

SOIL CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Doris Blaesing RM Consulting Group

Indicator	Good condition rating 1	Poor condition rating 5	1 st assessment	2 nd assessment	3 rd assessment
Date:					
Plant growth	Lush, green, growing healthily	Stunted, wilted, diseased, uneven germination			
Root growth	Vigorous, light brown, white tips	Poor growth with brown or mushy roots			
Organic matter	Topsoil clearly darker than subsoil	Hardly any colour difference			
Plant residues	Residues in all stages of decomposition, earthy smell	No residues or residues not decomposing for a long time			
Soil tilth	Friable, fluffy	Tight, hard, cloddy, blows when fine			
Compacted layers	Easy penetration with rod below tillage layer	Obvious hardpan, roots restricted			
Workability	Little power required to pull implements	Many passes and horsepower needed			
Water infiltration	No water lying on surface after heavy rain or irrigation	Water on soil surface for long periods after 25-40mm irrigation			
Water holding	Dries slowly after irrigation (> 5days between full point and need for irrigation)	Requires frequent irrigation, quite dry after 3 days			
Soil life (critters)	Abundant	Absent			
Earthworms	Many wormholes and casts	None			
Erosion	Never	Runoff after each heavy rain (>50mm)			