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Rural Municipality of Alonsa


Information Bulletin 99-29

Soils and Terrain

An introduction
to the land resource

Land Resource Unit
Brandon Research Centre



Canada 

Rural Municipality of Alonsa

Information Bulletin 99-29

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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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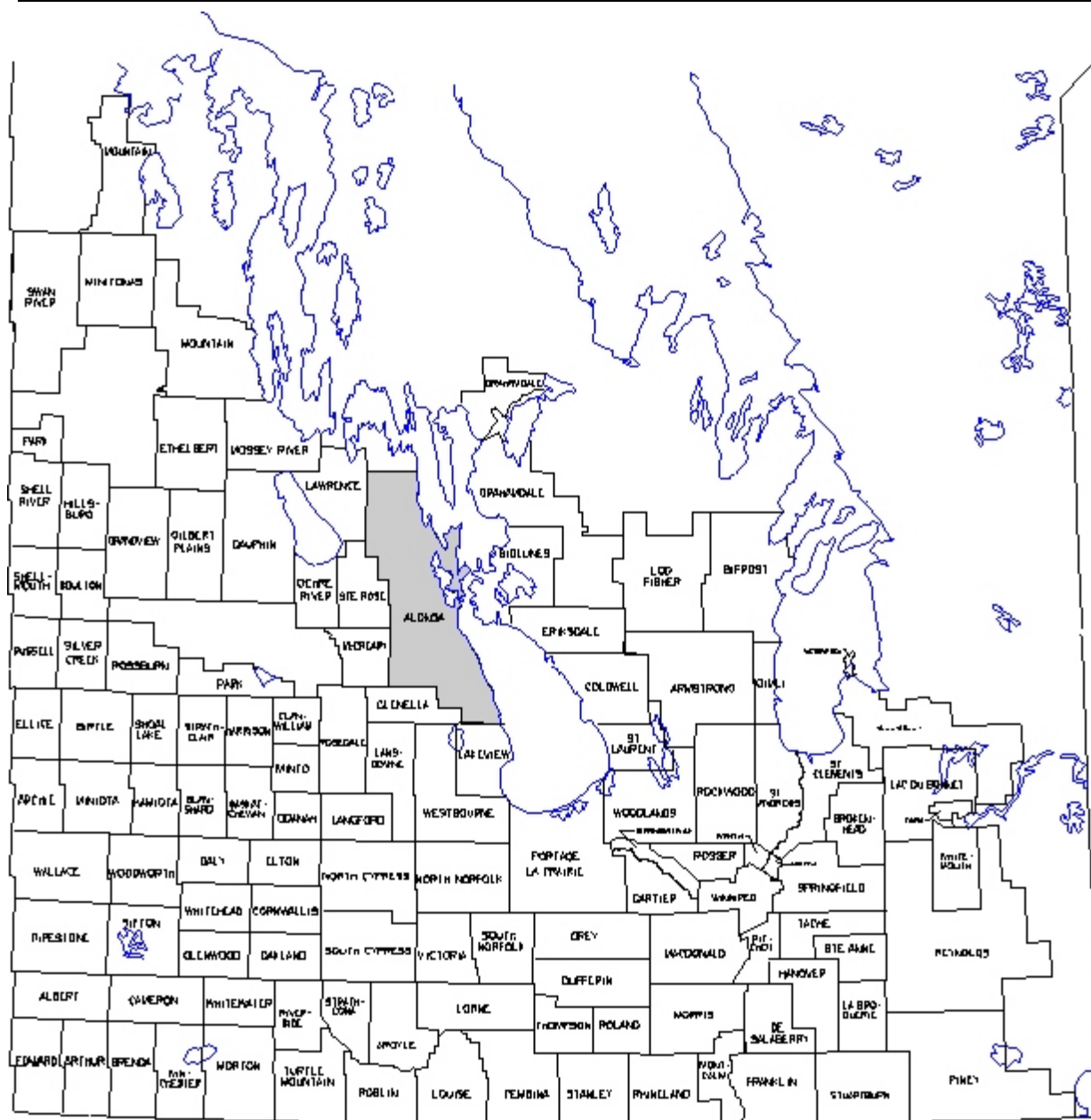


Figure 1. Rural municipalities of southern Manitoba.

INTRODUCTION

The location of the Rural Municipality of Alonsa 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.

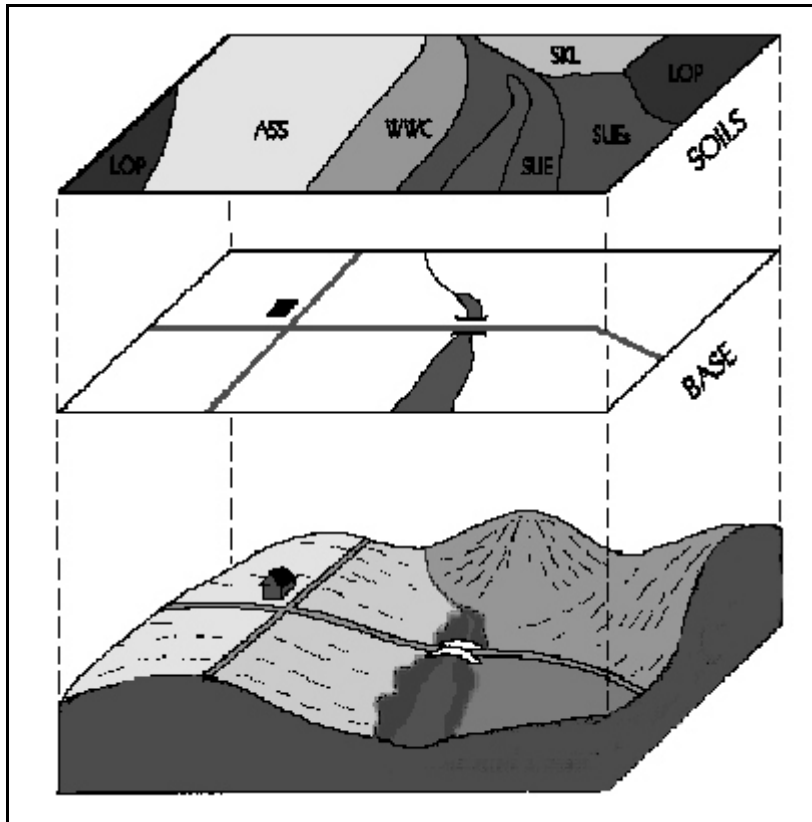


Figure 2. Soil and Base Map data.

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.

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.

SOIL AND TERRAIN OVERVIEW

The Rural Municipality (RM) of Alonsa covers an area of 314 770 ha (approximately 34 townships) in the Westlake district. It extends from south to north for a distance of 100 kilometres along the west shore of Lake Manitoba (page 3). Eddystone, Amaranth and Alonsa are the main population centres. Larger concentrations of people reside on the adjacent Sandy Bay and Ebb and Flow Reserves. The rural population is sparsely distributed as most of the land is utilized extensively, mainly for cattle ranching.

The climate in the area can be related to weather data from Langruth situated 13 kilometres south of the municipality and from Meadow Portage located 30 kilometres to the northwest. The mean annual temperature in southern portions is 2.3°C and the mean annual precipitation is 532 mm (Environment Canada, 1993). The average frost-free period is 121 days and degree-days above 5°C accumulated from May to September average 1609 (Ash, 1991). The growing season in the north is cooler (mean annual temperature of 0.8°C and average degree-days above 5°C of 1556) and shorter with a frost-free period of 106 days while the mean annual precipitation averages 421 mm.(Environment Canada, 1982). An evaluation of growing conditions in this region of Manitoba can be related to estimates of seasonal moisture deficit and effective growing degree-days (EGDD) above 5°C. The seasonal moisture deficit calculated between May and September is between 250 and 200 mm. The estimated effective growing degree-days accumulated from May to September range from 1500 in the south to 1350 in the north (Agronomic Interpretations Working Group, 1995). These parameters provide an indication of moisture and heat energy available for crop growth and are generally adequate to support a wide range of crops adapted to western Canada.

The Westlake Till Plain occupies the largest part of the municipality while a small area along the western boundary is in the Dauphin Lake Plain (Canada-Manitoba Soil Survey, 1980). Elevations range from 300 metres above sea level (m asl) in the western portion of

the area to 248 m asl along the Lake Manitoba shoreline. The land surface slopes gently to the east at a rate of 1 to 2 m/km (6 to 10 ft/mi). Local relief is generally under 3 metres. The Westlake Till Plain is dominated by subdued, ridge and swale topography oriented in a north-south direction with slopes ranging from 2 to 5 percent. The land surface in the Dauphin Lake Plain is near level to very gently sloping with slopes generally under 2 percent (page 9). Although the land surface generally slopes easterly toward lake Manitoba, drainage is poorly developed as there are no permanent streams in this portion of the Westlake district. Part of the western edge of the municipality drains northwest to Hansen Creek and Dauphin Lake. A network of ditches developed as part of the road system assists in the removal of surface waters from areas used for more intensive agriculture.

Soil materials in the municipality were deposited during the last glaciation and during the time of glacial Lake Agassiz. The Westlake Till Plain consists mainly of extremely calcareous, waterworked, stony, loam textured glacial till. In contrast, the Dauphin Lake Plain is a complex area of waterworked glacial till, thin sandy lacustrine materials underlain by glacial till and narrow north-south trending beach ridges (page 11). The dominantly low relief, gentle slopes and generally high watertable throughout the municipality result in a complex drainage pattern of well, imperfectly and poorly drained soils (page 13).

Soils in the municipality have been mapped at a reconnaissance level (1:126 720 scale) and published in the soil survey reports for the West-Lake (Ehrlich et al., 1958), Grahamdale (Mills et al., 1971) and the Ste. Rose (Mills et al., 1981) map sheet areas. According to the Canadian System of Soil Classification (Soil Classification Working Group, 1998), Black Chernozemic soils in association with Humic Gleysols developed on extremely calcareous loamy till (Isafold association) are dominant. Local areas around the Lake Manitoba Narrows consist of weakly developed Eutric Brunisol and Dark Gray Chernozem soils (Fairford and Inwood series). Humic Gleysol soils in poorly drained sites in the northern and eastern

areas commonly have thin peaty surface layers while shallow organic soils occupy larger depressional areas in the north.

Major management considerations are related to wetness associated with the subdued ridge and swale topographic pattern (page 15). Seasonal high water tables (at 1 to 2 metres) and saturated soils are common. Surface water ponds in poorly drained depressional areas and organic terrain throughout the area. Moderately to excessively stony conditions are associated with the till soils and beach deposits and soils throughout the municipality are non-saline.

Nearly 3 percent of the soils are rated in **Class 2** for agricultural capability and 3 percent are in **Class 3**, primarily due to stoniness and compact subsoils. About 17 percent of the soils are placed in **Class 5** due to excess wetness, stoniness and droughtiness. **Class 6** soils affected by excess wetness occupy 14 percent of the area and organic soils which have very limited capability for agriculture in their native state cover 4 percent of the area (page 17). The irrigation suitability of soils in this municipality (page 19) varies from **Good** (3 percent) to **Fair** (60 percent) and **Poor** (32 percent).

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 shown on page 21 is dominantly **Low** for the glacial till soils. A **High** potential impact rating occurs on highly permeable sandy soils with high seasonal watertables. 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. Areas with potential for water erosion are shown on page 23. The majority of the land is at a **Negligible** (86 percent) to **Low** (12 percent) risk of degradation due to water erosion. Current management practices where these soils are

cultivated focus on maintaining adequate crop residues to provide sufficient surface cover to adequately protect the soils from both wind and water erosion.

The dominant land use in the RM of Alonsa is agriculture consisting mainly of ranching and feedlot operations for raising cattle. An assessment of the status of land use in 1994, obtained through an analysis of satellite imagery, showed annual crops occupy between 3 and 4 percent of the land, mainly in small pockets in the south, while forage crops cover between 1 and 2 percent of the area. The extensive areas of grassland (35 percent) and woodland (41 percent) provide forage and grazing capacity as well as wildlife habitat. Wetlands, including the organic soils, cover about 13 percent of the land area and also provide wildlife habitat. Various non-agricultural uses such as infrastructure for urban areas, transportation and recreation occupy about 1 percent of the municipality (page 25).

The majority of soils in the RM of Alonsa have moderately severe to very severe limitations for arable agriculture. Stony conditions on many of the till soils may be improved if stone clearing is done on a regular basis. Till soils characterized by excessive stones and cobbles are best managed as native pasture. A major portion of the area has low relief and a complex association of imperfectly and poorly drained soils which are frequently saturated and subject to surface ponding, particularly during spring runoff or following heavy rains. In addition, the ridge and swale topography throughout the area increases the difficulty of drainage improvement as the ridges are oriented perpendicular to the slope of the land. Where the land pattern permits, improvement and maintenance of water management infrastructure is required to reduce surface ponding while maintaining adequate soil moisture for crop growth.

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

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.

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.

Slope Map.

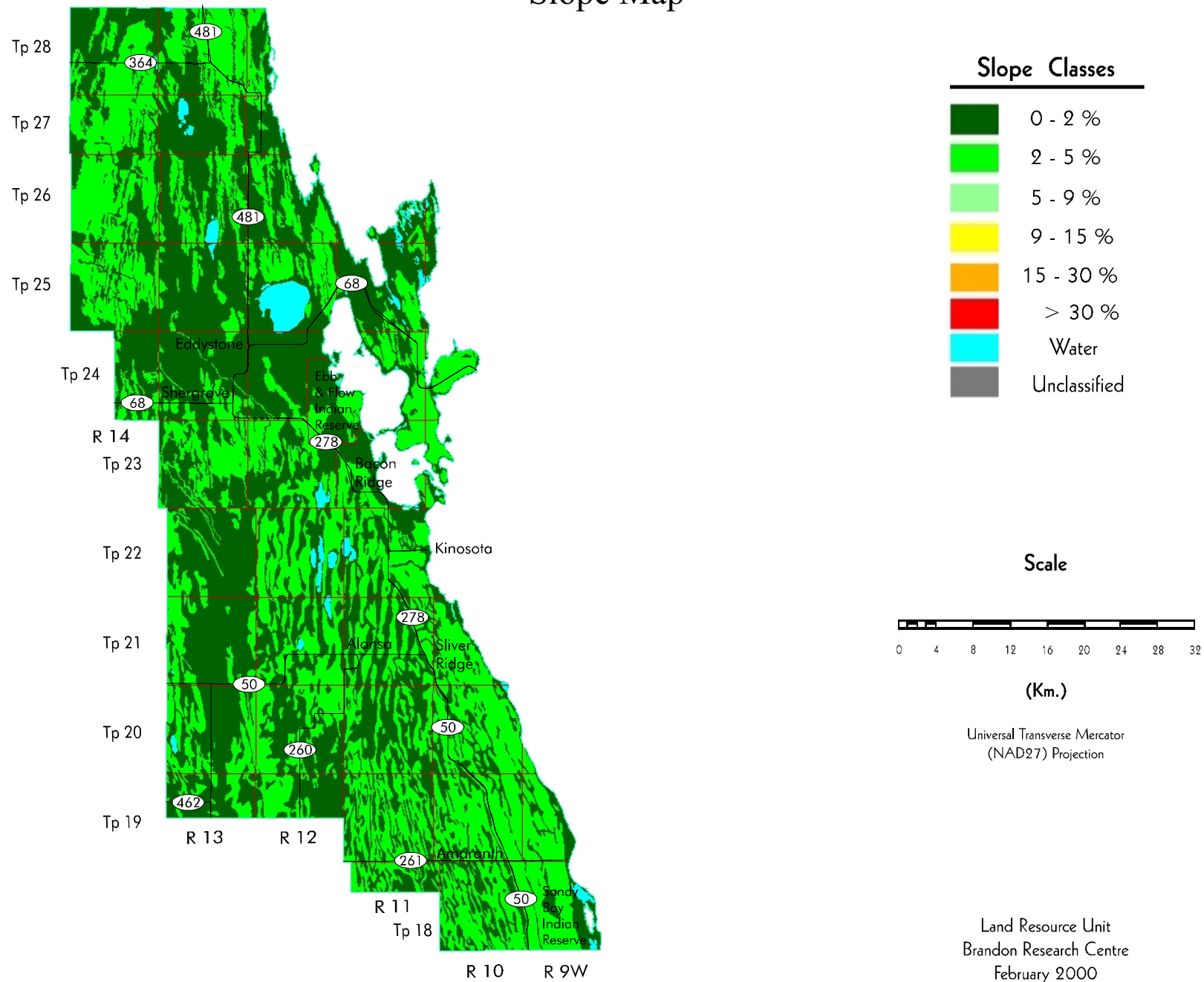
Slope describes the steepness of the landscape surface. The slope classes shown on this map are derived from the digital soil and terrain layer database. Specific colours are used to indicate the dominant slope class for each polygon in the RM. Additional slope classes may occur in each polygon area,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

Table 1. Slope Classes¹

Slope Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
0 - 2 %	168747	53.6
2 - 5 %	141632	45.0
5 - 9 %	0	0.0
9 - 15 %	0	0.0
15 - 30 %	0	0.0
> 30 %	0	0.0
Unclassified	19	0.0
Water	4372	1.4
Total	314770	100.0

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

Slope Map



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.

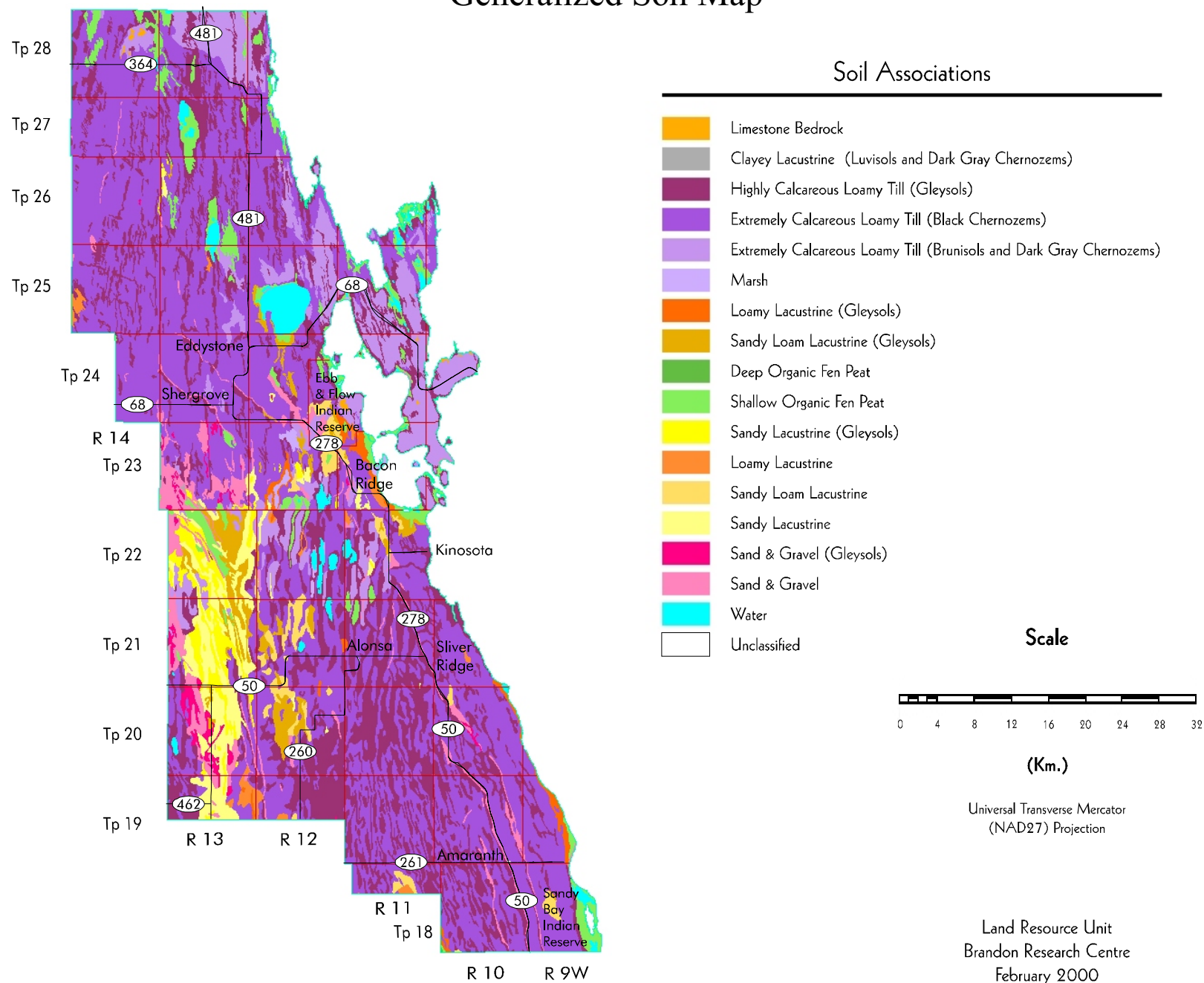
More detailed maps showing the dominant and subdominant soils in each polygon can also be produced at larger map scales.

Table 2. Generalized Soil Groups¹

Soil Groups	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Limestone Bedrock	264	0.1
Clayey Lacustrine (Luvisols and Dark Gray Chernozems)	23	0.0
Highly Calcareous Loamy Till (Gleysols)	71850	22.8
Extremely Calcareous Loamy Till (Black Chernozems)	151797	48.2
Extremely Calcareous Loamy Till (Brunisols and Dark Gray Chernozems)	28000	8.9
Marsh	915	0.3
Loamy Lacustrine (Gleysols)	2490	0.8
Sandy Loam Lacustrine (Gleysols)	7192	2.3
Deep Organic Fen Peat	10	0.0
Shallow Organic Fen Peat	12020	3.8
Sandy Lacustrine (Gleysols)	5052	1.6
Loamy Lacustrine	1892	0.6
Sandy Loam Lacustrine	4685	1.5
Sandy Lacustrine	10095	3.2
Sand and Gravel (Gleysols)	2302	0.7
Sand and Gravel	11792	3.7
Water	4372	1.4
Unclassified	19	0.0
Total	314770	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.

Poor, drained - Water is removed slowly in relation to supply and the soil remains wet for a significant portion of the growing season. Although these soils may retain characteristics of poor internal drainage, extensive surface drainage improvements enable these soils to be used for annual crop production.

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.

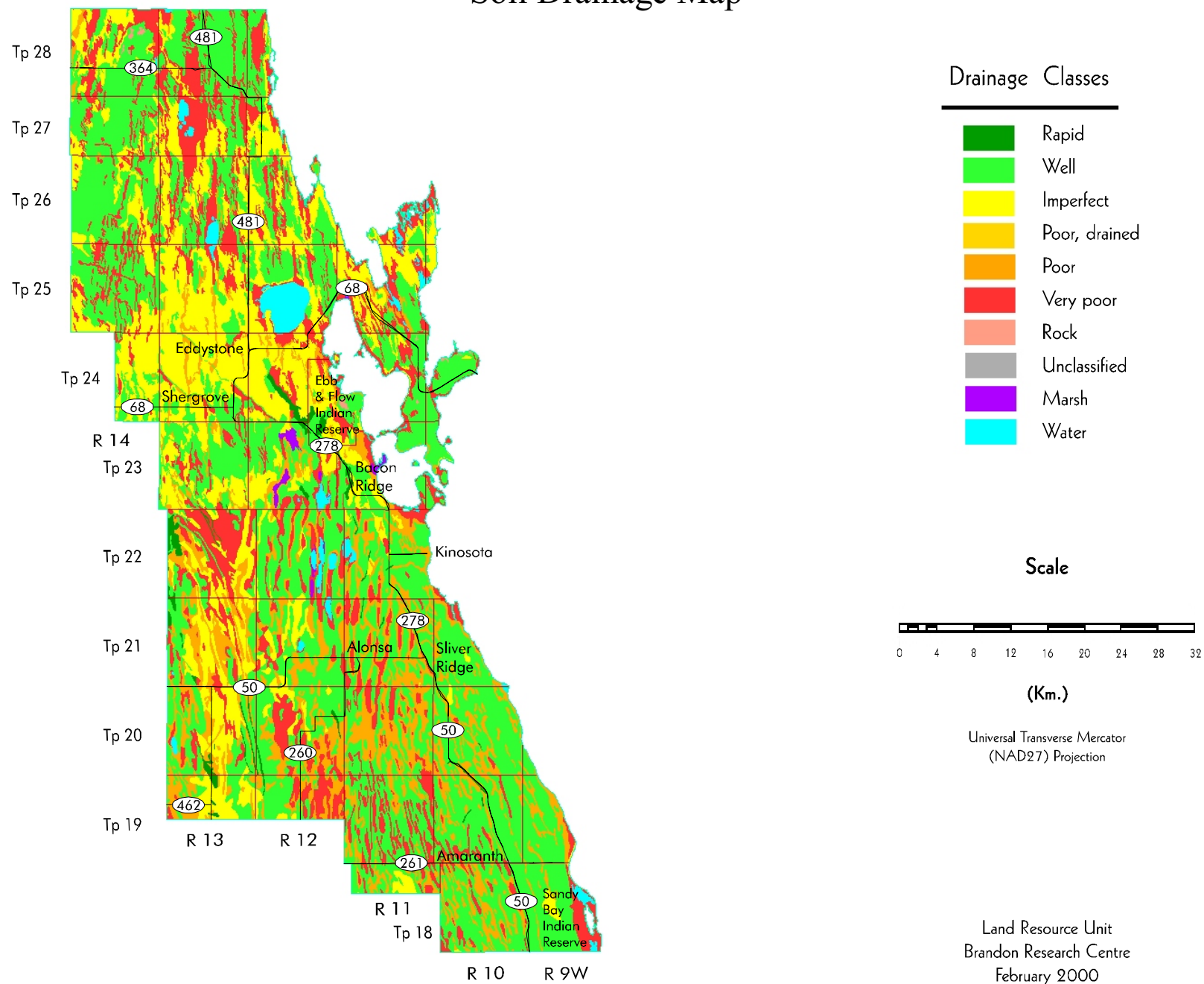
Drainage classification is based on the dominant soil series within each individual soil polygon.

Table 3. Drainage Classes¹

Drainage Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Very Poor	57298	18.2
Poor	43617	13.9
Poor, drained	0	0.0
Imperfect	66814	21.2
Well	138614	44.0
Rapid	2856	0.9
Rock	264	0.1
Marsh	915	0.3
Unclassified	19	0.0
Water	4372	1.4
Total	314770	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.

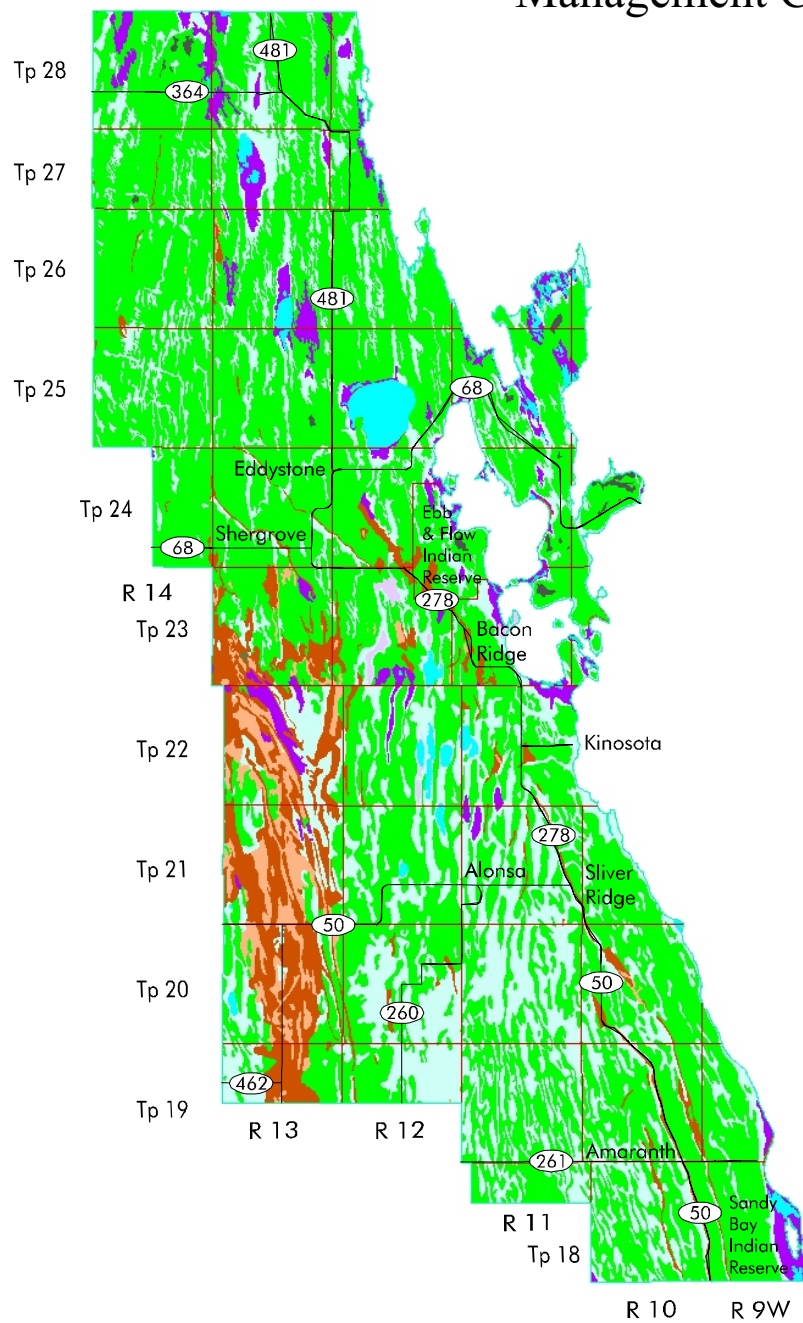
R = Bedrock - soil landscapes that have **shallow depth to bedrock (< 50 cm) and/or exposed bedrock** which may prevent the use of some or all tillage practices as well as the range of potential crops. They require special cropping and management practices to sustain agricultural production.

Table 4. Management Considerations¹

Land Resource Characteristics	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Fine Texture	23	0.0
Fine Texture and Wetness	0	0.0
Fine Texture and Topography	0	0.0
Medium Texture	185822	59.0
Coarse Texture	21887	7.0
Coarse Texture and Wetness	7354	2.3
Coarse Texture and Topography	0	0.0
Topography	0	0.0
Bedrock	816	0.3
Wetness	81532	25.9
Organic	12030	3.8
Marsh	915	0.3
Unclassified	19	0.0
Water	4372	1.4
Total	314770	100.0

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

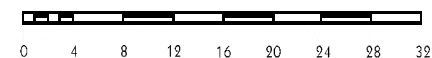
Management Considerations Map



Land Resource Characteristics



Scale



(Km.)

Universal Transverse Mercator
(NAD27) Projection

Land Resource Unit
Brandon Research Centre
February 2000

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 5. Agricultural Capability¹

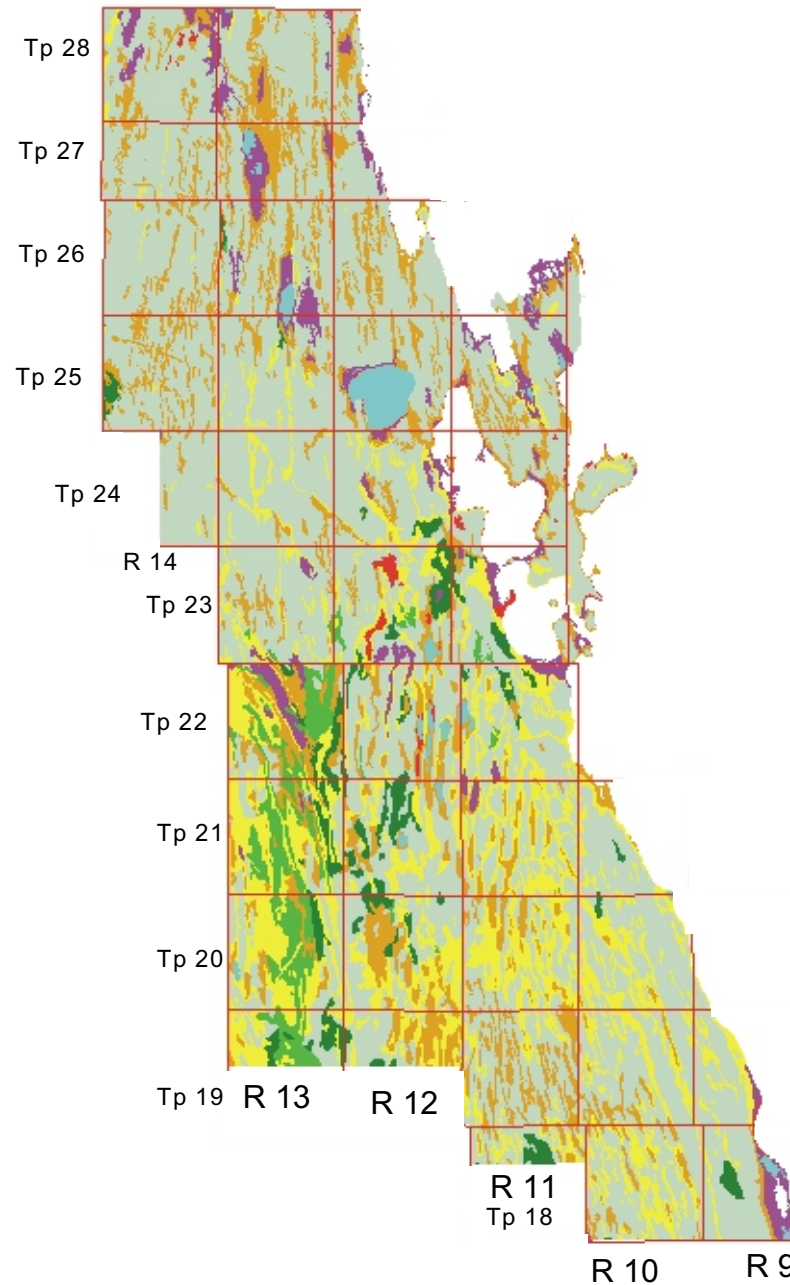
Class Subclass	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
2	8912	2.8
2M	7006	2.2
2W	1900	0.6
2WP	6	0.0
3	8583	2.7
3M	8583	2.7

Table 5. Agricultural Capability¹(cont.)

Class Subclass	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
4	181700	57.7
4DP	179425	57.0
4M	2275	0.7
5	52853	16.8
5M	8712	2.8
5P	400	0.1
5RP	79	0.0
5W	43661	13.9
6	44550	14.2
6P	70	0.0
6W	44480	14.1
7	1810	0.6
7M	625	0.2
7R	267	0.1
7W	918	0.3
Unclassified	8	0.0
Water	4357	1.4
Organic	11994	3.8
Total	314766	100.0

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

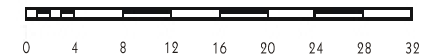
Agriculture Capability Map



Canada Land Inventory Classes



Scale



(Km.)

Universal Transverse Mercator
(NAD27) Projection

Land Resource Unit
Winnipeg Manitoba
June 2003

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.

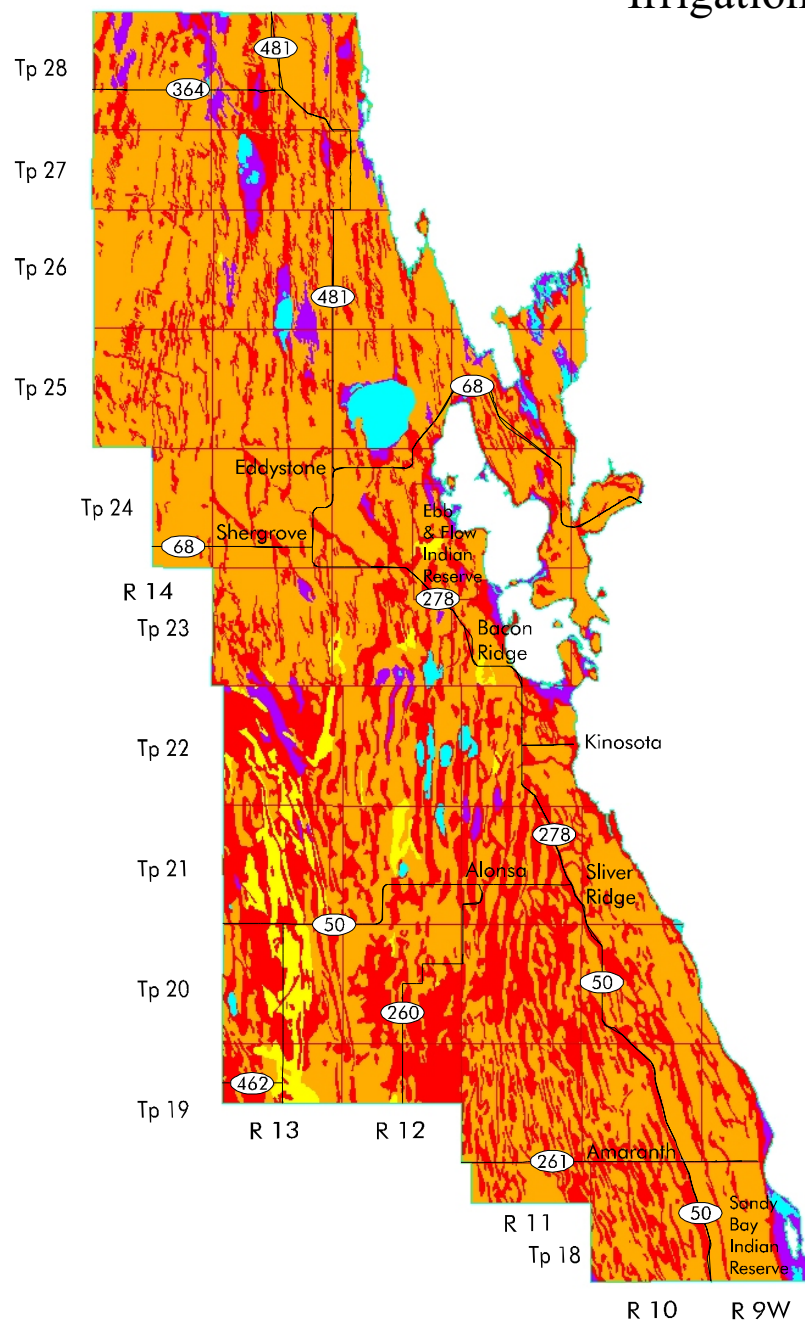
This generalized interpretive map is based on the dominant soil series for each soil polygon, in combination with the dominant slope class. The nature of the subclass limitations and the classification of subdominant components is not shown at this generalized map scale.

Table 6. Irrigation Suitability¹

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Excellent	0	0.0
Good	8698	2.8
Fair	189395	60.2
Poor	100256	31.9
Organic	12030	3.8
Unclassified	19	0.0
Water	4372	1.4
Total	314770	100.0

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

Irrigation Suitability Map



Irrigation Suitability Classes



Scale



(Km.)

Universal Transverse Mercator
(NAD27) Projection

Land Resource Unit
Brandon Research Centre
February 2000

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.

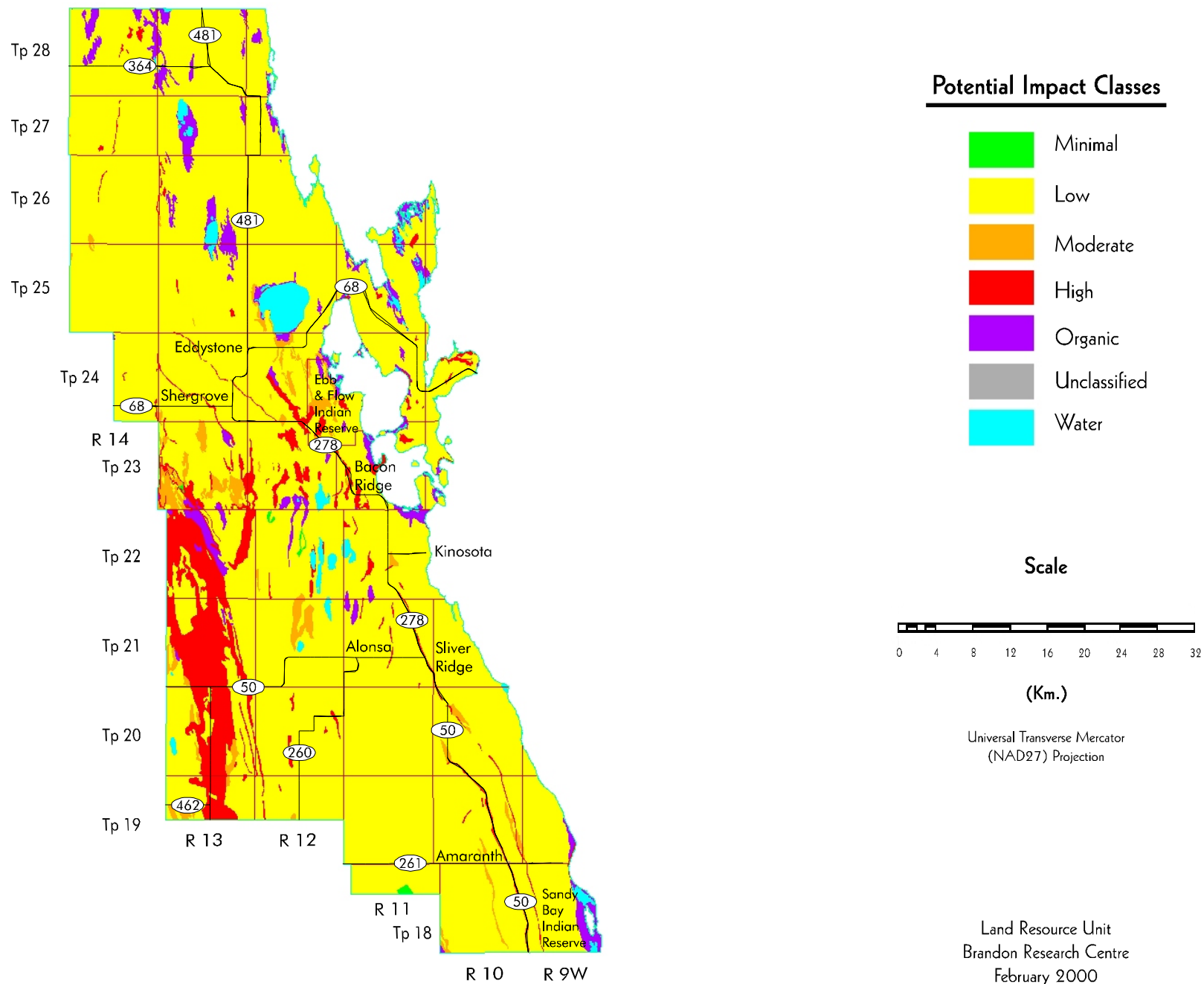
This generalized interpretive map is based on the dominant soil series and slope class for each soil polygon. The nature of the subclass limitations, and the classification of subdominant components is not shown at this generalized map scale.

Table 7. Potential Environmental Impact Under Irrigation¹

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Minimal	290	0.1
Low	268264	85.2
Moderate	7249	2.3
High	22548	7.2
Organic	12030	3.8
Unclassified	19	0.0
Water	4372	1.4
Total	314770	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, average and maximum rainfall intensity, 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

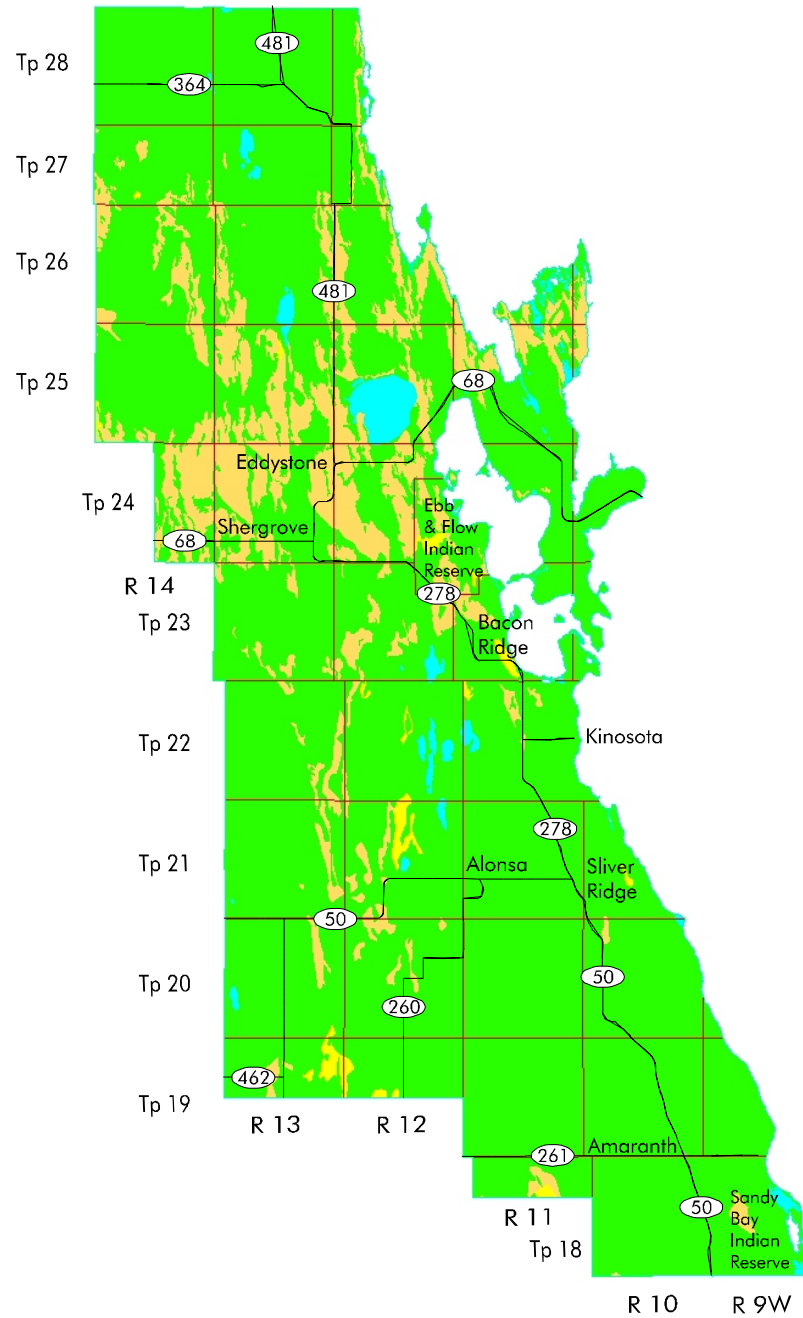
Cropping and residue management practices will significantly reduce this risk depending on crop rotation program, soil type, and landscape features.

Table 8. Water Erosion Risk¹

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Negligible	269207	85.5
Low	38575	12.3
Moderate	2597	0.8
High	0	0.0
Severe	0	0.0
Unclassified	19	0.0
Water	4372	1.4
Total	314770	100.0

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

Water Erosion Risk Map



Mean Risk Values



Scale



(Km.)

Universal Transverse Mercator
(NAD27) Projection

Land Resource Unit
Brandon Research Centre
February 2000

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.

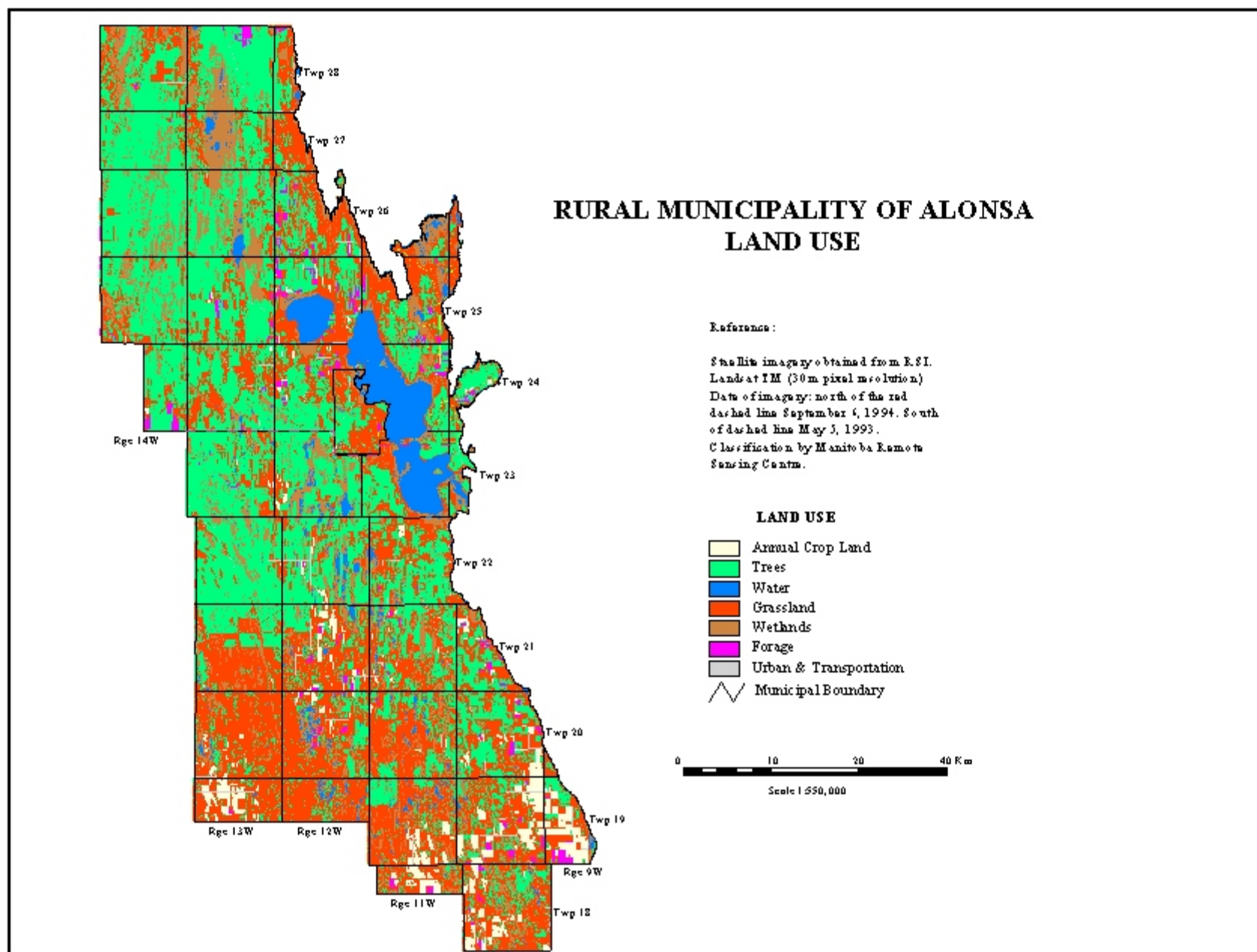
Water - open water - lakes, rivers streams, ponds, and lagoons.

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

Table 9. Land Use¹

Class	Area (ha)	Percent of RM
Annual Crop Land	10798	3.4
Forage	4272	1.3
Grasslands	111478	34.7
Trees	132079	41.1
Wetlands	41320	12.9
Water	18267	5.7
Urban and transportation	3294	1.0
Undifferentiated	0	0.0
Total	321508	100.0

¹ Land use information (1994) and map supplied by Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Areas may vary from previous maps due to differences in analytical procedures.



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