

Removing clippings makes dykes stronger

Dykes with a dense network of deep roots are better able to withstand erosion when water levels are high, shows a study by Wageningen Environmental Research that was commissioned by the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management. If clippings are removed, the root penetration improves substantially within only three years. 'If the clippings are left, plants have access to food and they expend less energy creating root systems,' explains researcher Friso van der Zee. 'Removing the clippings and making the soil poorer encourages plants to produce more and deeper roots.'

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