

A Guide for Assessing your Soil

OFTS53

Good soil structure is essential in organic farming because it promotes the steady release of nutrients from the soil by mineralisation to the crop with minimum loss. Good soils have a porous surface, stable structure and allow free rooting and drainage.

Look at your soil using the **1, 2, 3 guide** below.

Look for:

1. Porous surface:



TIP: Rough surfaces shelter insects which help natural disease control

2. Stable soil structure and free rooting:

Well aggregated



Crumbles easily



Good root system



TIP: Add organic material such as manures or establish grass and clover to develop stable structure

3. Problems:

Compaction



Over-tillage



Waterlogging



TIP: Try to use small machines on common wheeltracks in dry conditions

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