

RIPARIAN MARGINS! CHECKLIST

HOW TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN

TAKING DISTANCES FROM WATERCOURSES AND DITCHES

The riparian margin is an area where cultivation and fertilizer application are prohibited, but there are some technicalities. Here is a table summarizing the distances to maintain.

<p>“any mass of water running along a bed in a regular or intermittent flow, including a bed created or altered by human intervention, the St. Lawrence River and all the seas surrounding Québec, except a ditch [...]” - Section 2.8 of the PPLRLZF.</p>	<p>A ditch is a channel that can run along roads (public or private), that can delineate the land (adjacent), or that allows drainage of land. See section 103 of the Municipal Powers Act.</p>
<p>IF IN DOUBT, IT IS A WATERCOURSE</p>	<p>ATTENTION It becomes a watercourse if it drains 100 ha or more, or if it intercepts a watercourse.</p>

The RCM or your municipal inspector can tell you if it is a watercourse or not!

A WATERCOURSE

Distance measured from the high-water mark (HWM)

A DITCH

Distance measured from the flat ditch top

PROHIBITIONS	<p>CULTIVATION Protection Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains (PPLRLZF) - Section 3.2.f</p>	<p>3 metres from the high-water mark, including 1 metre min. at the flat top of the bank if the bank is < 3 metres</p>	<p>The PPLRLZF does not identify the distance to maintain from ditches</p>
	<p>FERTILIZER Agricultural Operations Regulation (AOR) - Section 30</p>	<p>The minimum distance follows municipal regulations on riparian margins OR If there are no municipal regulations = 3 metres from the HWM and if there is a flat = minimum 1 metre on the flat</p>	<p>1 metre, measured from the flat top of the ditch</p>
	<p>PESTICIDES Pesticides Management Code (PMC) - Section 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In water flow area < 2 metres² = 1 metre distance > 2 metres² = 3 metres distance</p>	

DESTRUCTIVE WILDLIFE

Sometimes, destructive wildlife (muskrats, beavers, etc.) can make life difficult! But muskrats, for example, have a weakness: they are lazy! You can encourage them to move on by planting vegetation with tough roots; trees and shrubs are preferred plants!

If you continue to have problems with wildlife, contact a wildlife officer and ask about your options!



GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES (PPLRLZF) < PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME < MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS

Although the PPLRLZF is a provincial document, applicable municipal regulations take precedence and can be stricter! Don't hesitate to contact the inspector to confirm what applies in your municipality!

WHAT ARE...

THE HIGH-WATER MARK (HWM)?

In a watercourse without a retaining wall or other water retaining structure, the high-water mark is at the level, on the shore, where a predominance of aquatic plants gives way to a predominance of terrestrial plants! Otherwise, the 0-2-year flood limit can be used as the HWM. - Section 2.1 of the PPLRLZF

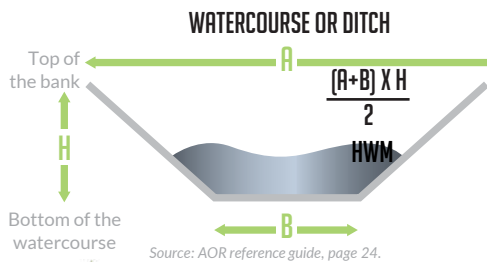
ADVICE

Determining the high-water mark is complex, but you can easily get a good idea of where this line is! In the spring, note the maximum level reached by the water! Attention! The bank may recede over time, and crops will also need to be pushed further back!

AND...

THE WATER FLOW AREA?

Excerpt from the AOR, Section 6



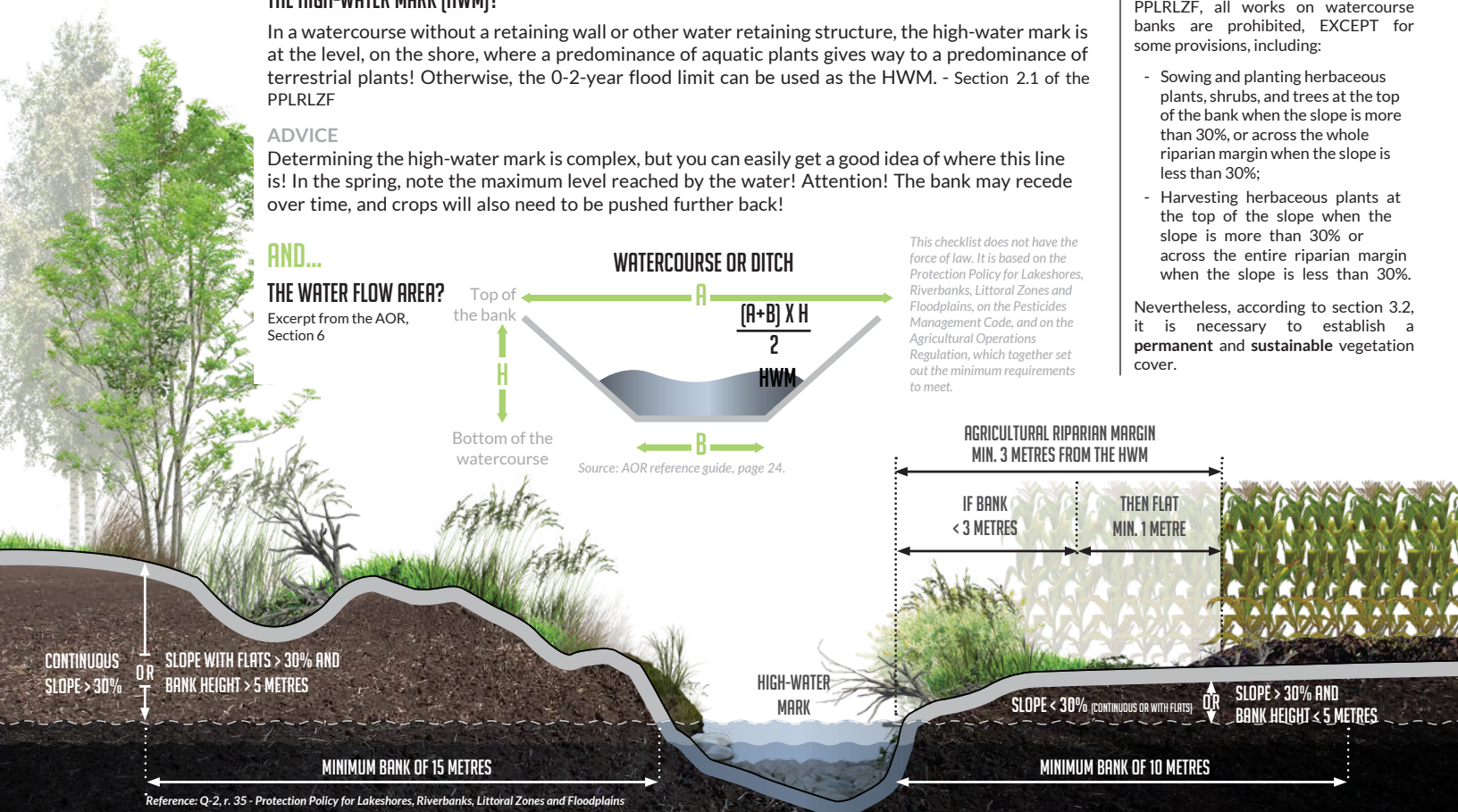
This checklist does not have the force of law. It is based on the Protection Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains, on the Pesticides Management Code, and on the Agricultural Operations Regulation, which together set out the minimum requirements to meet.

REMINDER

According to section 3.2 of the PPLRLZF, all works on watercourse banks are prohibited, EXCEPT for some provisions, including:

- Sowing and planting herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees at the top of the bank when the slope is more than 30%, or across the whole riparian margin when the slope is less than 30%;
- Harvesting herbaceous plants at the top of the slope when the slope is more than 30% or across the entire riparian margin when the slope is less than 30%.

Nevertheless, according to section 3.2, it is necessary to establish a permanent and sustainable vegetation cover.



Reference: Q-2, r. 35 - Protection Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains

Cultivating land on the banks of watercourses is a privilege for farmers. Let's take care of them!