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| A comparison of secondary drainage systems: | | | |
| **Shelton Gravel Band Drainage** | **Shelton System 25™** | **Slit trench drainage sand slitting** | **Shelton Lightening-drain™** |
| One pass operation | One pass operation | Two or three pass operation | One pass operation |
| Trench width 25mm | Trench width 25mm | Trench width 50mm | Trench width 35mm |
| Trench depth 300mm | Trench depth 350mm | Trench depth 250mm | Trench depth 450mm |
| Spacings usually 400mm to 1,000mm | Spacings usually 400mm to 1,000mm | Spacings usually 1,000mm to 2,000mm | Spacings usually 500mm to 1,000mm |
| Aggregate brought close to surface | Aggregate brought close to surface | Aggregate brought up to 2” of surface, topped off with free draining sand | Aggregate brought close to surface |
| Cost per linear unit = x | Cost per linear unit = 2x | Cost per linear unit = 3x | Cost per linear unit = 4-5x |
| Negligible chance of trench opening-up in dry weather | Little chance of trench opening-up in dry weather | Moderate risk of trench opening-up in dry weather | Little chance of trench opening-up in dry weather |
| Safety: Excellent | Safety: Good | Safety: Some risks | Safety: Good |
| Must be undertaken when soils are moist to very moist | Best undertaken when soils are on the dry side | Best undertaken in dry conditions | Best undertaken when soils are on the dry side |
| Minimum labour requirement: one person | Minimum labour requirement: two persons, preferably three | Minimum labour requirement: two persons, preferably three | Minimum labour requirement: three persons |
| Output per day: circa 6000 metres | Output per day: circa 3000 metres | Output per day: circa 3000 metres | Output per day: circa 1500-2000 metres |