Principles of soil management for better crops

Improve yields and crop value • Save time, improve traffic and travel • Save money, nutrients and fuel

Designed for:

Individuals who wish to understand the essentials of good soil management and improve their on-farm cultivation decisions. The principles addressed are relevant across all crops. Discussions will be adapted to the technical issues of most interest to participants

Entry requirement: An entry level course best suited to individuals who have a basic **awareness** of the subject area

Duration: A one day classroom and field-based course

CPD points: 10 BASIS points

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- Investigate, describe and interpret soil structural conditions
- Use hand texturing to determine soil types and understand the management opportunities and limitations associated with different soils
- Assess soil structure and the applicability of different cultivation systems to soil types and circumstances
- Improve soil structure and fertility through the use of organic manures, cover crops (or green manures), grass leys and mechanical loosening
- Assess the need for drainage installation or maintenance for different soil types and cropping situations

Content:

Classroom module (half day)
The principles of good soil management:

- Management opportunities for/limitations of different soil types (including hand texturing – shared experience and practice)
- Crop rotations and cultivations for contrasting soil types
- Factors that cause and influence soil variability in space and time, as well as on-farm management practices to deal with these factors
- The importance of soil organic matter and how to maintain/enhance levels

Field module (half day)
Practical soil assessment:

- Soil type identification and interpretation
- Visual soil evaluation of the soil structural effects of compaction, and management practices to improve soil structural conditions
- Assessing soils in relation to previous management
- Practices to improve soil fertility and productivity
- Investigating the effects of different cultivation systems on soil conditions
- The need for under-drainage systems and secondary mole drainage

Trainer: Mel Holloway, Senior Farm Consultant, ADAS

SW01
Soil and Water

For more information or to book online go to www.artistraining.com

01223 342444 info@artistraining.com @ARTIStraining

ARTIS is managed by NIAB