

ABSTRACT

SODIUM AND WATER INTAKE RATES IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

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Sodium in irrigation water can have serious effects on crop production by reducing water intake rates, resulting in excessive run off. There are large areas in Eastern Washington where the soil is especially sensitive to sodium hazards. Unfortunately, well waters in these sensitive areas frequently have excessive sodium content and sodium or alkali problems are beginning to develop.

This presentation will outline where the problem presently occurs and where it is expected to develop. The mechanism of sodium damage to soil will be explained. Information will be presented as to how to correct damage already done and how to prevent further development of sodium problems.