

Tips for Eliminating Erosion

1. **Calculate Your Slope** for terracing using stakes, string and a measuring tape.

- **Place** two stakes in the ground - one at the top of the slope and one at the bottom.
- **Take** a 5' to 20' long string and wrap it around both stakes, pulling it taut.
- **Attach** a **line level** to the middle of the string and allow it to hang down beneath the string.
- **Determine** the **Rise** of the Slope by measuring the distance between the ground and the string on **Stake A** on the lower part of the slope, and doing the same on **Stake B** on the upper part of the slope.
- **Subtract** the **Stake B** distance from **Stake A** distance. This is the **Rise** of the slope.
- **Determine** the **Run** of the Slope by measuring the length of the string between the stakes.
- **Divide** the **Rise** by the **Run** and multiply by 100 to determine the percent of slope.

2. **Make and Use a Bunyip** to calculate the slope (see p. 25).

3. **Think About Irrigation** before doing any hillside work. Drip tubing is ideal for sloped areas, especially for wider-spaced shrubs and trees. Pressure compensating emitters should be used for all irrigation (see p. 34).

4. **Apply Water In Short Durations** so that it can be fully absorbed into the soil between application times. This is called Cycling and Soaking (see p. 66).

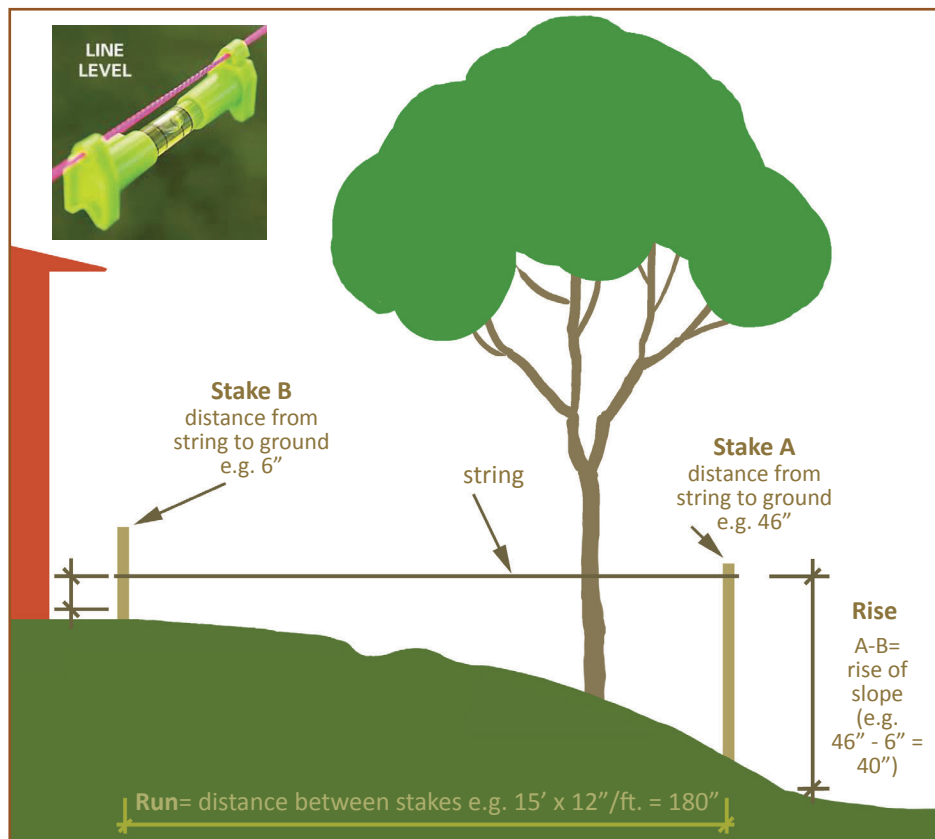
5. **Separate Irrigation Valves For Top and Bottom** of the slope, and place irrigation emitters above the plant basins. Check Valves should be placed on the lower emitters of all spray systems to avoid low point runoff.

6. **Capture On Contour** using very shallow mulch-filled or planted basins to slow, spread and sink rainwater and any irrigation runoff to nourish the hillside root systems (see p. 57).

7. **Pathways For Maintenance** make it easier to walk around on the hillside after plants are established. Try to create at least 18" wide footpaths or stepping stones that can be incorporated into rainwater capture.

8. **Natural Form Plants**, correctly spaced when planted, keep maintenance to a minimum.

Contour Hillside with Caution



Rise of Slope = Stake A - Stake B = 46" - 6" = 40"

Run of Slope = 180"

Slope Percentage is Rise Divided by Run Multiplied by 100 or 40" ÷ 180" x 100 = 22%

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