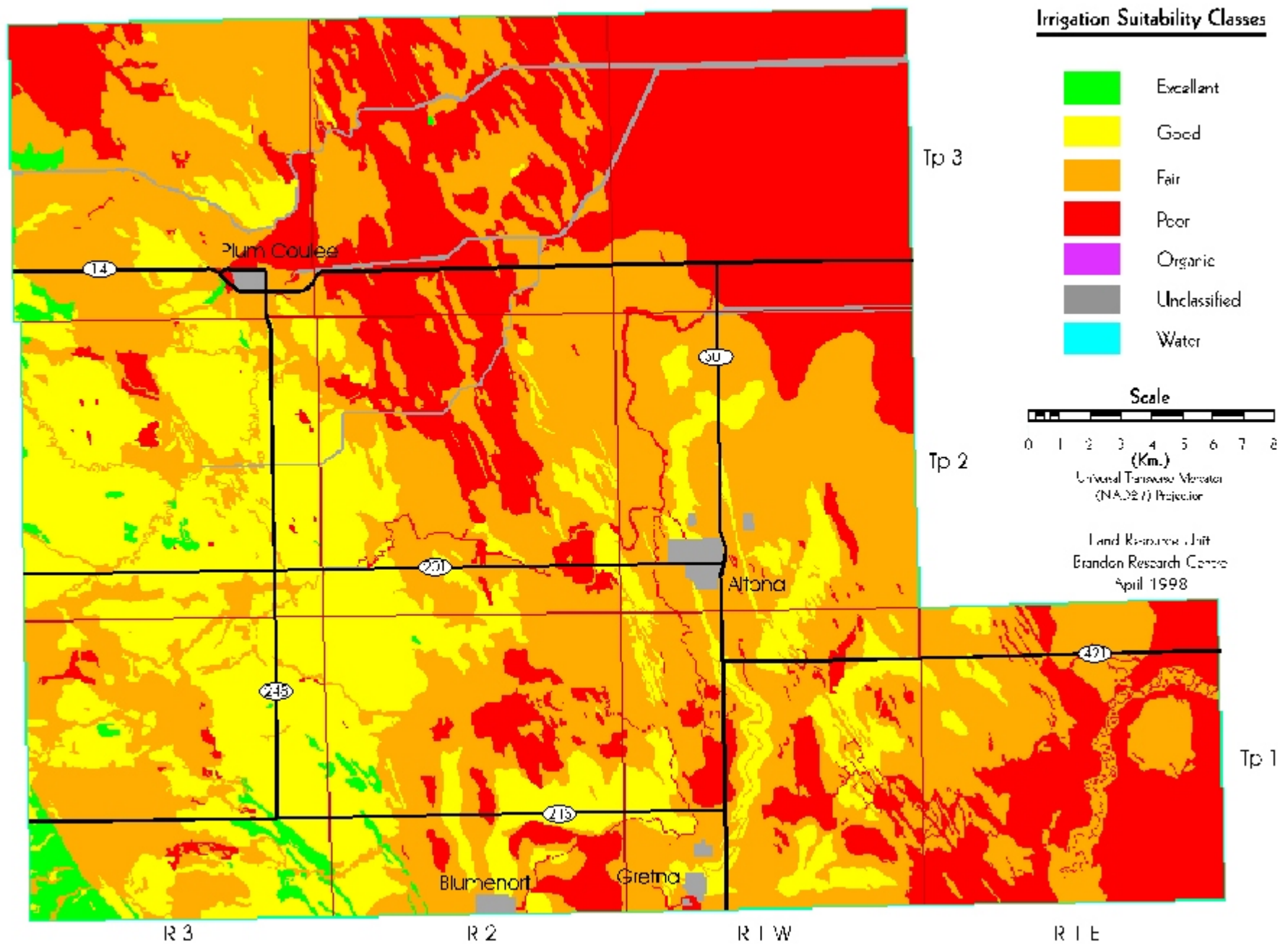
**Table 7. Irrigation Suitability<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Good</b>	<b>22841</b>	<b>23.5</b>
<b>Fair</b>	<b>42970</b>	<b>44.3</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>28336</b>	<b>29.2</b>
<b>Organic</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on **dominant** soil, slope gradient, and slope length of each soil polygon.



## Irrigation Suitability Map



### Potential Environmental Impact Under Irrigation Map.

A major environmental concern for land under irrigated crop production is the possibility that surface and/or ground water may be impacted. The potential environmental impact assessment provides a relative rating of land into 4 classes (minimal, low, moderate and high) based on an evaluation of specific soil factors and landscape conditions that determine the impact potential.

Soil factors considered are those properties that determine water retention and movement through the soil; topographic features are those that affect runoff and redistribution of moisture in the landscape. Several factors are specifically considered: soil texture, hydraulic conductivity, salinity, geological uniformity, depth to water table and topography. The risk of altering surface and subsurface soil drainage regimes, soil salinity, potential for runoff, erosion and flooding is determined by specific criteria for each property.

Use of this rating is intended to serve as a warning of potential environmental concern. It may be possible to design and/or give special consideration to soil-water-crop management practices that will mitigate any adverse impact.

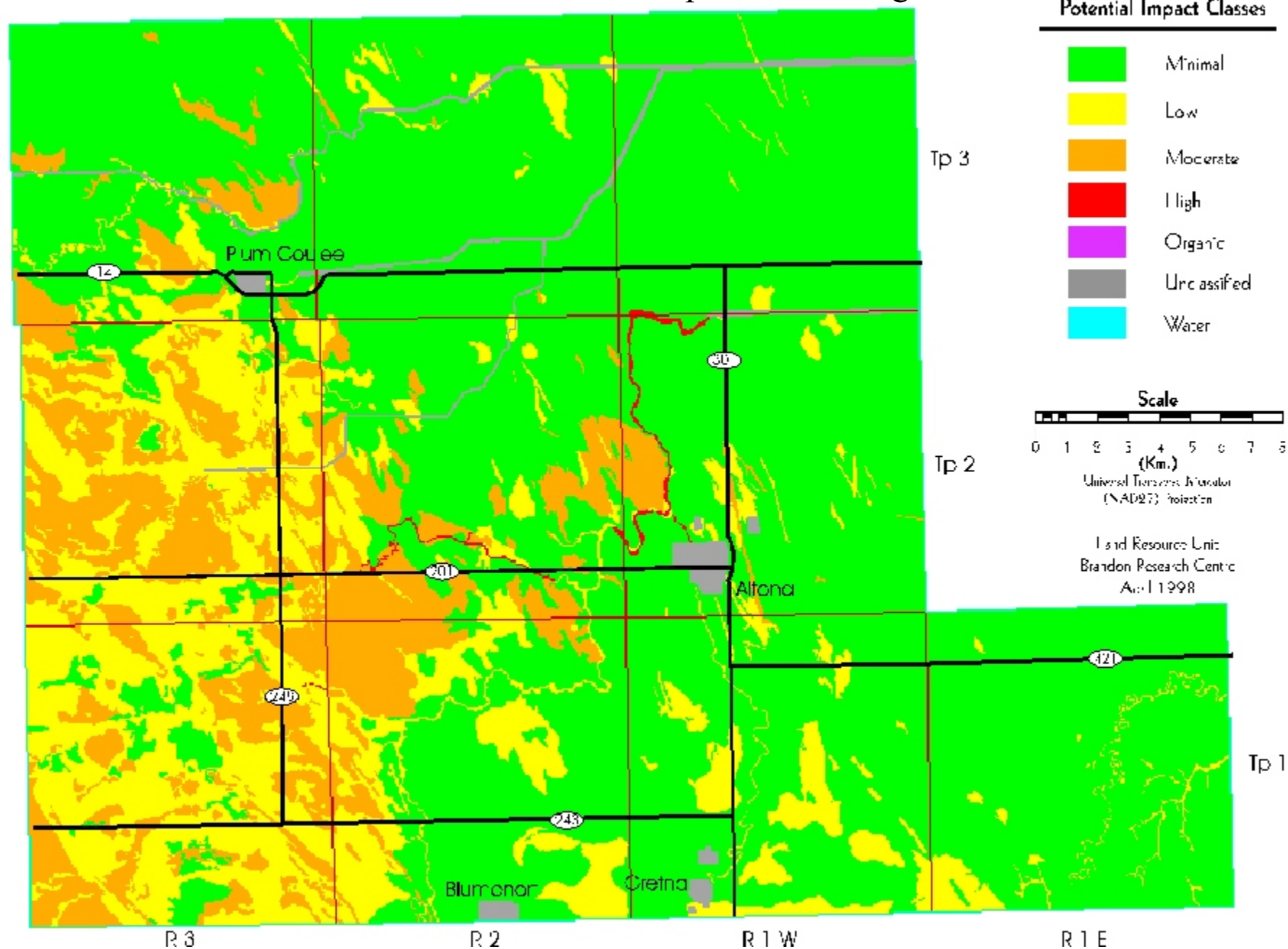
This generalized interpretive map is based on the dominant soil series and slope class for each soil polygon. The nature of the subclass limitations, and the classification of subdominant components is not shown at this generalized map scale.

**Table 8. Potential Environmental Impact Under Irrigation<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>Minimal</b>	<b>64621</b>	<b>66.6</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>18240</b>	<b>18.8</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>12417</b>	<b>12.8</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Organic</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on **dominant** soil, slope gradient, and slope length of each soil polygon.

## Potential Environmental Impact Under Irrigation





**Water Erosion Risk Map.**

The risk of water erosion was estimated using the universal soil loss equation (USLE) developed by Wischmeier and Smith (1965). The USLE predicted (tons/hectare/year) is calculated for each soil component in each soil map polygon. Erosion risk classes are assigned based on the weighted average soil loss for each map polygon. The map shows 5 classes of soil erosion risk based on bare unprotected soil:

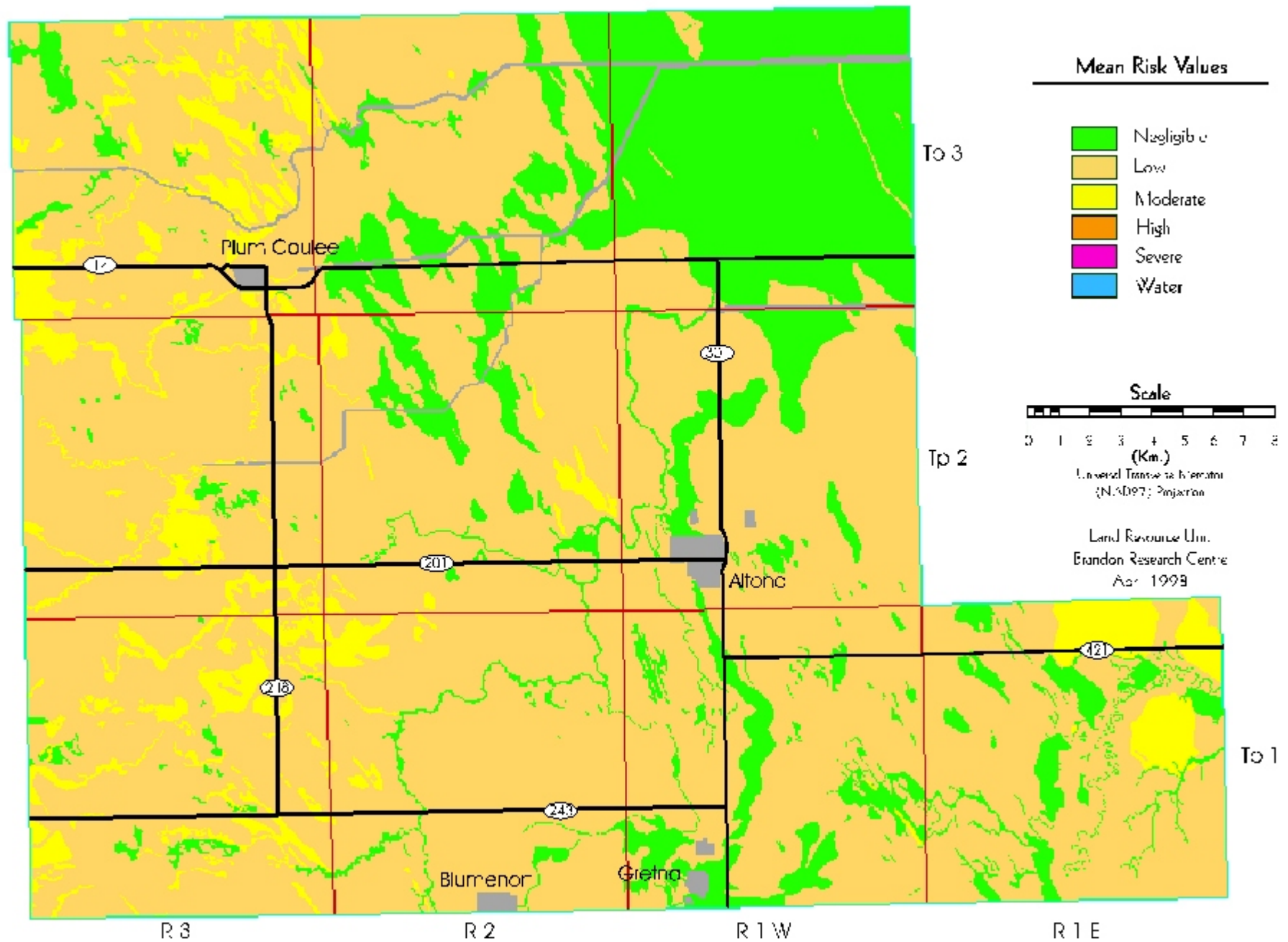
**negligible**  
**low**  
**moderate**  
**high**  
**severe.**

Cropping and residue management practices will significantly reduce this risk depending on crop rotation program, soil type, and landscape features.

**Table 9. Water Erosion Risk**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>Negligible</b>	<b>17956</b>	<b>18.5</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>70565</b>	<b>72.8</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>6983</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Severe</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Water Erosion Risk Map



**Land Use Map.**

The land use classification of the RM has been interpreted from LANDSAT satellite imagery, using supervised computer classification techniques. Many individual spectral signatures were classified and grouped into the seven general land use classes shown here. Although land use changes over time, and some land use practices on individual parcels may occasionally result in similar spectral signatures, this map provides a general representation of the current land use in the RM.

The following is a brief description of the land use classes:

**Annual Crop Land** - land that is normally cultivated on an annual basis.

**Forage** - perennial forages, generally alfalfa or clover with blends of tame grasses.

**Grasslands** - areas of native or tame grasses, may contain scattered stands of shrubs.

**Trees** - lands that are primarily in tree cover.

**Wetlands** - areas that are wet, often with sedges, cattails, and rushes.

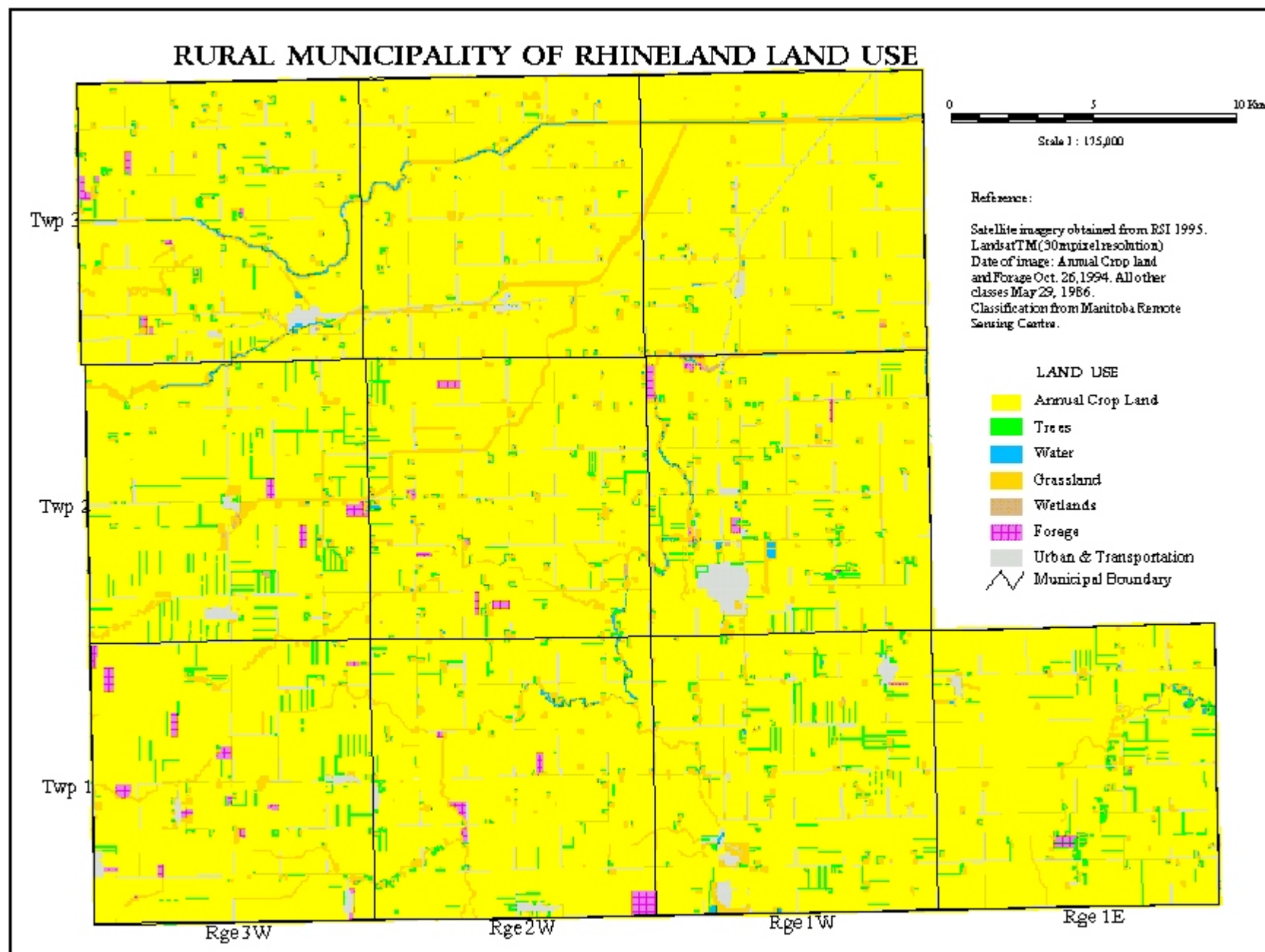
**Water** - open water - lakes, rivers streams, ponds, and lagoons.

**Urban and Transportation** - towns, roads, railways, quarries.

**Table 10. Land Use<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent of RM</b>
<b>Annual Crop Land</b>	<b>86985</b>	<b>89.2</b>
<b>Forage</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Grasslands</b>	<b>3849</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Trees</b>	<b>1262</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Urban and Transportation</b>	<b>4581</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>97566</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Land use information (1995) and map supplied by Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Areas may vary from previous maps due to differences in analytical procedures.



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