



Soil structure damage

Have you soil compaction problems on your farm?

- Poor crop growth in certain parts of the field
- Poor drainage and surface water ponding e.g. headland areas



Identifying the problem:

- Examine your soil
- Methods for assessing soil structure/compaction
 - VESS – top soil
 - Double Spade VSE- subsoil



Identifying the threats:

- Heavy machinery
 - Excessive axle loads
 - Inadequate tyre size
- Continuous annual cropping
- Working in wet conditions
- No soil cover

Select suitable solutions:

- Avoid wet soil conditions
- Lighten the load
 - Controlled traffic systems
- Enhance soil structural stability
- Apply manure / crop rotation etc.

Take home messages!

- Identify problem - monitor soil structure regularly!
- Identify poor management - Prevention is better than cure!
- Take corrective action – is soil specific management is needed?

Notes: _____



Soil structure damage

Have you soil compaction problems on your farm?

- Poor grass growth in certain parts of the field
- Poor drainage and surface water ponding e.g. headland and gateway areas

Identifying the problem:

- Examine your soil
- Methods for assessing soil structure/compaction
 - GrassVess – top soil
 - Dig a pit - subsoil

Identifying the threats:

- Heavy machinery
 - Excessive axle loads
 - Inadequate tyre size
- Continuous cropping
- Working in wet conditions
- Extended grazing

Apply solutions:

- Avoid wet conditions
- Controlled traffic systems
- Lighten the load
- Enhance soil structural stability and resilience



Take home messages!

- Check your structure regularly!
- Prevention is better than cure!
Safeguard your soil.
- Know your soil type!
Soil specific management is needed!

Notes: _____

