

# THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SOIL TESTING

Soil testing is a critical tool for farmers, providing valuable information about soil chemistry and fertility that can be used to make informed decisions about crop management and fertiliser application.

Conducting consistent and regular soil testing is a great management tactic allowing producers to understand how their management practices impact production and long-term sustainability.

## What are the benefits of soil testing?

**Yield booster - Are you applying at the right time?**

By digging deeper into soil chemistry, producers can find out exactly what they have available and what their crops need to thrive. With soil test results in hand, producers can then adjust their nutrient requirements and give their crops the right nutrients at the right time, leading to increased production..

**Money saver - Are you pouring money down the drain?**

Regular soil testing assists producers avoid using too much fertiliser. All soils have a limited nutrient carrying capacity. Once this is reached excess nutrients are leach out of the soil and wasted. Soils in the Northern Territory, for the most part, are low in the chemical and physical properties that determine soil nutrient capacity. By testing soil, producers can find out exactly how much fertiliser is needed, saving money and reducing the risk of soil and water pollution, helping to keep the planet clean and green.



In the field soil testing



Soil in a bag ready for testing

For more information:

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## Soil superhero - Why is it important to test regularly?

Healthy soil is the root of successful agriculture. By regularly testing soil, producers can make sure they are giving their soil the love and devotion it deserves. Producers should use regular soil testing as a tactic to track the trajectory of their soils. By doing this producers will be able to see if they are moving in the right direction, leading to healthier crops.

## Plant pal - How can testing prevent disease?

Regular soil testing helps farmers deliver the right nutrients at the right time, leading to healthier plants. Well-nourished crops are less susceptible to stress and disease and are better equipped to defend against pests. Soil testing can also help farmers identify soil-borne pathogens and take action to control the spread of disease, maintaining crop health.



Lessons in soil



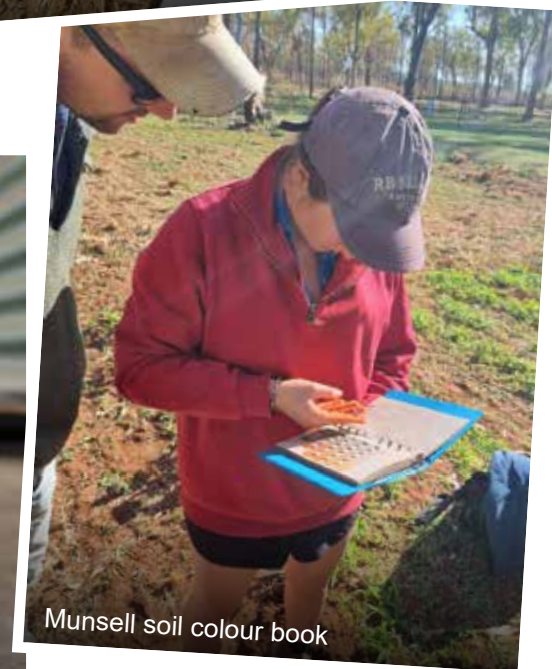
pH testing in the field



A new water infiltration meter uses lasers and a small computer to give users fast and accurate water infiltration rates.



The Mason Jar Test can help measure sand silt and clay percentage.



Munsell soil colour book

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