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Rural Municipality of Rossburn

Information Bulletin 98-3

Soils and Terrain

An introduction
to the land resource

Land Resource Unit
Brandon Research Centre

Canada

Rural Municipality of Rossburn

Information Bulletin 98-3

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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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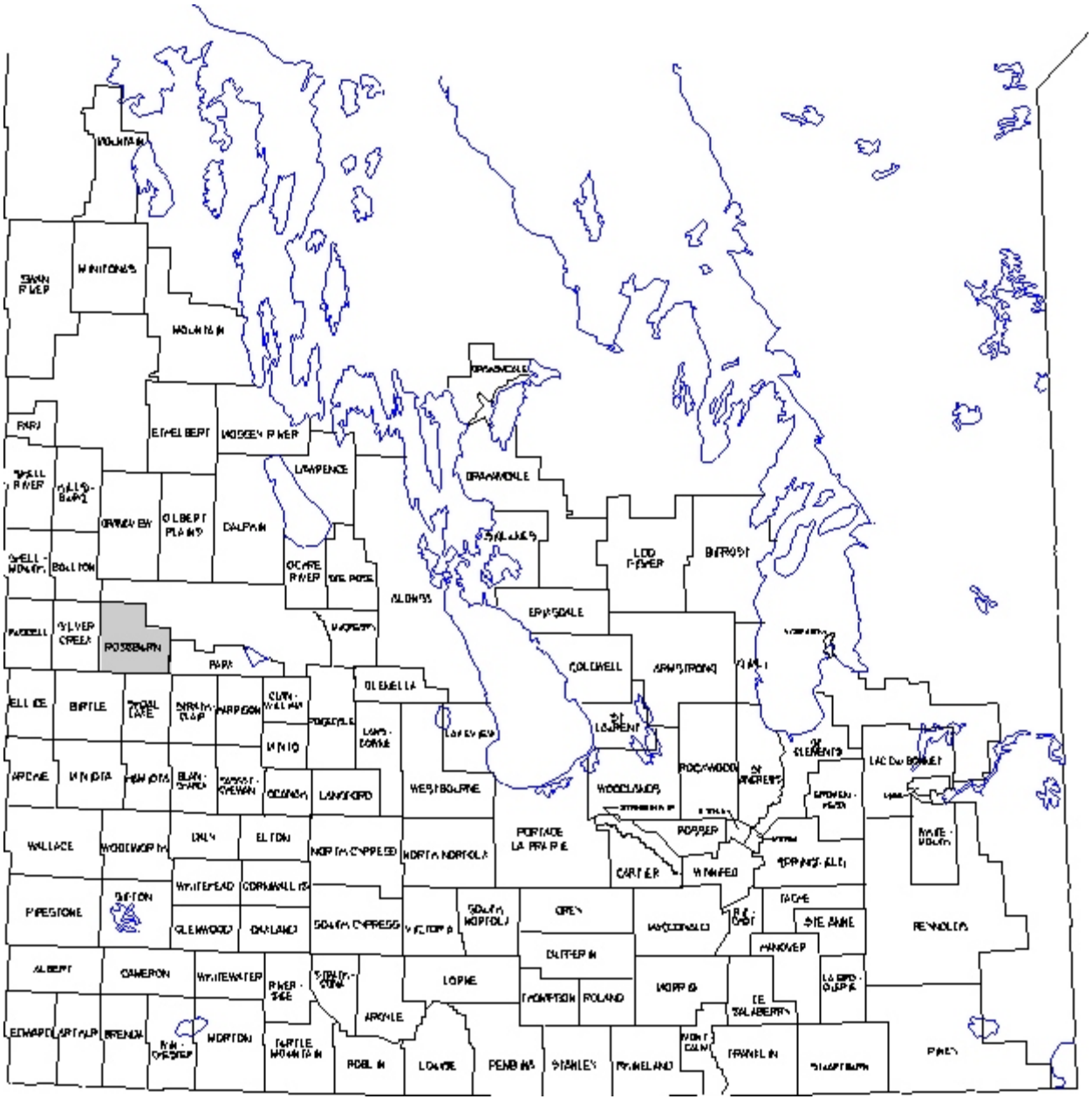


Figure 1. Rural municipalities of southern Manitoba.

INTRODUCTION

The location of the Rural Municipality of Rossburn is shown in Figure 1. A brief overview of the database information, and general environmental conditions for the municipality are presented. A set of maps derived from the data for typical agricultural land use and planning applications are also included.

The soil map and database were compiled and registered using the Geographic Information System (PAMAP GIS) facilities of the Land Resource Unit. These databases were used in the GIS to create the generalized, derived and interpretive maps and statistics in this report. The final maps were compiled and printed using Coreldraw.

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.

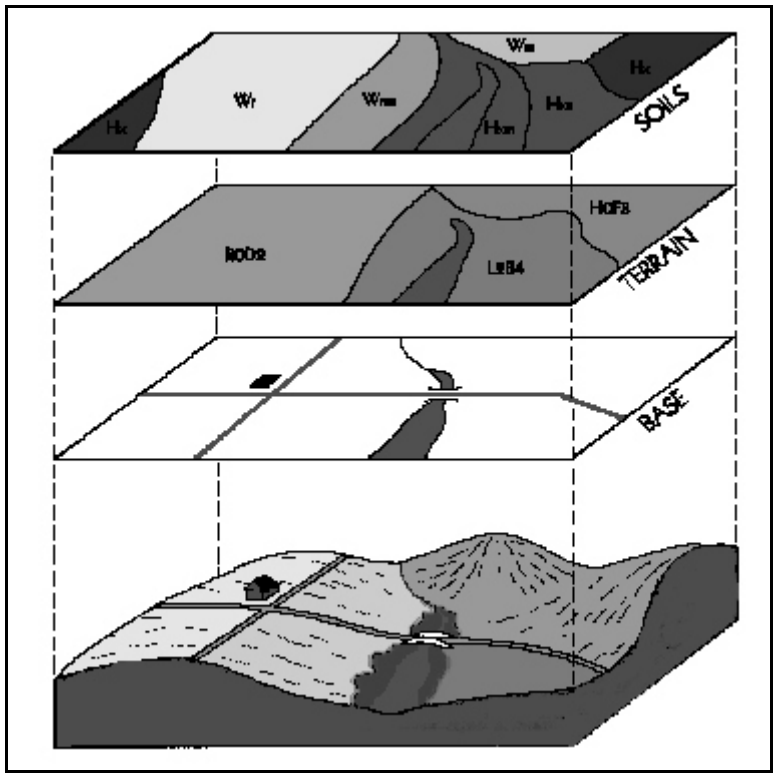


Figure 2. Soil, Terrain and Base Map data.

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.

Terrain Layer

A separate terrain layer was produced for municipalities for which only reconnaissance scale soil map coverage was available. This was compiled by aerial photo-interpretation techniques, using recent 1:50 000 scale stereo airphoto coverage. The terrain information was transferred from the photographs onto the standard RM base and digitized in the GIS. Where the soil and terrain boundaries coincided, such as along prominent escarpments and eroded stream channels, the new terrain line was used for both layers. The terrain line, delineated from modern airphoto interpretation, was considered more positionally accurate than the same boundary portrayed on the historical reconnaissance soil map. Each digital terrain polygon was assigned the following legend characteristics:

Surface form	Wetland size
Slope	Erosional modifiers
Slope length	Extent of eroded knolls
Percent wetlands	

The four legend characteristics on the left are considered differentiating, that is, a change in any of these classes defines a new polygon.

Soil Layer

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, reconnaissance soil map polygons were related to soil drainage, surface texture, and other soil properties to produce various interpretive maps.

SOIL AND TERRAIN OVERVIEW

The Rural Municipality (RM) of Rossburn covers an area of 8 townships (approximately 77 587 hectares) of land in western Manitoba (page 3). Approximately 9 percent of this land area is in the Lizard Point Indian Reserve. The population is dominantly rural farm-based with concentrations of people in the town of Rossburn, the largest centre in the municipality, and the villages of Birdtail and Vista.

The climate in the municipality can be related to the weather data from Rossburn. The mean annual temperature is 1.4˚C and the mean annual precipitation is 517 mm (Environment Canada, 1993). The average frost-free period is 108 days and degree-days above 5˚C average 1485 (Ash, 1991). The calculated seasonal moisture deficit for the period between May and September varies from slightly less than 200 mm at higher elevations to slightly more at lower elevations to the south. Similarily, the estimated effective growing degree days (EGDD) above 5˚C accumulated from date of seeding to the date of the first fall frost ranges from slightly less than 1100 in the north to about 1250 at lower elevations in the south (Agronomic Interpretations Working Group, 1995). The northern two-thirds of the municipality is at higher elevations resulting in a somewhat cooler and shorter growing season than that experienced at lower elevations to the south. These parameters provide an indication of moisture and heat energy available for crop growth.

Physiographically, the RM of Rossburn is located in the Saskatchewan Plain (Canada-Manitoba Soil Survey, 1980). The majority of the RM occurs in the Riding Mountain Upland whereas the southwest portion at slightly lower elevation is in the Newdale Plain. Elevations range from about 620 metres above sea level (m asl) in the Riding Mountain Upland decreasing to about 487 m asl in the Newdale Plain to the south. The land surface in the municipality is generally hummocky to rolling with local relief ranging from 3 to 8 m and slopes usually from 5 to 9 percent. Local areas of higher relief exceeding 9 m and slopes greater than 9 percent occur in the Riding Mountain Upland. Greatest local relief occurs along the glacial meltwater channel containing the Birdtail Creek. Undulating to hummocky terrain with lower relief and 2 to 5 percent slopes is most common in the Newdale Plain portion of the municipality (page 9).

The soil materials in this RM consist primarily of loamy textured glacial till (morainal) deposits (page 11). Areas of glaciofluvial outwash are associated with the upper reaches of the Birdtail valley and waterworked till and coarse sand and gravel occur on the west side of this valley in the south. Peat deposits are common in depressional areas of the landscape, particularly in the Riding Mountain Upland.

Soils in the municipality have been mapped at a reconnaissance level (1:126 720 scale) and published in the soil survey report for the Rossburn and Virden map sheet areas (Ehrlich et al., 1956). The soils in the municipality are classified as dominantly Dark Gray Chernozems (Erickson Association) and Gray Luvisols (Waitville Association) at higher elevations in the northern part of the municipality and Chernozemic Black soils (Newdale Association) at lower elevations in the south (Expert Committee on Soil Survey, 1987). Local areas of poorly drained soils (Gleysols) and shallow organic (peat) soils are common in depressional areas of the landscape (page 11). A more detailed and complete description of the type, distribution and textural variability of soils in the municipality is provided in the published reconnaissance soil survey (Ehrlich et al., 1956).

Surface drainage is by means of Birdtail Creek and its tributaries draining southwesterly toward the Assiniboine River. External drainage of hummocky terrain is generally poorly developed and characterized by numerous enclosed poorly drained depressions and potholes containing organic (peat) soils, shallow ponds and small lakes. The majority of soils in the RM are well drained with minor areas of imperfect drainage on lower slopes. Areas of poorly drained and peaty soils are common in the depressional areas throughout this landscape (page 13).

Major management considerations are primarily related to topography, texture and drainage (page 15). The coarse sand and gravelly soils and areas of waterworked till are affected by low

moisture holding capacity. Depressional areas in the landscape are often to poorly drained to permit cultivation on a continuing basis. Although variably stony soils occur throughout the area, very stony conditions may occur on higher ridges and knolls and are of particular concern along the sides of meltwater channels affected by stream erosion. Salinity is locally important, occurring mainly in association with imperfectly and poorly drained soils on lower slopes and depressions in the southwest portion of the municipality.

Fourteen percent of the land in the RM rated as **Class 2** for agriculture capability, while about 34 percent is rated as **Class 3** and 27 percent as **Class 4**. Topography is the main limitation for agriculture capability (page 17). About 56 percent of the area is rated **Fair** for irrigation suitability (page 19). Well drained soils of the Newdale association in gently sloping landscapes are rated in **Class 2** for agriculture and **Good** for irrigation. Soils of the Waitville Association in similar landscapes are rated as **Class 3**. Steeply sloping soils are rated in **Class 6** and **7** and **Poor** for irrigation. Poor drainage affects some 15 percent of the soils in the RM which are rated in **Class 5 and 6** for agriculture capability and **Poor** for irrigation. Organic (peaty) soils in their natural state are generally not used for agriculture or irrigation and have not been rated.

A major issue 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 21). As shown, the majority of the RM is at a **Moderate** to **High** risk of degradation, primarily due to topography and coarse texture. These conditions increase the risk for rapid runoff from the soil surface into adjacent wetlands or water bodies and for deep leaching of potential contaminants on the soil surface. Less steeply sloping soils have a **Low** potential for adversely impacting on the environment under irrigation. This EI map is intended to be used in association with the irrigation suitability map.

Another issue of concern to producers, soil conservationists 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 23). About 51 percent of the land in the RM is at **Severe** risk of degradation, 15 percent is at a **High** risk and 11 percent is considered to have a **Moderate** risk for degradation from water erosion. A **Negligible** risk of degradation applies to 18 percent of the area consisting mainly of level, poorly drained areas and organic soils. Management practices focus primarily on maintaining adequate crop residues to provide sufficient surface cover. However, provision of adequate protection of the steeper sloping lands most at risk may require a shift in land use away from annual cultivation to production of perennial forages and pasture or permanent tree cover.

Although land use in the RM of Rossburn is primarily agricultural, a significant area remains in woodland and grassland. An assessment of the status of land use in 1995 was obtained through an analysis of satellite imagery. It showed that annual crops occupied about 35 percent of the land area, while the remaining areas were in forest (21%), grassland (28%), and forage production (6.6%). Wetlands cover 2.5 percent and small water bodies occupy 4 percent of the RM. Much of the woodland and grassland area provides native pasture for livestock. Various non-agricultural uses such as recreation and infrastructure for urban areas and transportation occupy about 3 percent of the municipality (page 25).

While the majority of the soils in the RM of Rossburn have severe to moderately severe limitations for arable agriculture, careful choice of crops and maintenance of adequate surface cover is essential for the management of sensitive lands with steeper slopes. This includes leaving adequate crop residues on the surface to provide sufficient trash cover during the early spring period. The provision of minimum tillage practices and crop rotations including forage will help to reduce the risk of soil degradation and maintain productivity.

Probably the most important conditions affecting agricultural use of land in this municipality are limitations such as topographic pattern and steeply sloping lands. Implementation of appropriate conservation practices to deal with these conditions on a site by site basis will help to insure that agriculture land-use is sustainable over the long-term.

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 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
Generalized Soil
Drainage
Management Considerations

Interpretative Maps
Agricultural Capability
Irrigation Suitability
Potential Environmental Impact
Water Erosion Risk
Land Use

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 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 Land Resource Unit.

Slope Map.

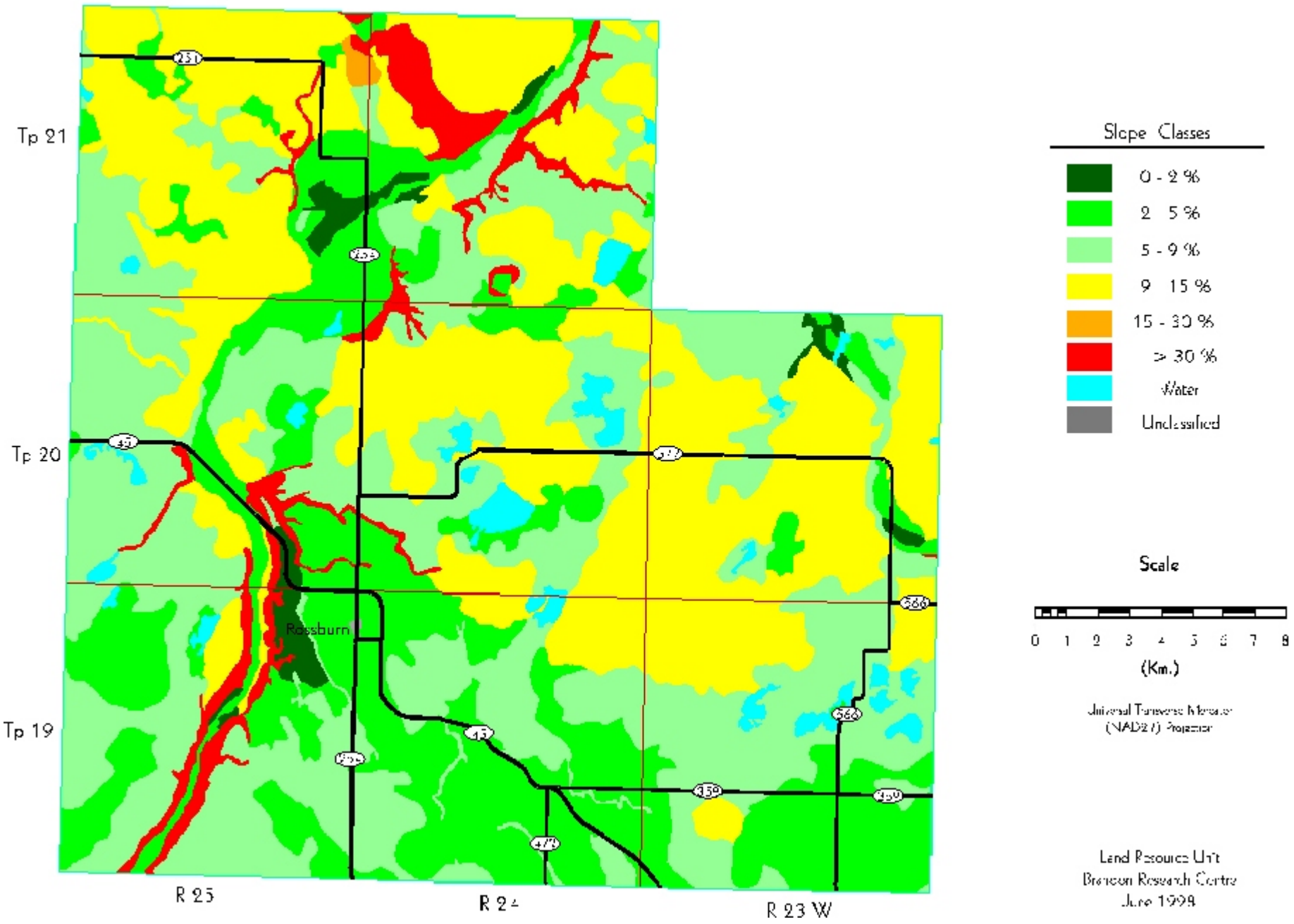
Slope describes the steepness of the landscape surface. The slope classes shown on this map are derived from the digital soil and terrain layer database. Specific colours are used to indicate the dominant slope class for each polygon in the RM. Additional slope classes may occur in each polygon area,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

Table 1. Slope Classes[1]

Slope Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
0 - 2 %	1170	1.5
2 - 5 %	18378	23.7
5 - 9 %	27408	35.3
9 - 15 %	25657	33.1
15 - 30 %	129	0.2
> 30 %	3089	4.0
Unclassified	18	0.0
Water	1738	2.2
Total	77587	100.0

[1] Area has been assigned to the dominant slope in each soil polygon.

Slope Map


Tp 21
Tp 20
Tp 19
Rossburn
R 25
R 24
R 23 W
Slope Classes
0 - 2 %
2 5 %
5 - 9 %
9 15 %
15 - 30 %
> 30 %
Water
Unclassified
Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
(Km.)
Universal Transverse Mercator
(NAD27) Projection
Land Resource Unit
Brandon Research Centre
June 1999

Generalized Soil Map.

The most recently available soil maps were digitized to produce the new digital soil map. For older reconnaissance soil maps, areas of overprinted symbols or significant differences in topography have been delineated as new polygons. All soil polygons have been digitized and translated into modern soil series equivalents.

The general soil groups provide a very simplified overview of the soil information contained in the digital soil map. The hundreds of individual soil polygons have been simplified into broad groups of soils with similar parent material origins, textures, and drainage classes. The dominant soil in each polygon determines the soil group, area, and colour for the generalized soil map. Gleysolic soils groups have poor to very poor drainage, while other mineral soil groups typically have a range of rapid, well, or imperfectly drained soils.

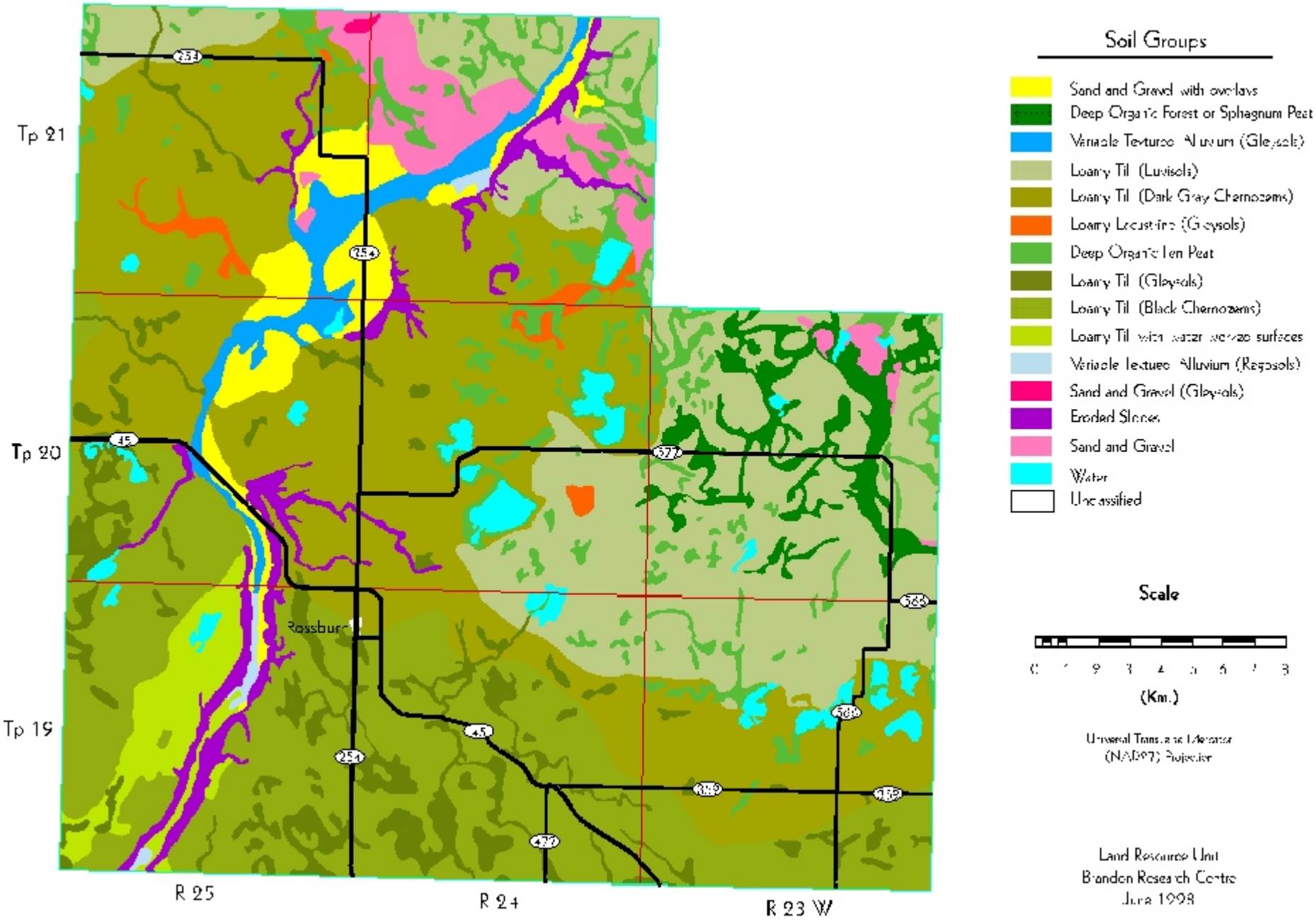
More detailed maps showing the dominant and subdominant soils in each polygon can also be produced at larger map scales.

Table 2. Generalized Soil Groups[1]

Soil Groups	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Sand and Gravel with overlays	**2690**	**3.5**
Deep Organic Forest or Sphagnum Peat	**2224**	**2.9**
Variable Textured Alluvium (Gleysols)	**1673**	**2.2**
Loamy Till (Luvisols)	**15046**	**19.4**
Loamy Till (Dark Gray Chernozem)	**23046**	**29.7**
Loamy Lacustrine (Gleysols)	**599**	**0.8**
Deep Organic Fen Peat	**4299**	**5.5**
Loamy Till (Gleysols)	**4482**	**5.8**
Loamy Till (Black Chernozem)	**14832**	**19.1**
Loamy Till with water worked surfaces	**1892**	**2.4**
Variable Textured Alluvium (Regosols)	**215**	**0.3**
Sand and Gravel (Gleysols)	**44**	**0.1**
Eroded Slopes	**2255**	**2.9**
Sand and Gravel	**2534**	**3.3**
Water	**1738**	**2.2**
Unclassified	**18**	**0.0**
Total	**77587**	**100.0**

[1] Based on the **dominant** soil series for each soil polygon.

Generalized Soil 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. Five drainage classes plus three 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.

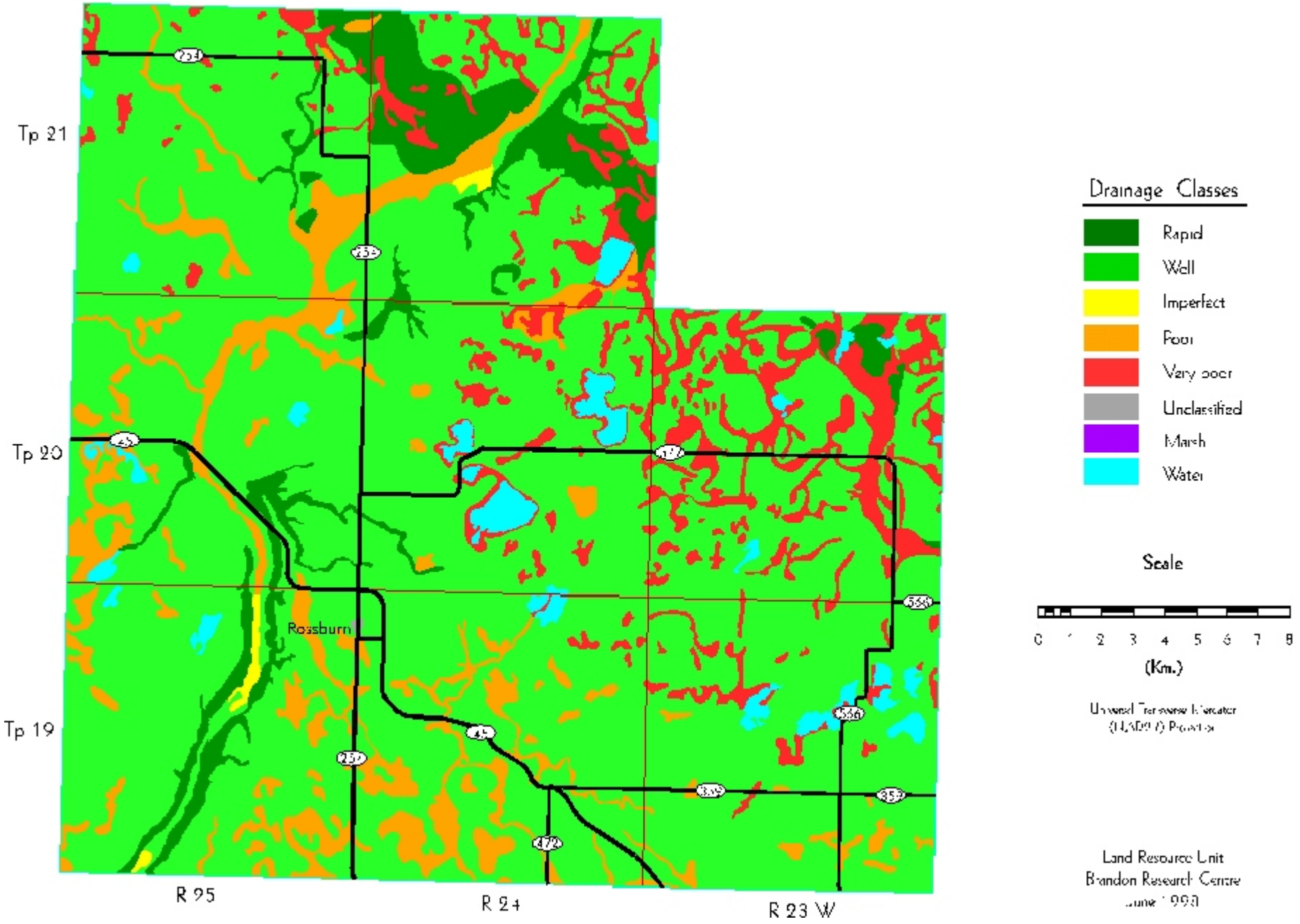
Drainage classification is based on the dominant soil series within each individual soil polygon.

Table 3. Drainage Classes[1]

Drainage Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Very Poor	**6522**	**8.4**
Poor	**6798**	**8.8**
Imperfect	**215**	**0.3**
Well	**57506**	**74.1**
Rapid	**4790**	**6.2**
Marsh	**0**	**0.0**
Unclassified	**18**	**0.0**
Water	**1738**	**2.2**
Total	**77587**	**100.0**

[1] Area has been assigned to the dominant drainage class for each soil polygon.

Soil Drainage 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)**, and thus 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 are required to 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.

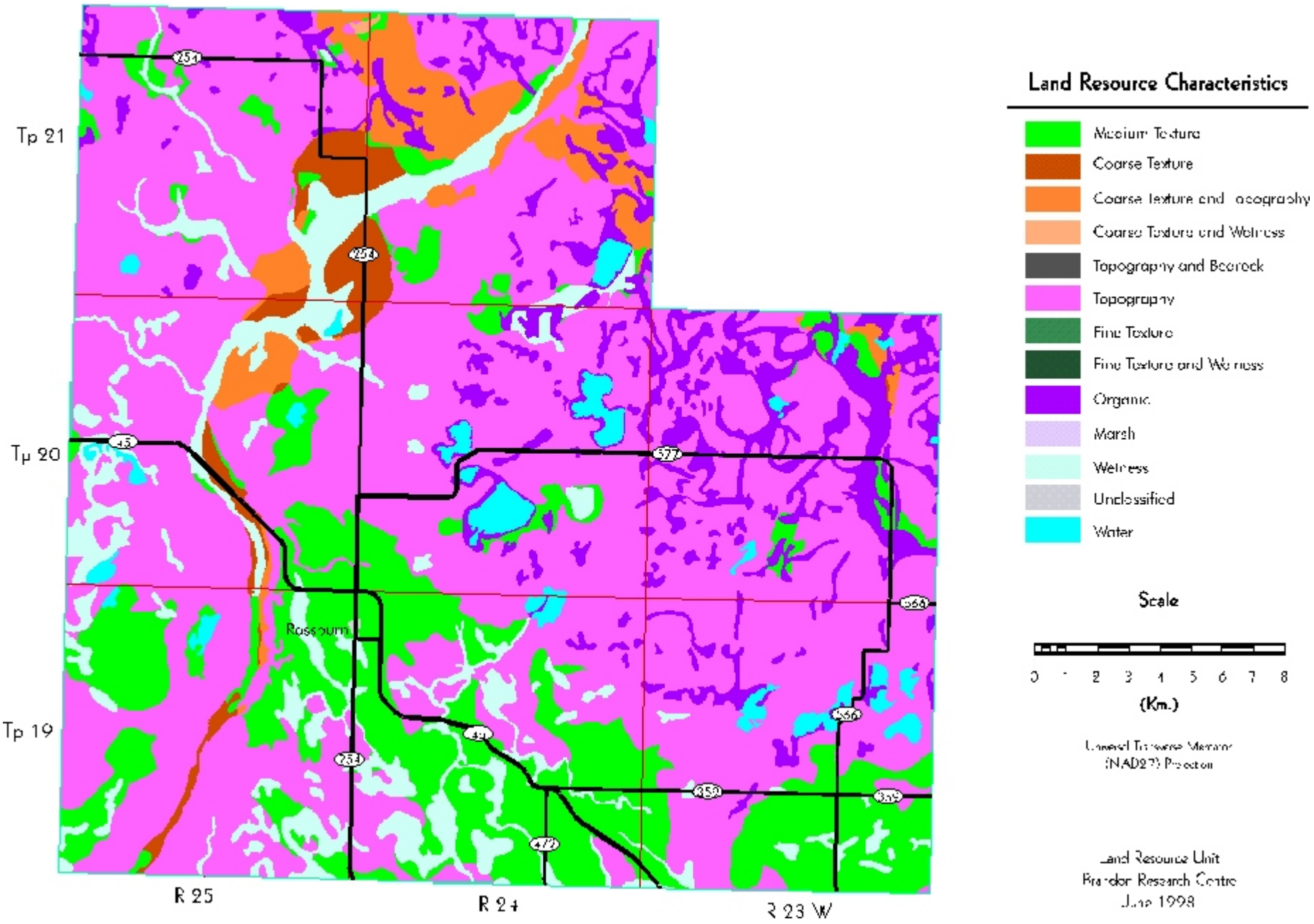
R = Bedrock - soil landscapes that have shallow depth to bedrock (< 50 cm) and/or exposed bedrock which may prevent the use of some or all tillage practices as well as the range of potential crops. They require special cropping and management practices to sustain agricultural production.

Table 4. Management Considerations[1]

Land Resource Characteristics	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Fine Texture	**0**	**0.0**
Fine Texture and Wetness	**0**	**0.0**
Fine Texture and Topography	**0**	**0.0**
Medium Texture	**14661**	**18.9**
Coarse Texture	**415**	**0.5**
Coarse Texture and Wetness	**30**	**0.0**
Coarse Texture and Topography	**2120**	**2.7**
Topography	**45327**	**58.4**
Bedrock	**0**	**0.0**
Wetness	**6754**	**8.7**
Organic	**6522**	**8.4**
Marsh	**0**	**0.0**
Unclassified	**18**	**0.0**
Water	**1738**	**2.2**
Total	**77587**	**100.0**

[1] Based on the **dominant** soil series and slope gradient within each 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 modifers 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 5. Agricultural Capability[1]

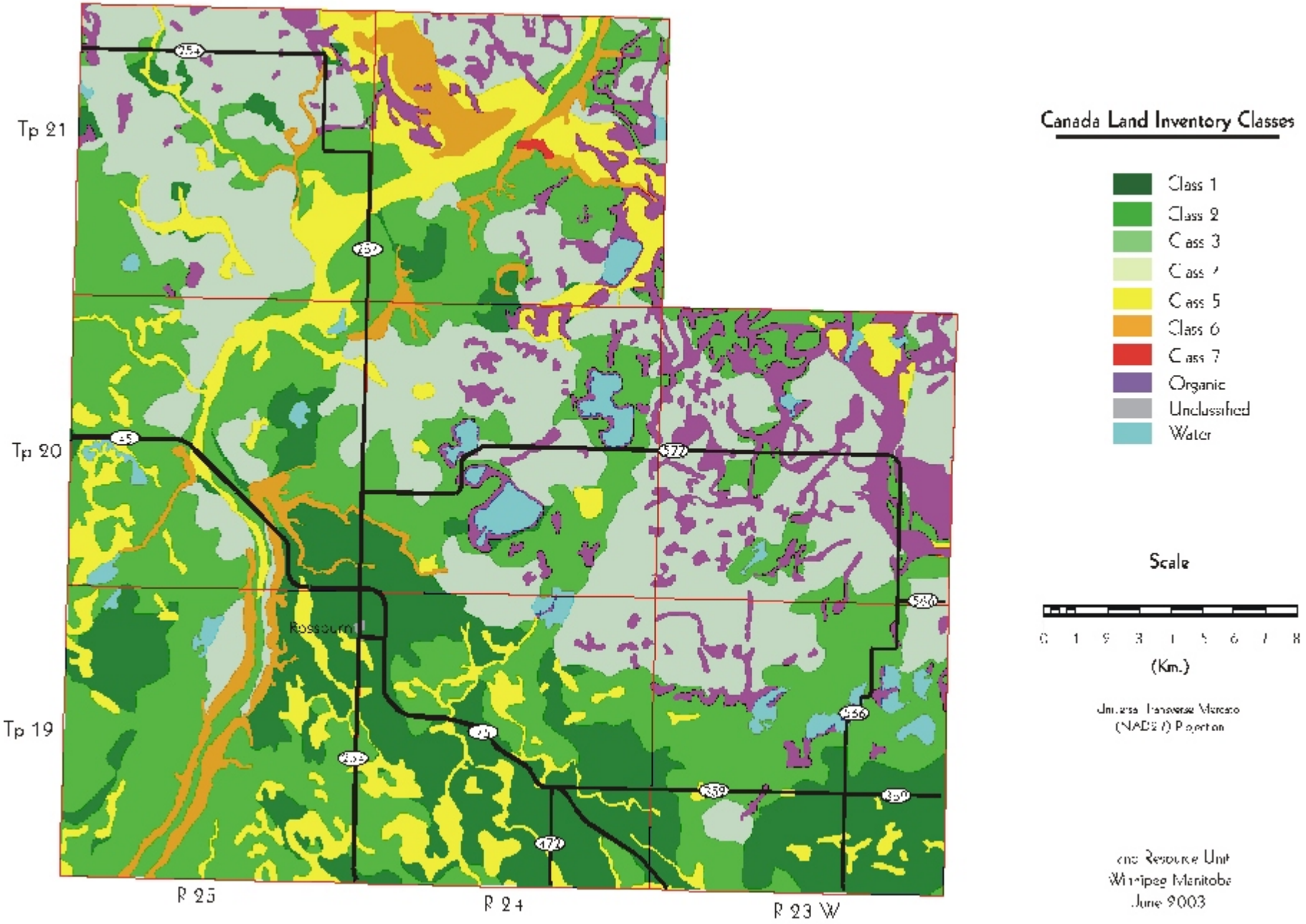
Class Subclass	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
2	**10770**	**13.9**
2T	10396	13.4
2X	375	0.5
3	**26183**	**33.7**
3I	127	0.2
3M	2326	3.0
3MT	1532	2.0
3T	21558	27.8
3TI	69	0.1
3X	571	0.7
4	**20576**	**26.5**
4	2	0.0
4T	20574	26.5

Table 5. Agricultural Capability[1](cont.)

Class Subclass	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
5	**8603**	**11.1**
5	597	0.8
5M	1693	2.2
5MT	69	0.1
5T	31	0.0
5W	4709	6.1
5WI	1504	1.9
6	**3016**	**3.9**
6	2	0.0
6T	3014	3.9
7	**42**	**0.1**
7T	42	0.1
Unclassified	**18**	**0.0**
Water	**1735**	**2.2**
Organic	**6685**	**8.6**
Total	**77629**	**100.0**

[1] Based on the **dominant** soil series and slope gradient within each 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.

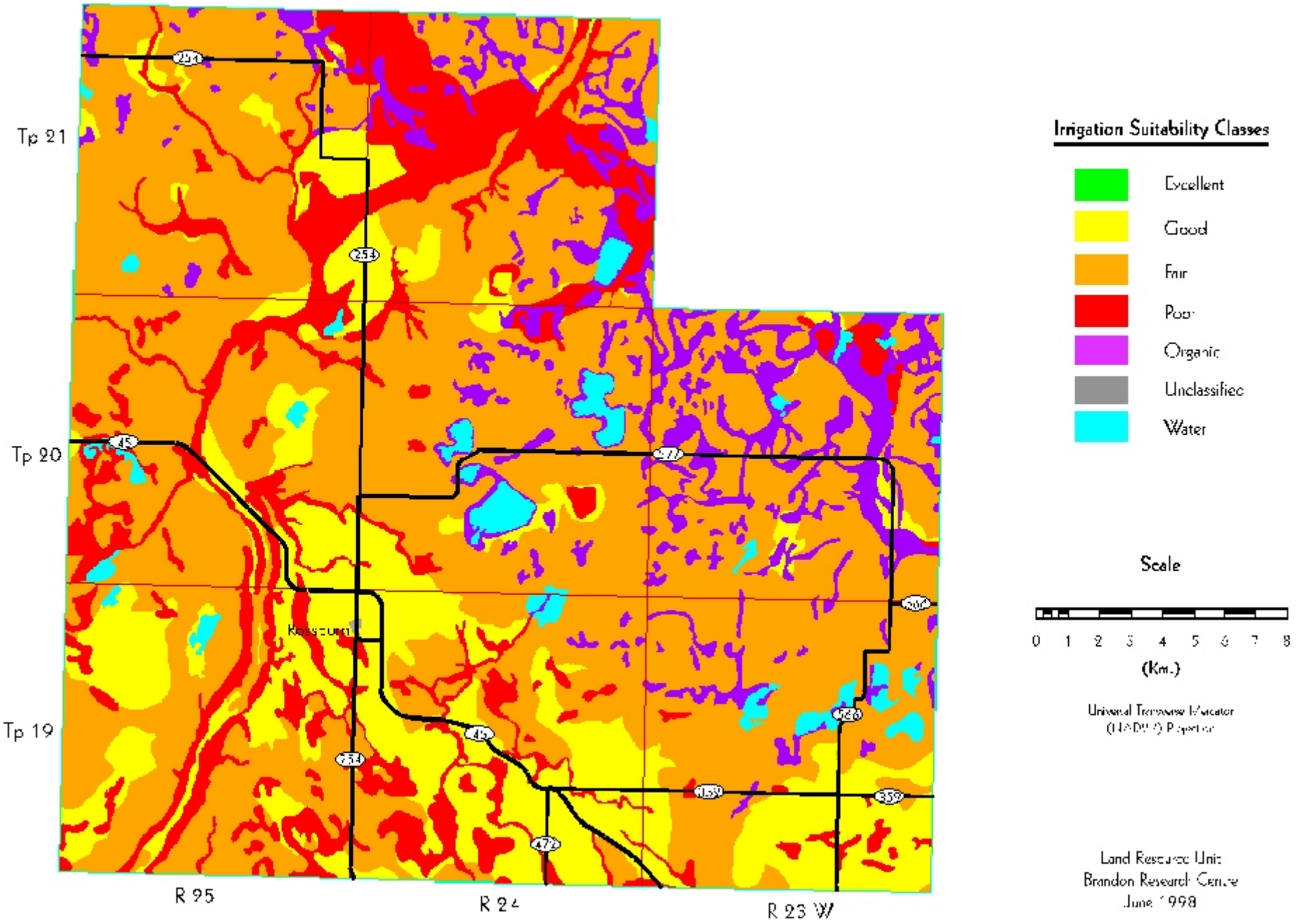
This generalized interpretive map is based on the dominant soil series for each soil polygon, in combination with the dominant slope class. The nature of the subclass limitations and the classification of subdominant components is not shown at this generalized map scale.

Table 6. Irrigation Suitability[1]

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Excellent	**0**	**0.0**
Good	**14535**	**18.7**
Fair	**43111**	**55.6**
Poor	**11663**	**15.0**
Organic	**6522**	**8.4**
Unclassified	**18**	**0.0**
Water	**1738**	**2.2**
Total	**77587**	**100.0**

[1] Based on the **dominant** soil series and slope gradient within each 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.

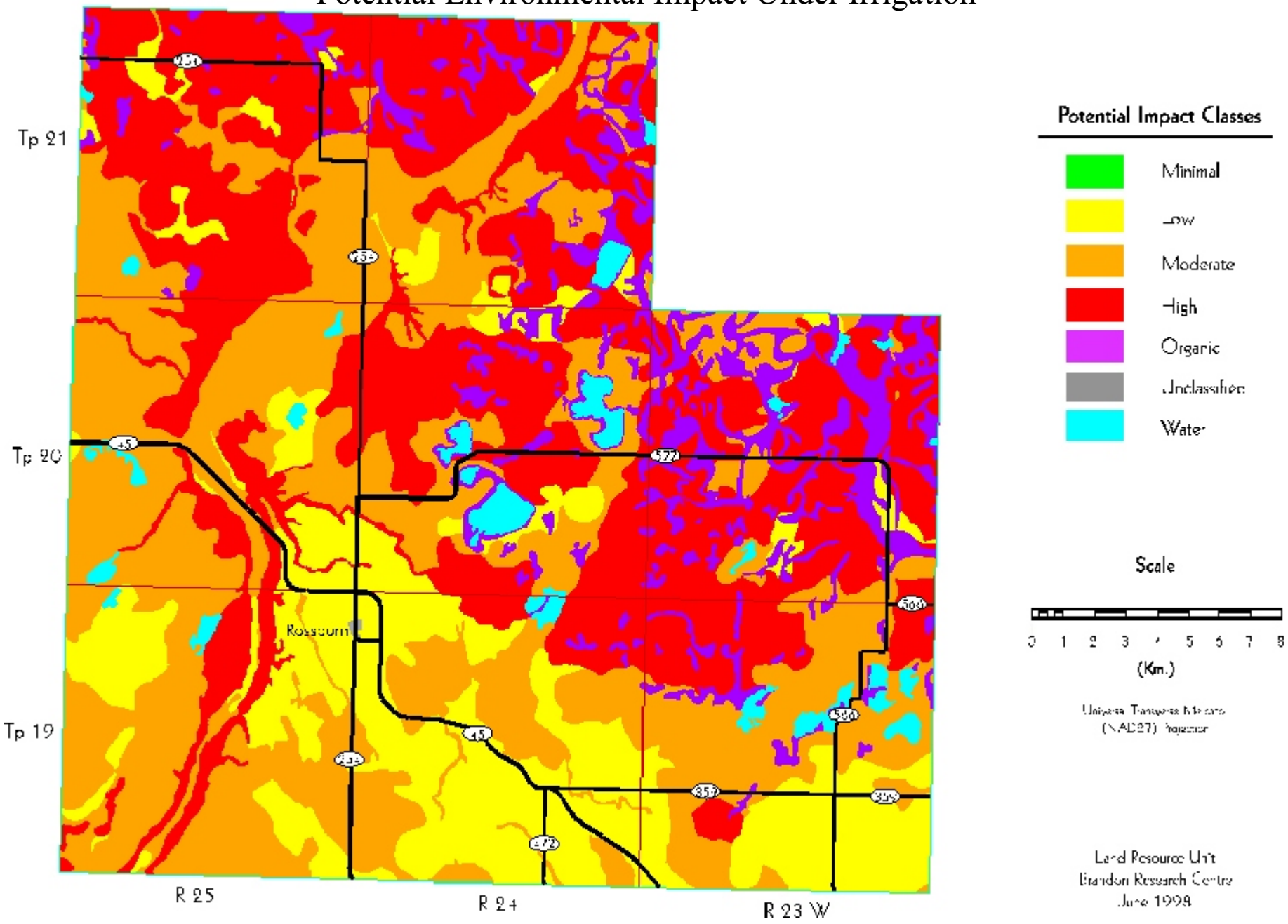
This generalized interpretive map is based on the dominant soil series and slope class for each soil polygon. The nature of the subclass limitations, and the classification of subdominant components is not shown at this generalized map scale.

Table 7. Potential Environmental Impact Under Irrigation[1]

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Minimal	**0**	**0.0**
Low	**14476**	**18.7**
Moderate	**28702**	**37.0**
High	**26131**	**33.7**
Organic	**6522**	**8.4**
Unclassified	**18**	**0.0**
Water	**1738**	**2.2**
Total	**77587**	**100.0**

[1] Based on the **dominant** soil series and slope gradient within each 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 soil loss (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. Water erosion risk factors include mean annual rainfall, slope length, slope gradient, vegetation cover, management practices, and soil erodibility. The map shows 5 classes of soil erosion risk based on bare unprotected soil:

negligible
low
moderate
high
severe

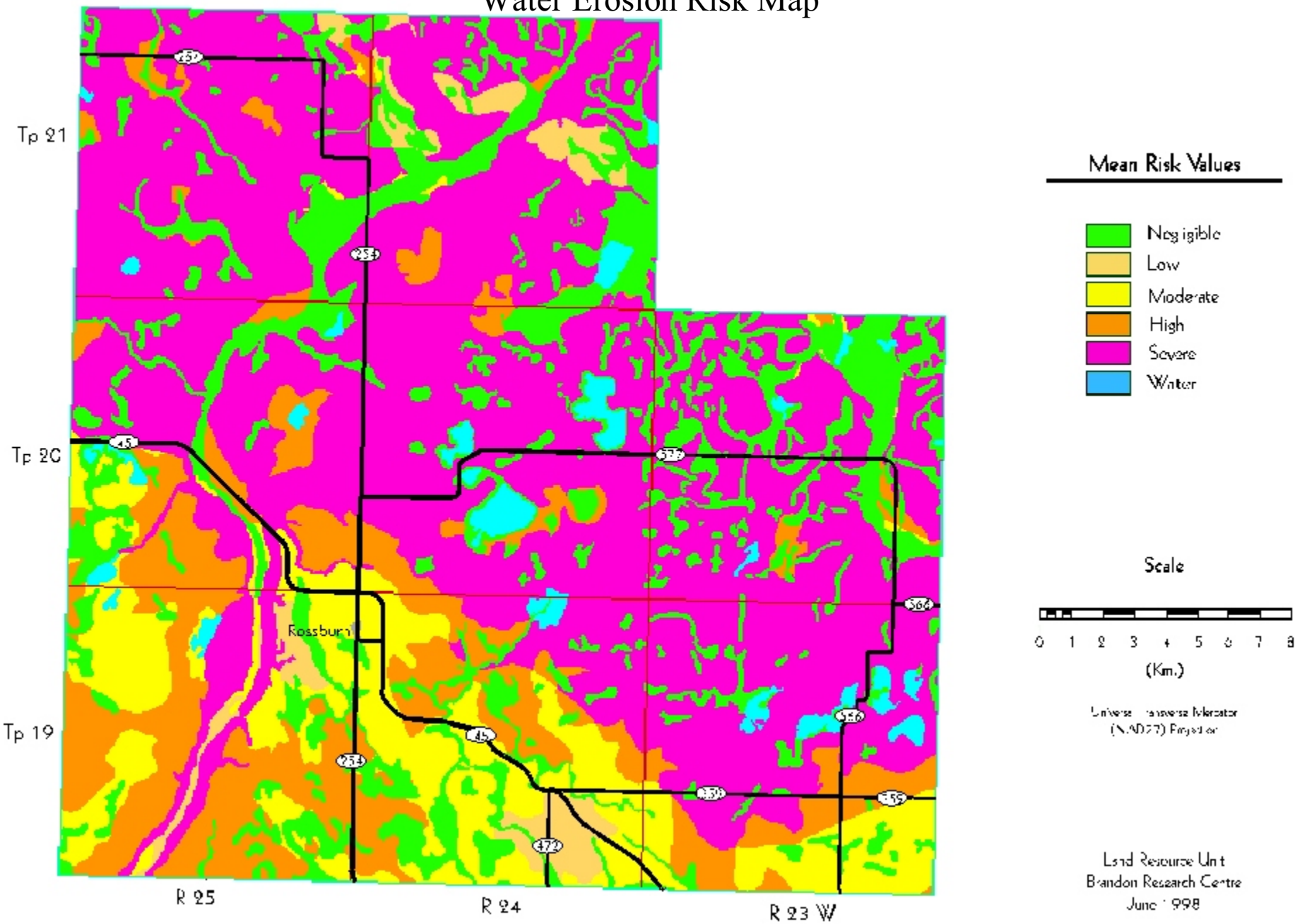
Cropping and residue management practices will significantly reduce this risk depending on crop rotation program, soil type, and landscape features.

Table 8. Water Erosion Risk[1]

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Negligible	**14087**	**18.2**
Low	**2008**	**2.6**
Moderate	**8808**	**11.4**
High	**11374**	**14.7**
Severe	**39553**	**51.0**
Unclassified	**18**	**0.0**
Water	**1738**	**2.2**
Total	**77587**	**100.0**

[1] Based on the **weighted average** USLE predicted soil loss within each polygon, assuming a bare unprotected soil.

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.

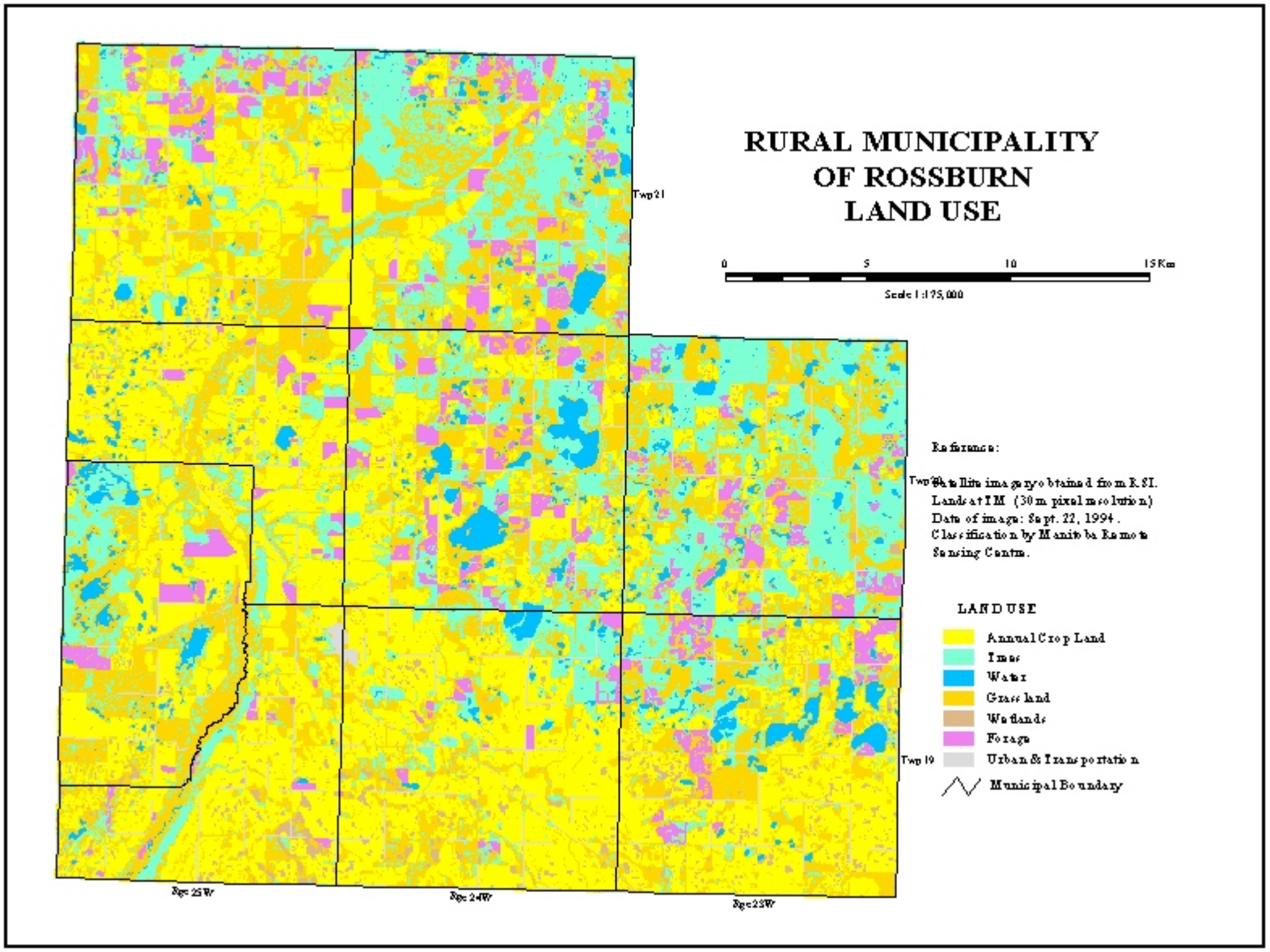
Water - open water - lakes, rivers streams, ponds, and lagoons.

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

Table 9. Land Use[1]

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Annual Crop Land	**27251**	**34.9**
Forage	**5134**	**6.6**
Grasslands	**22063**	**28.2**
Trees	**16504**	**21.1**
Wetlands	**1932**	**2.5**
Water	**3166**	**4.0**
Urban and Transportation	**2145**	**2.7**
Total	**78195**	**100.0**

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


RURAL MUNICIPALITY
OF ROSSBURN
LAND USE
0
5
10
15 Km
Scale 1:175,000
Twp 21
Twp 19
Rge 25W
Rge 24W
Rge 23W
References:
Satellite imagery obtained from R.S.I.
Landsat TM (30 m pixel resolution)
Date of image: Sept. 22, 1994.
Classification by Manitoba Remote
Sensing Centre.
LAND USE
Annual Crop Land
Trees
Water
Grass land
Wetlands
Forage
Urban & Transportation
Municipal Boundary

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