

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 83 per cent of Kangaroo Island 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 Kangaroo Island NRM region's agricultural areas.



State target

Improve soil and land condition

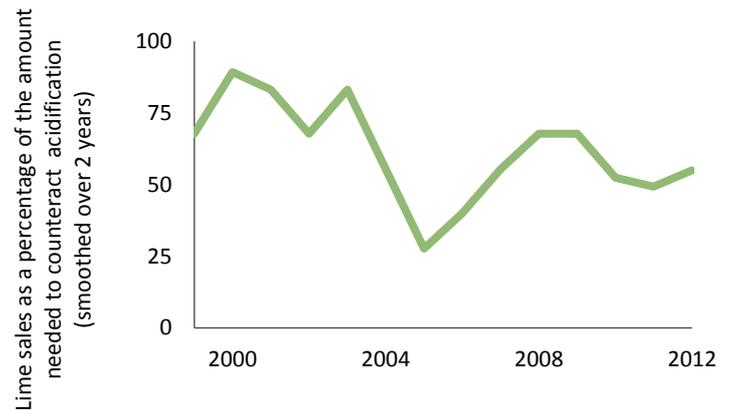
Trend (2008-12)

Getting Worse

Ongoing efforts will be needed to increase the amount of lime applied to our soils

Between 2008-12, land managers in Kangaroo Island NRM region applied about 9,000 tonnes of lime each year to counteract soil acidification.

The amount of lime sold between 2008-12 relative to the estimated amount needed to counteract acidification each year has declined (see graph on right).



Where we are at (2012)

Fair

Land managers applied about half of the amount of lime needed to counteract soil acidification

The amount of lime currently applied in Kangaroo Island NRM region is about half 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](#)