

Healthy Soils, Productive Pastures

FIELD DAYS and DEMONSTRATIONS (2019-2023)



Horse Field Day May 2023

Thirty eight landholders attended the Horse Field Day on 10 May 2023 in Richmond & 11 May 2023 in the Central Coast. Horse expert, Helena Warren focused on the importance of pasture management for horses and the impacts of bare ground on pastures and soil health. Helena also explored suitable and unsuitable pasture species for horse health and nutrition. Other topics covered in the day included soil testing, pasture and plant identification. This event combined sit-down presentations as well as a field walk and talk. Attendees provided very positive feedback that the content was great and very informative.



Soil Biology Field Day- November 2023

Community/stakeholder engagement-Soil Biology Field Day Nov 2022 The Soil Biology Field Day was attended by 22 private landowners and local business operators to hear soils expert Dr Kelvin Montagu at the GS LLS Demonstration farm on 22 November 2022. Attendees learned about the foundations of soil biology, including soil functions, soil structure, how to feed and build soil biology and critical management practice including soil aeration, mulching, use of cover crops and use of inoculated rhizobia for pasture legumes. Participants also engaged in a hands-on activity, adding biology to the soil



Soil Test Videos

The Greater Sydney region experienced significant COVID-related lock downs and then two flooding events in the 21/22 financial year, impacting on LLS' ability to deliver its planned field days. To adapt to these circumstances LLS create 2 videos about soils in lieu of face-to-face events. These videos show easy-to-follow techniques that a landholder can use to take a soil sample for testing as well as analysis of soil tests results. This knowledge will help the landholder to manage, plan and improve one's soils. You can find these videos on the 'Healthy Soils, Productive Pastures' webpage.



'Grass is Greener even after Floods' Field Day-June 2022

Twenty participants were able to finally see the progress of our pasture trial that started in September 2019 at the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Demonstration Farm. Participants who attended include graziers, private landholders and individuals from industry. Agronomists from Ace Ohlsson supported the event and provided advice and guidance on best practice pasture production. Topics covered included the importance of planning and preparation, species and sowing methods using a simple hand spinner as well as the design of the pasture trial.



Soil Test Demonstration Field days- May 2021

Between April to May 2023, three soil demonstration events were conducted in Camden, Richmond and the Central Coast. Participants joined in on an interactive and informative day from soil testing experts, Sydney Environmental Soil Laboratory. The event began with a look at soil health and soil testing and theory, followed by a practical soil demonstration in the field which included soil sampling, aggregate stability test, pH test etc. Finally, a brief overview of the results of the site's soil tests (pre-organised for these events) was discussed with the group. Participants have been offered the opportunity to have an expert interpret their own results down the track to further encourage practice change on farm.



Pasture sowing Field day- September 2019

A pasture sowing field day attracted around 75 people on 11 September 2019, as part of an ongoing pasture field trial at the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Demonstration Farm. Participants who attended included graziers, private landholders and individuals from industry and education. Agronomists from Ace Ohlsson and PGG Wrightson Seeds supported the event and provided advice and guidance on best practice pasture production. Topics covered included the importance of planning and preparation, sowing methods using machinery as well as the design of the pasture trial. Future field days will be conducted to showcase the results of the pasture trial involving different pasture blends with different treatments.