



Soil Sterilant and Edge Drainage



Figure 1

Growing a good crop of grass alongside your airport pavements reduces erosion and rough drainage channels. However, vegetation growth too close to the shoulder of the pavement can damage the pavement and reduce its lifespan. Figures 1 and 2 show how vegetation can grow into and break up a pavement surface.

Sterilizing the edge of the pavement can be a fairly easy process (Figure 3). Check with your local extension agent or licensed agricultural applicator for chemical recommendations, application rates, and recommended timing.



Figure 2

Sterilizing too large an area adjacent to the runway should also be avoided. It can result in erosion “trenches” in the shoulder area that could turn a runway departure “mishap” into major aircraft damage and possible injury to pilot and passengers.



Figure 3

Soil sterilant can be applied to the first foot of soil outside the pavement edge to avoid vegetation damage, keep the ride smooth, and extend your pavement life.

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