

Soil Survey and Land Assessment Service



vital first step

A soil survey has become a vital step in planning or re-developing a horticultural property.

It can also be used to help assess the effectiveness of irrigation systems and identify any crop health problems.

AgriExchange has a soil survey and land assessment division trained to provide:

- Soil surveys
- Irrigation and drainage management plans
- Crop suitability assessments
- Soil laboratory analysis (salinity, pH and dispersion)
- Property mapping and layout plans using GPS, GIS and CAD
- Pre-purchase property assessments
- Penetrometer soil compaction testing
- Soil improvement programs (ripping, mounding and amendments)

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how a survey is conducted

Soil description sites are located on a grid across the property, with the grids varying from one to four holes per hectare. The description sites are usually dug with a backhoe to about 1.5 metres.

At each site, important soil information is collected by AgriExchange agronomists. Close attention is paid to the depth and texture of the soils, depth to carbonate and clay layers and the depth and salinity of water tables.

Soil samples are collected for laboratory analysis of soil salinity and pH.

For each survey a full report and professional plans are presented. The report includes relevant information to assist with planting plans, irrigation design and water transfers.

It will also assist in the selection of soil moisture monitoring sites to enable correct irrigation management to be applied to the different soil types on the property.



main benefits

The main benefits of carrying out a soil survey are:

- Crop failures due to unsuitable soils are eliminated
- Crop yield potential can be maximised
- Establishing the most suitable irrigation system
- Irrigation management becomes easier and more accurate.



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