

Visual Soil Scoring



VISUAL SOIL ASSESSMENT

Score the Key Indicators

1 - Very Poor	2 - Poor	3 - Average	4 - Good	5 - Excellent
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1. Soil Structure

- 1 - Hard, cloddy, compacted
- 3 - Some structure, breaks apart
- 5 - Crumbly, friable, "chocolate cake"

Score:

2. Root Development

- 1 - Shallow, restricted
- 3 - Moderate depth
- 5 - Deep, spreading, unrestricted

Score:

3. Soil Biology (worms & life)

- 1 - No worms
- 3 - Some worms
- 5 - Active, multiple sizes, visible life

Score:

4. Soil Smell

- 1 - Rotten / sour
- 3 - Neutral
- 5 - Fresh, earthy

Score:

5. Compaction

- 1 - Severe restriction
- 3 - Some resistance
- 5 - Easy penetration

Score:

6. Soil Colour / Carbon

- 1 - Pale / grey
- 3 - Light brown
- 5 - Dark brown / black

Score:

7. Moisture Function

- 1 - Waterlogged or droughty
- 3 - Variable
- 5 - Holds moisture well, well-drained

Score:

Maximum = 35

Total Score:



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Interpretation + VITALIFE Recommendation

7 – 15 → System Failure (Critical Zone)

What it means:

- Soil is **not functioning biologically**
- Likely compacted, low carbon, low biology
- Similar to your **effluent pond condition**

Action: High-rate VITALIFE programme

- Kick-start biology
- Add carbon
- Rebuild structure

Approach:

- Multiple applications
- Combine with grazing management
- Avoid further stress (wet grazing, overstocking)

16 – 24 → Underperforming (Transition Zone)

What it means:

- Soil is working... but inefficient
- Biology present but limited
- Carbon likely short

Action: Maintenance + lift with VITALIFE

- Feed existing biology
- Improve C:N balance

Approach:

- Strategic applications
- Focus on timing (spring/autumn)
- Build consistency



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25 – 35 → Functional (Performance Zone)

What it means:

- Soil is biologically active
- Good structure and root depth
- System is cycling nutrients

Action: Low-rate VITALIFE / maintenance

- Keep system balanced
- Enhance resilience

Approach:

- Occasional applications
- Use as a “performance enhancer”

The Key Link to VITALIFE

This is the part that makes your system powerful:

VITALIFE is not a fertiliser — it is a system balancer

- Low score → **Rebuild biology + add carbon**
- Mid score → **Feed and strengthen biology**
- High score → **Maintain and optimise**

“Your soil score tells you how hard your soil is working - VITALIFE tells it how to work better.”

The missing 5% - biology and carbon - is what turns a **score of 15 into 30**

Optional comparison:

- Good paddock vs poor paddock
- Score both

Then ask:

“What’s the real difference here - fertiliser... or biology?”

