



*Working in partnership
with researchers and industry*

Expression of Interest 2008

“Visual Soil Assessment – an easy way to look at soil health”

Objective

The ultimate aim is to develop a simple, quick system for assessing soil physical health without fancy tools and equipment. The “Visual Soil Assessment” (VSA) process is based on an existing process used in New Zealand.

The development of a VSA process for WA soils will benefit growers by adding value to nutrient test for no extra money, help diagnose limitations to production while in the paddock, provide a system for monitoring changes in soil health over time.

Aims

1. To evaluate the draft WA version of the VSA with growers.
2. Improve the VSA process using feedback from growers either through group discussions in the field or one on one instruction.

Provider resources

The project is due to finish 30th September 2008 but workshops can still be conducted until the end of October 2008 (and possibly beyond).

The project will supply all written material required (VSA manual).

Only one person will be used to run discussions/workshops in the field. The workshop would normally take a maximum of 2 hours. This includes about 45min of instruction and the remainder is practice time for the growers.

This is a learning activity where growers actually get their hands dirty. If required, project staff are willing to return to the group for any further growers that missed the first opportunity.

Grower Group Resources

The only resources that the growers need to have is a spade, bottle of water, fertiliser bag, watch/clock and a ruler/tape measure. Other than these items growers just need to be willing to learn more about their soil.

Deadline – ASAP, see above.

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