



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

## Soil quality and land use, 1995–2017

### Title

Soil quality and land use, 1995–2017

### Publisher

New Zealand's Environment Reporting Series: The Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ

### Description

Soil supports the productivity of agriculture, horticulture, and forestry, and filters water to help prevent waterways from becoming contaminated. Different land uses put pressure on the land environment and can change soil quality. Soil quality is assessed under four different groups of land uses: forestry, cropping and horticulture, dairy, and dry stock by measuring the following soil properties: acidity (pH), fertility (Olsen P), organic reserves (total carbon, total nitrogen, mineralisable nitrogen), and physical status (macroporosity and bulk density). Soil scientists have identified the target range for each of these indicators, for maintaining production but with a prime focus for managing risk to the environment. This measure reports on soil quality, by land use and soil order.

### Source

Data from Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Manawatu-Wanganui, Wellington, Canterbury, Southland regional councils; Marlborough and Tasman district councils; and Auckland Council were collated by Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research

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