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Market Grower Fact Sheet Water Reuse System

UNDER NSW environmental law you must not allow chemicals and contaminated water to enter a watercourse or leave your property. Penalties can be severe and may result in large fines or jail. However, you can create an on-farm water recycling system for your farm that will save you money through:

- Improving your crop productivity
- Reducing your water and chemical use
- Improving disease management
- Reducing your legal liability



The system will require council approval and may cost around \$10,000 (using qualified tradespeople).



There are a few systems you can use. One system catches run-off from the farm and stores it before it is cleaned in a reed bed or sand filter. The reed bed breaks down chemicals and bacteria. The filtered water can then be reused on the farm, reducing the overall amount of chemicals and water you use and therefore operation costs. You can re-use this captured/stored water to water your vegetables or garden. It will need regular monitoring of nutrient levels and disease causing organisms.

This water recycling system has three main parts:

- Water storage
- Reed bed filtration
- Run-off capture and return

For more information please call:

NSW Department of Primary Industries on 02 4588 2107.

If you require the assistance of an interpreter call TIS on 131 450.

This **Market Grower Fact Sheet** is part of a series designed to support growers from a non-English speaking background. For more information please contact your local Council. If you require an interpreter call TIS on 131 450.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (November 2007). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.