



Chapter 6

Soil Types

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6 Soil types

6.1 Introduction

It is essential to know the locations and characteristics of specific soil types on a dairy farm in order to make sound soil and fertiliser management decisions. Soil properties such as soil structure, depth, texture, salinity, acidity, waterlogging or compaction can limit crop and pasture growth even when the soil has adequate nutrients - See [Chapter 4](#), 'Soil Properties'. Soil factors limiting production must be managed to minimise their impact, so that fertiliser applications are as effective as possible - See [Chapter 7](#), 'Managing Limiting Soil Factors'.

In recent years soil maps and descriptions of the chemical and physical characteristics of soils from numerous sites across Australia have been uploaded to websites. These online resources are improving each year as additional information is uploaded. Regional soil information can be used in combination with local knowledge of the soils to help prepare a farm soil map - See [Chapter 1.1.4](#).

6.2 Soil types of the dairy regions

The following websites provide useful information on soil types across Australian dairy regions:

National

- [Australian Soil Resource Information System \(ASRIS\)](#) ^[2]
- [CSIRO: Soil Mapp for iPad](#) ^[3]

New South Wales

- [Soil and Land Information System \(SALIS\)](#) ^[5]

Queensland

- [Soil Management, Queensland Government](#) ^[11]
- [Department of Natural Resources and Mines](#) ^[6]
- [Queensland Government Information Service](#) ^[9]

South Australia

- [South Australia Government: ATLAS, Soils](#) ^[12]

Tasmania

- [Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment](#) ^[8]

Victoria

- [Victorian Resources Online: Regional Soils Information](#) ^[7]

Western Australia

- [Soil Groups of Western Australia](#) ^[4]
- [Soil Guide \(Moore 2001\)](#) ^[10]
- [Soils of the Swan Coastal Plain \(Bolland, 1998\)](#) ^[1]



6.3 References

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5. Department of Environment and Heritage New South Wales, 'Soil and Land Information System (SALIS)', Retrieved 13 April 2013, <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soils/data.htm>
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