

2013 State Report Card

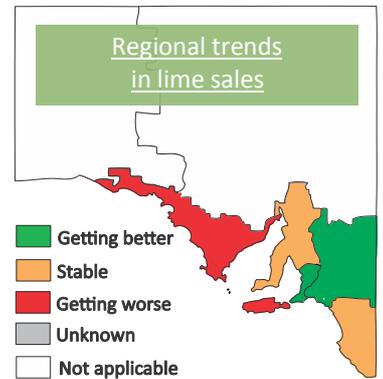
Is soil acidity decreasing in our agricultural areas?

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.

Almost 20 per cent of the agricultural area of South Australia 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 South Australian agricultural areas.



State target
Improve soil and land condition

Trend (2008-12)	Stable	Ongoing efforts will be needed to increase the amount of lime applied to our soils
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Between 2008-12, land managers applied about 94,000 tonnes of lime each year to counteract soil acidification.

Some land managers applied sufficient quantities of lime to counteract soil acidification, but from a broad perspective the application of lime has not been sufficient in any NRM region since 1999 (map above and graph to right).

The amount of lime sold peaked in 2002 and is stable between 2008-12 (see graph on right).



Where we are at (2012)	Fair	Land managers applied less than half of the amount of lime needed to counteract soil acidification
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The amount of lime currently applied in South Australia is just under 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
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Further information:
[Technical information for this report card](#)
[Soil and land condition monitoring in South Australia](#)