

# *Choosing the Correct System for the Site*



*Tom Fritts*

*tom@residentialsewage.com*

# CIDWT/University Disclaimer

These materials are the collective effort of individuals from academic, regulatory, and private sectors of the onsite/decentralized wastewater industry. These materials have been peer-reviewed and represent the current state of knowledge/science in this field. They were developed through a series of writing and review meetings with the goal of formulating a consensus on the materials presented. These materials do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of North Carolina State University, and/or the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT). The mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation for use from these individuals or entities, nor does it constitute criticism for similar ones not mentioned.



# *Selling the System to Fit the Site*

## ➤ *Learning objectives*

- *Get familiar with the site*
- *Review gravity flow options*
- *Review dosed flow options*
- *Educate the homeowner*
- *Learn the “Onsite Café Menu”*

# *Get Familiar With The Site*

## ➤ *Soil Profile or ~~Perc Test~~ – The Price List*

- *Horizons*
- *Clay content*
- *Mottles*
- *Suggested loading rate*
- *Limiting conditions*

# *Get Familiar With The Site*

## ➤ *Site visit*

- *Plot plan or survey*
- *House location*
- *Proposed future buildings*
  - *Garage, workshop or shed*
  - *Pool*
  - *Landscaping*
- *Topography*

# The “Onsite Café” Menu

- *Gravity flow using septic tank effluent*
- *Gravity flow using advanced treatment effluent*
- *Dosed Flow*
  - *LPP – septic effluent, demand dosed*
  - *LPP – septic effluent, time dosed*
  - *LPP - Advanced effluent, demand dosed*
  - *LPP – Advanced effluent, time dosed*
  - *Drip irrigation – demand dosed*
  - *Drip irrigation – time dosed*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – septic / demand*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – septic / timed*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – adv / demand*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – adv / timed*
  - *Mound system – Drip Mound*

# *Gravity Flow Distribution*

- *Simplest way to distribute effluent to the soil treatment area*
- *Two most popular methods are parallel or serial distribution*
- *Many choices of media types now available for the trenches*

# *Gravity-flow Distribution*

- **Serial distribution**
  - *Receives flow by gravity*
  - *Distributes flow by gravity*
  - Sequentially *loads laterals, forcing one to fully pond before a gravity flow to the next lateral*
  - *Typically uses 4 inch pipe*
  - *Needs device to force ponding and allow sequential loading of laterals*

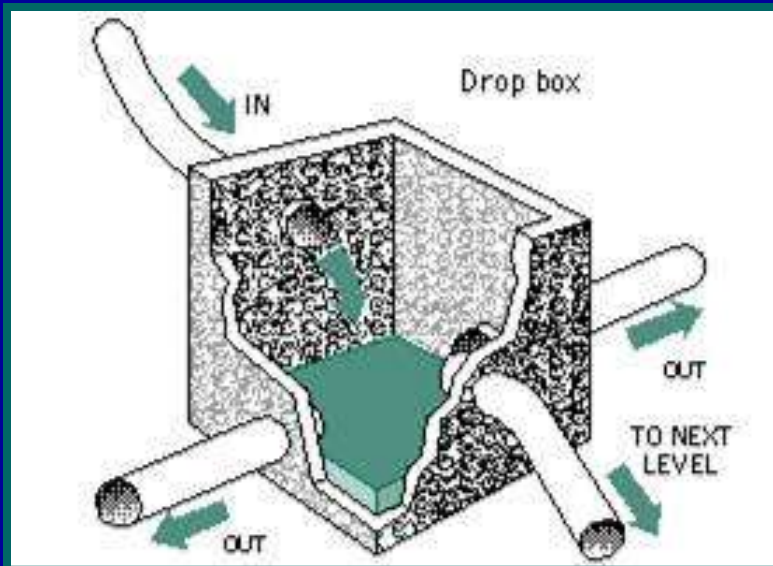


# Gravity-flow Distribution

- Serial distribution

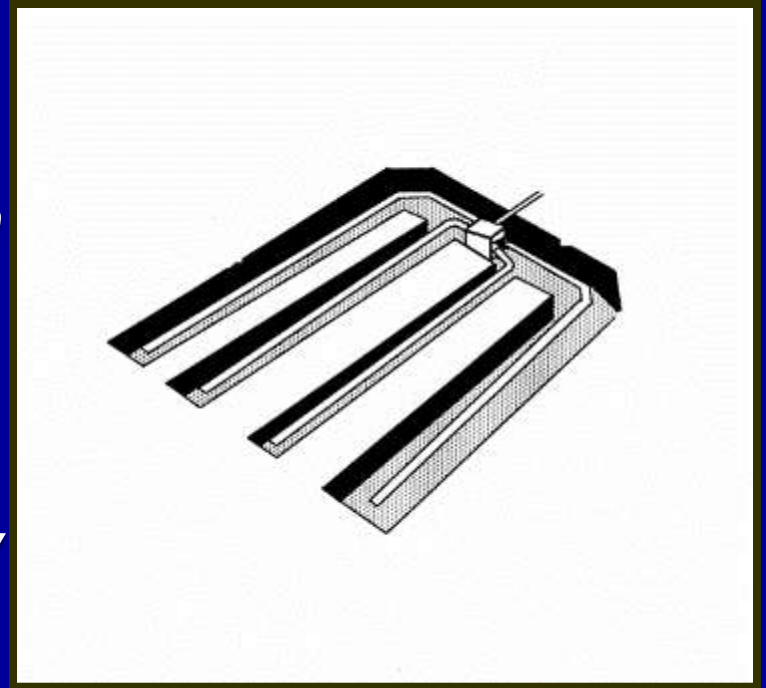
- **Drop box**

- A box that forces liquid in a trench to pond fully prior to allowing it to spill over to the next downstream trench – sequential loading



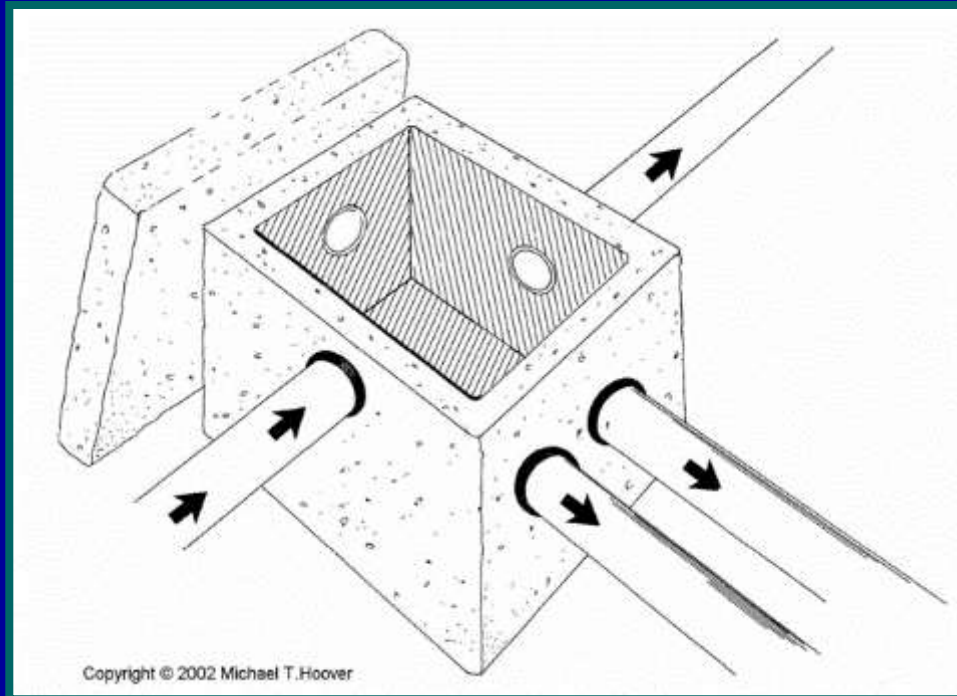
# *Gravity-flow Distribution*

- ***Parallel distribution***
  - *Network of equal length laterals*
    - *Receive flow by gravity*
    - *Distribute flow by gravity*
  - *Typically 4-inch pipe*



# Gravity-flow Distribution

- Parallel distribution
  - Flow-splitting devices



# Gravity-flow Distribution

- **Parallel distribution - Distribution box**
  - Problem with assuring outlets stay at same level
  - Tools exist to help assure this











# *Gravity-flow Distribution*

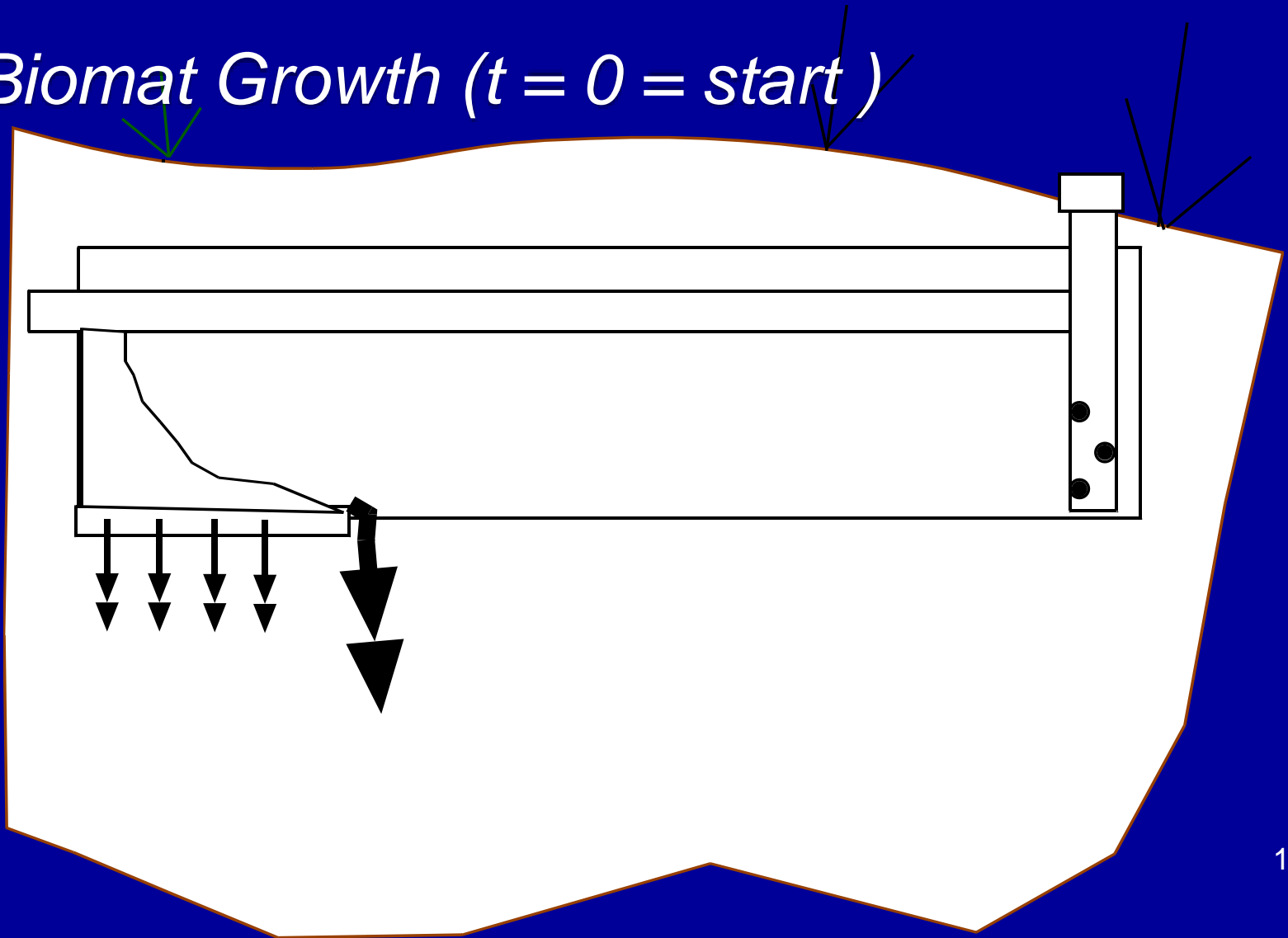
- **Parallel distribution**

- *Distribution box needs to be watertight*
  - *Should be accessible from the surface for O&M*
- *Individual lines can be closed off*
- *Each lateral should be parallel to slope contour*
- *Bottom of each lateral should be flat*
- *Even if there are equal flows to each lateral, flows will not be uniform down length of laterals*



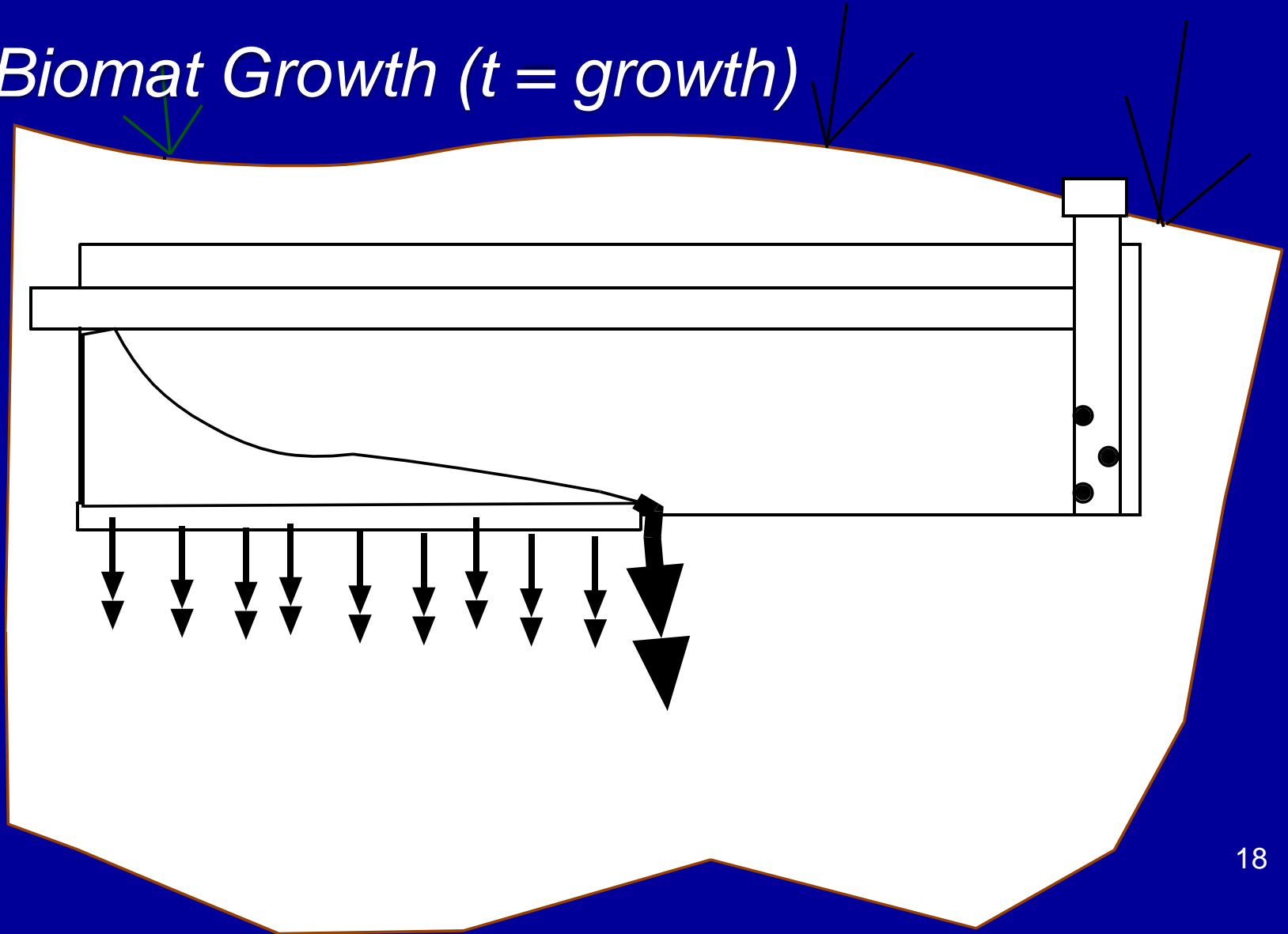
# *Flow pattern in a gravity trench*

- *Biomat Growth (t = 0 = start)*



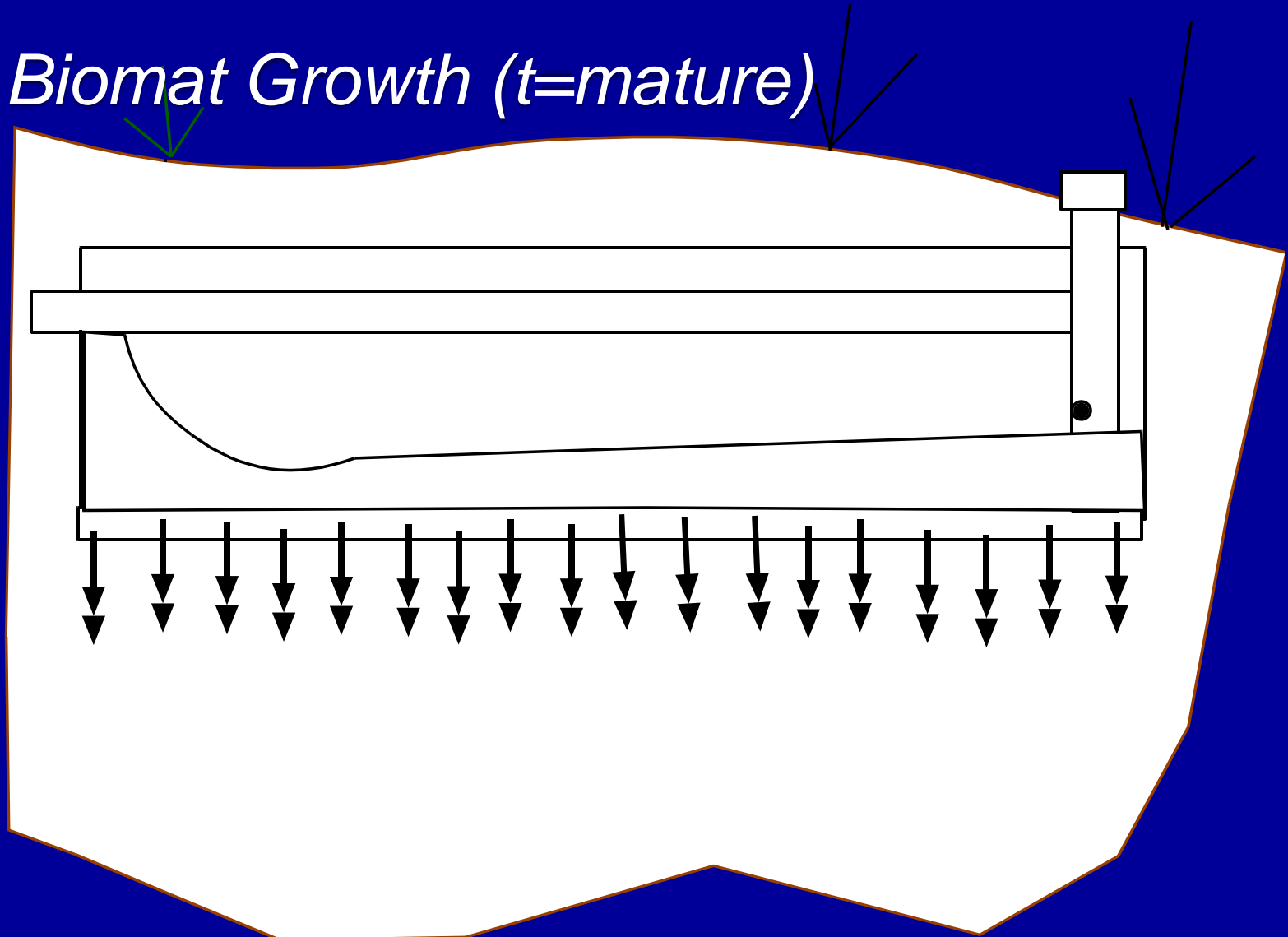
# *Flow pattern in a gravity trench*

- *Biomat Growth ( $t = \text{growth}$ )*



# *Flow pattern in a gravity trench*

- *Biomat Growth (t=mature)*



# Distribution Media

- *What's the difference?*
  - *Choices*
  - *No 'Value Judgment'*
- *Rock*
- *Chamber*
- *Gravelless pipe*
- *Synthetic media*
- *Other*



# *Dosed Flow Distribution*

# *Application/Distribution Options*

- ***Dosed-flow distribution***
  - *Predetermined volumes of effluent are held in a chamber and dosed to the next component.*
  - *This provides:*
    - *More uniform loading to next component*
    - *Resting times between doses*



# *Dosed-flow Distribution*

- ***Other pertinent information***
  - *Can be used to distribute effluent in almost any situation*
  - *Costs more and is more complex than gravity flow*
  - *For many has become the method of choice*
  - *On-going monitoring & maintenance are important*
  - *Alarms are needed*

# *Dosed-flow Distribution*

- ***Dosing methods - Demand***
  - *Dose occurs when sufficient volume of effluent has been collected.*
  - *Dosing frequency depends on how much wastewater is being generated.*
  - *There is no control on how much effluent is being dosed daily*



# *Dosed-flow Distribution*

- ***Dosing methods - Timed***
  - *Timer controls number of doses per day & dose volume*
  - *Will allow only certain amount of effluent to be dosed daily*
  - *Protects downstream components from overloading*
  - *Useful for controlling surges or big-flow days*

# Dosed-flow Distribution

- **Dosing methods - Timed**
  - *A timer controls the dosing device.*



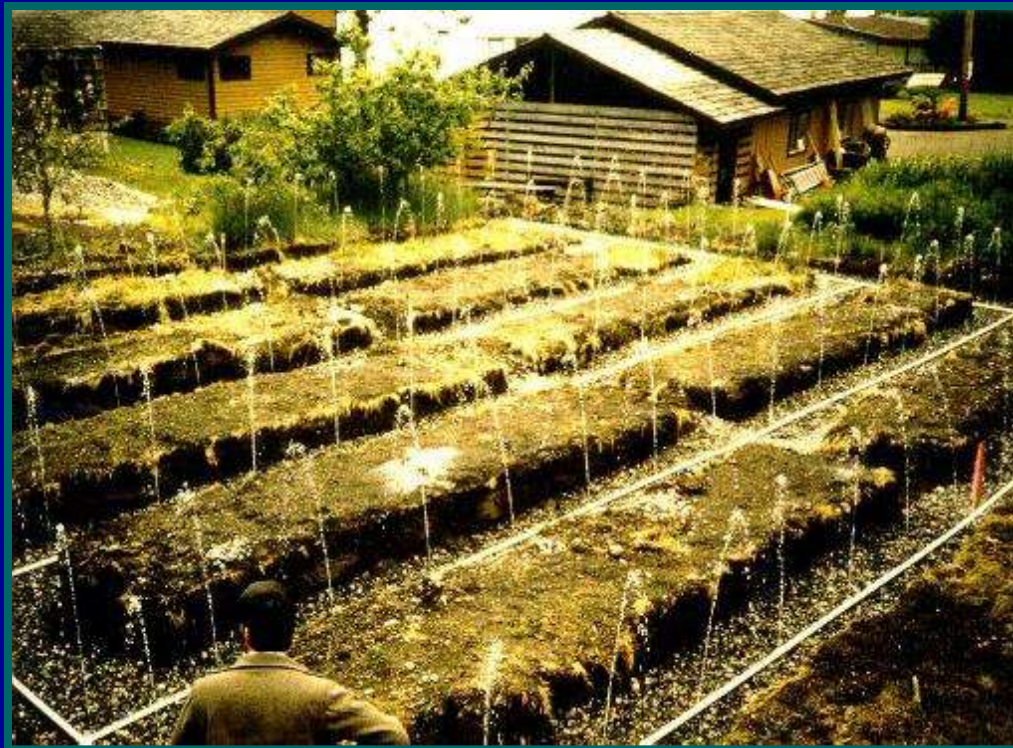
# *Pressure Distribution*

- ***Objectives:***
  - *Quickly pressurize network*
  - *Be fully pressurized for most of dose*
  - *Minimize draining into lower laterals*
  - *Have about the same amount of effluent reach each square foot of infiltrative surface*

# *Low Pressure Distribution*

# *Dosed-flow Distribution Low Pressure Pipe System*

- *Options – Pressure distribution*
  - *Designed to distribute effluent uniformly over infiltrative surface of receiving component.*



# *Pressure Distribution*

## *Low Pressure Pipe System*

- ***Design considerations***
  - *The smaller the orifice diameter: the greater the potential for plugging*
  - *The smaller the orifices and the greater their spacing:*
    - *The faster the network will pressurize*
    - *The smaller the pump must be (gpm)*
  - *Orifices at 12 o'clock will help network pressurize faster but are more subject to:*
    - *Plugging*
    - *Freezing in cold weather areas*



# *Low Pressure Pipe (LPP) system*



*End feed manifold*



# *LPP Trench Cross-section*





*Lateral turn up showing EZ FLOW  
option – sleeved line shown at rear*



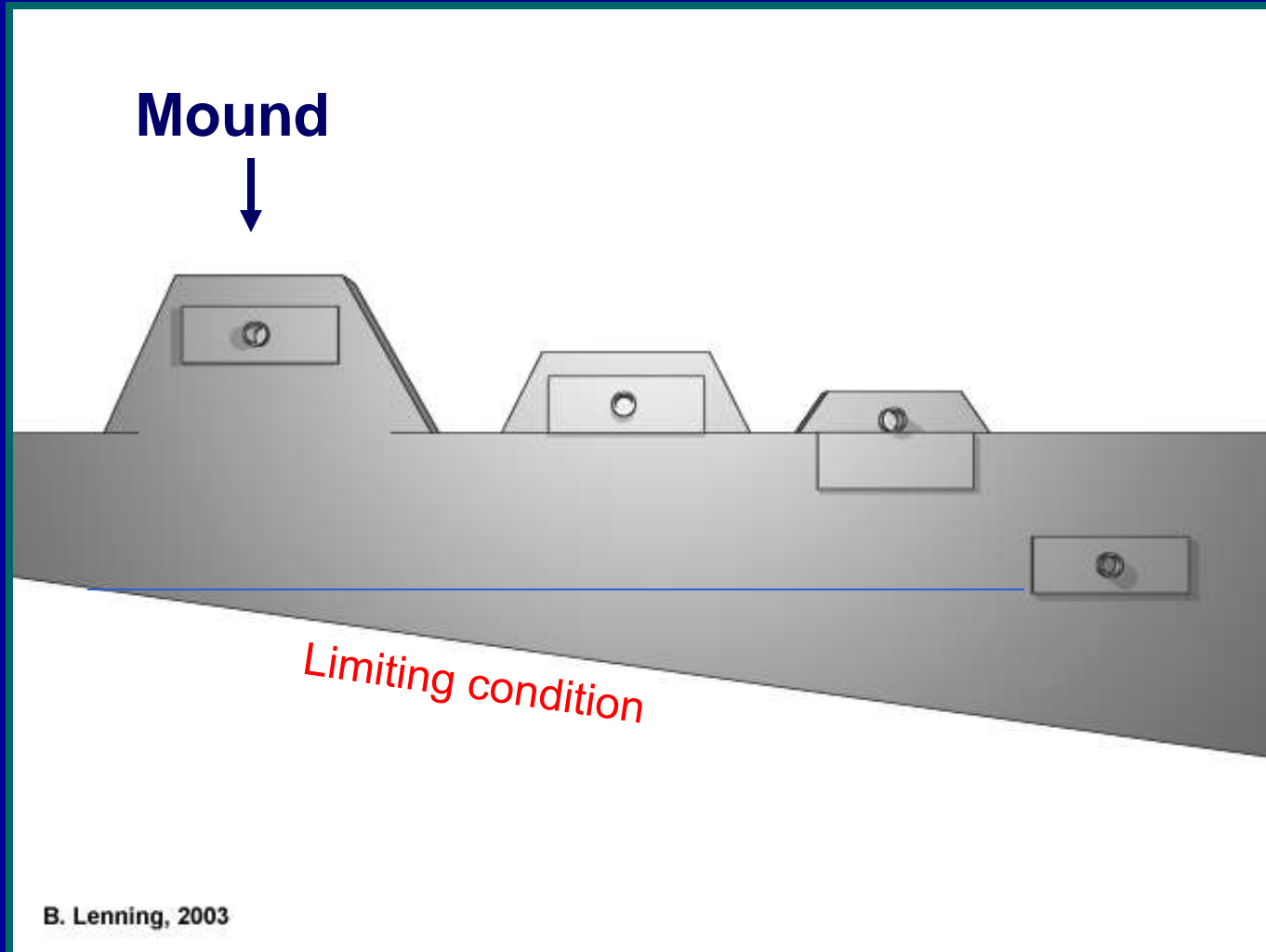
# *Wisconsin Mound System*

# *Subsurface Dispersal*

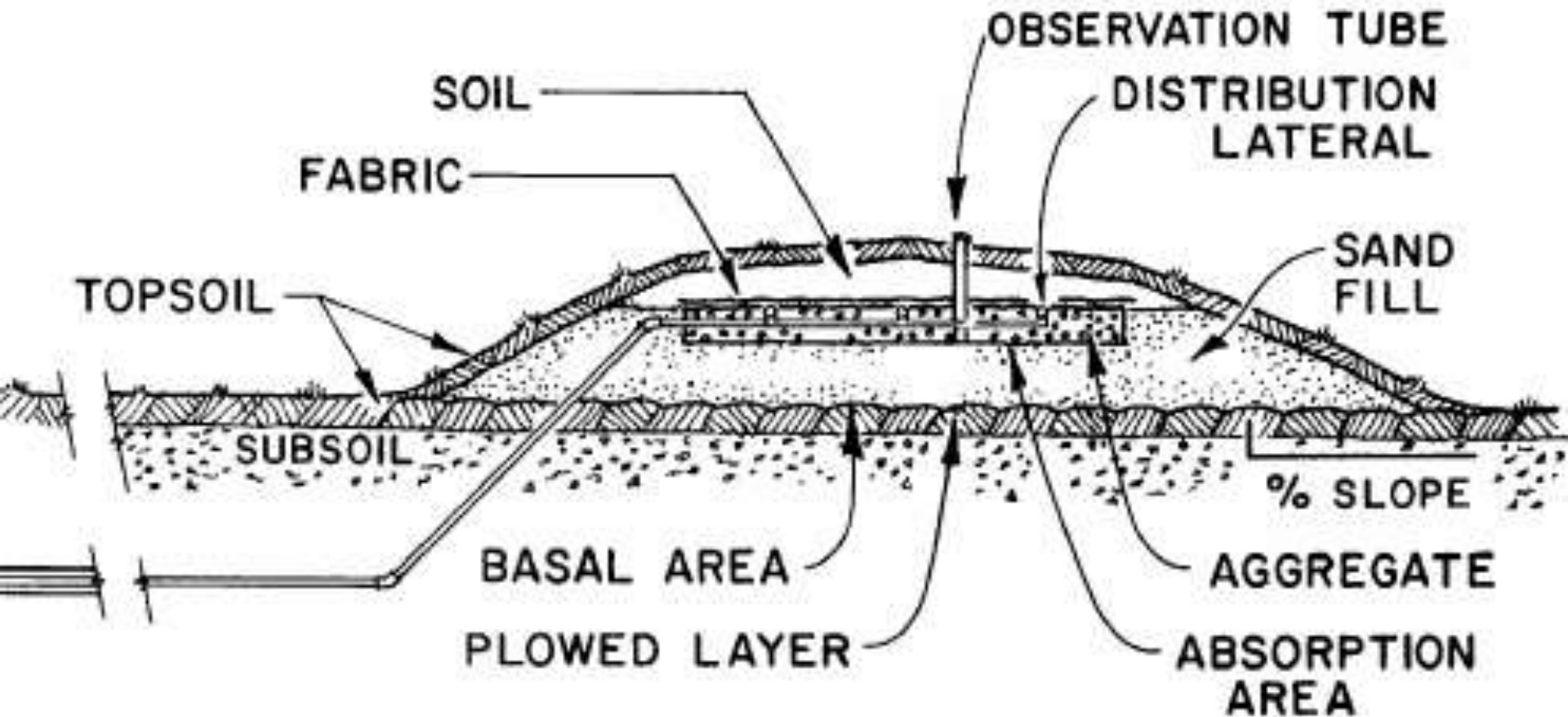
- **Mound system**

- *Surface of original soil must be prepared properly*
- *On sloping property, keep linear loading rate down*
  - *Long and narrow*
  - *Length parallel to the contour lines*

# Mound System



# Wisconsin Mound



# *Drip Irrigation*



# *Dosed-flow Distribution*

- ***Options – Drip distribution***
  - *A small diameter pressurized distribution network that delivers small, precise volumes of pretreated effluent at slow controlled rates.*



# *Drip Distribution*

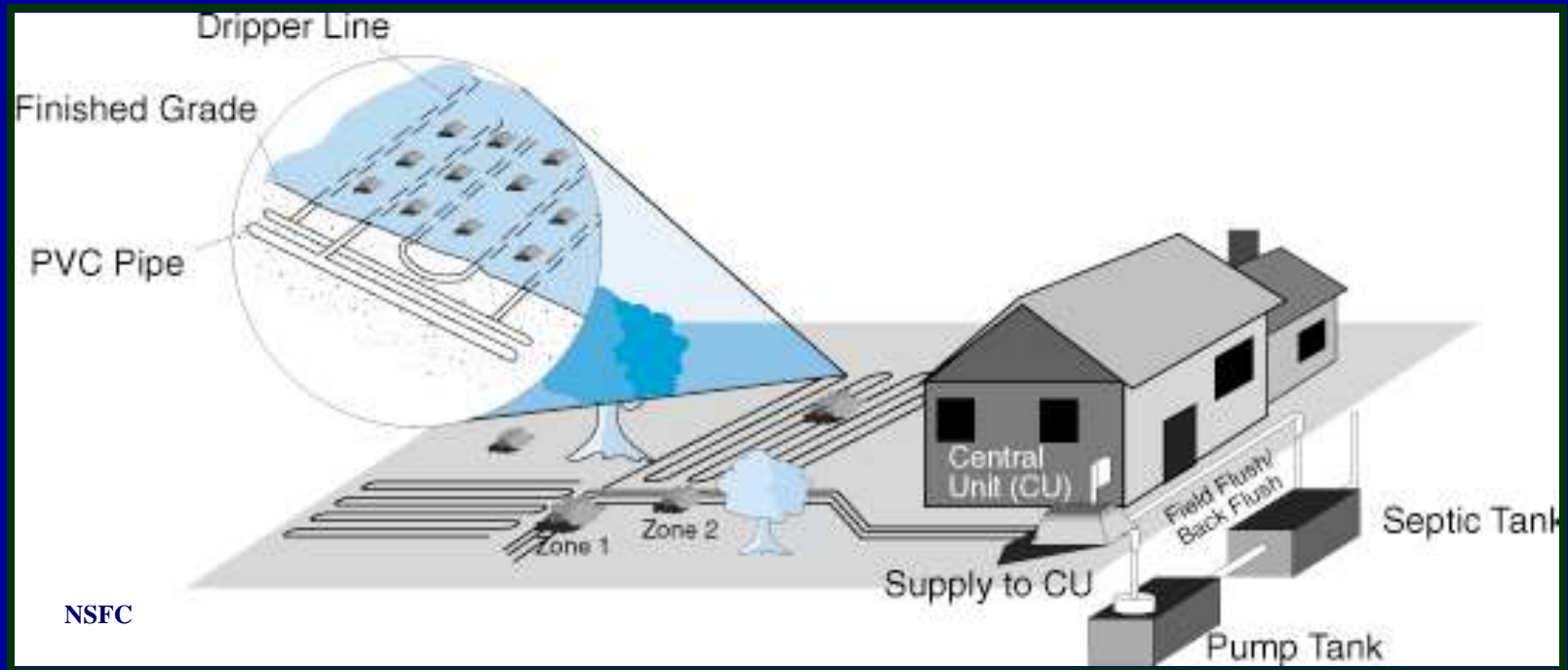
- *Like miniature version of pressure distribution*
- *Emitters instead of orifices*





# Drip Distribution

- What it looks like



# *The Benefits of Drip Irrigation*

*Controlled & Uniform Dosing*

*Currently the most effective system  
known for*



- Even dosing over area*
- Even dosing over time*

# *Drip Irrigation*

- *Small doses of wastewater into the soil.*
- *Uniform distribution over the entire area.*
- *Wastewater moves through soil under unsaturated flow conditions, thus effectively treating the wastewater.*
- *Wastewater can be dosed into the active surface layer of the soil.*

# *Drip Mound*

# *Mound History*

- *The basic mound system in use today was developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the early 1970's by Dr. Jim Converse*
- *The Wisconsin Mound has been widely accepted and incorporated in many state regulations today*
- *BUT....Why a mound ??????*

# *Why a Mound*

- *The main purpose of a mound is to provide sufficient additional treatment capacity and vertical separation to a limiting condition and produce an effluent equivalent to, or better than, a conventional onsite disposal system*
- *But....Why a Missouri Mound ??????*



# *Why a (Missouri) Mound*

- *Because of:*
  - *Chiles Airport*
  - *Charlene Weiss*
  - *Alan Thomas*
  - *Dr. Jim Converse*

# *Initial Wetting Front*



# *Wetting Front Hits Course Sand*



# *Wetting Front Stacks Up Above Boundary*



# Missouri Mound

- *What else is contributing the success of the Missouri Mound*
  - *Uniform distribution over area and time*
  - *A typical Wisconsin Mound would have 60 to 100 holes or emitter points*
  - *A typical Missouri Mound would have 900 emitter points*









# *The Onsite Café Menu*

## *Advantages / Disadvantages*

- *Gravity flow using septic tank effluent*
- *Gravity flow using advanced treatment effluent*
- *Dosed Flow*
  - *LPP – septic effluent, demand dosed*
  - *LPP – septic effluent, time dosed*
  - *LPP - Advanced effluent, demand dosed*
  - *LPP – Advanced effluent, time dosed*
  - *Drip irrigation – demand dosed*
  - *Drip irrigation – time dosed*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – septic / demand*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – septic / timed*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – adv / demand*
  - *Mound system – Wisconsin Mound – adv / timed*
  - *Mound system – Drip Mound*

*Let me see  
that Onsite  
Café Menu !!*

*Never  
mind.....I know  
what you  
need...*

