

2014 Regional Snapshot

Is soil acidity decreasing in our agricultural areas?

Healthy soil provides us with food and fibre through our crops and livestock. Healthy soil provides nutrients for crops and pastures, stores and cycles water and carbon, and resists erosion.

About 60 per cent of Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region's agricultural land has naturally occurring acidic soil. Acidic soil limits the fertility and productivity of agricultural areas.

Agricultural production accelerates soil acidification, particularly where large quantities of produce are harvested, and where fertilisers that contain or form ammonium are used.

Land managers can reduce acidity by applying lime to their soils. Lime sales are monitored to track the management of soil acidity in Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region's agricultural areas.

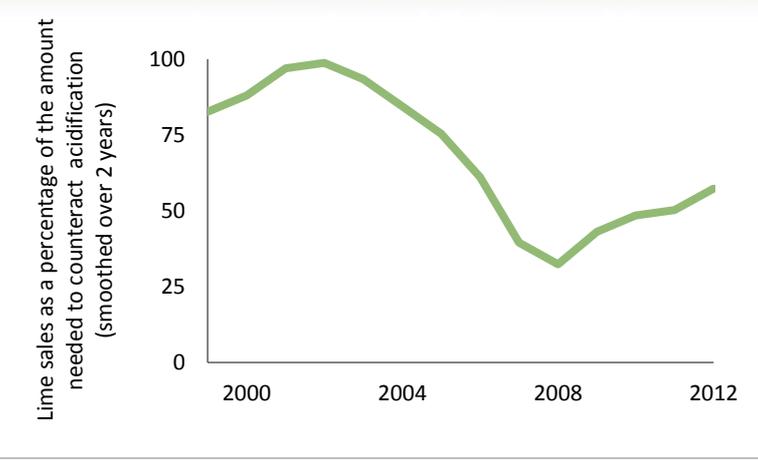


State target
Improve soil and land condition

Trend (2008-12)	Getting Better	Ongoing efforts will be needed to increase the amount of lime applied to our soils
------------------------	----------------	--

Lime use in Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region has reduced dramatically since 2000, but has increased slightly over the past 5 years. In 2012, lime sales were estimated to be 14,000 tonnes.

Between 2008-12, the amount of lime sold relative to the estimated amount needed to counteract acidification is getting better, after a decline in sales from 99 per cent in 2002 to 32 per cent in 2008 (see graph on right).



Where we are at (2012)	Fair	Land managers applied about 60 per cent of the amount of lime needed to counteract soil acidification
-------------------------------	------	---

The amount of lime currently applied in Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region about 60 per cent of the amount that is required to counteract soil acidification. Many land managers do not apply lime because they perceive it to be too costly.

Controlling soil acidification is important to maintain long term productivity of agricultural soils.

Reliability of information	☆☆☆☆☆	Fair
-----------------------------------	-------	------

Further information:
[Technical information for this report](#)
[Soil and land condition monitoring in South Australia](#)