

Sandy Soils

Bowmans, SA | Thursday, 3 September



Understanding your soil constraints: Choosing the right treatment to maximise long-term returns.

This masterclass provides insights into diagnosing soil constraints, selecting the most appropriate treatment and understanding the long-term economic return of management tactics, such as amelioration.

Join leading soil scientists, engineers, agronomists and researchers for a practical masterclass that will take you through the decision-making process, from identifying constraints in the soil pit through to evaluating whole-farm machinery options and implications.

When: Thursday 3 September 2026, 8.30am – 2.30pm

Where: Brett Roberts' property, Kallora Road, Bowmans, SA (actual location provided upon registration)

Cost: This is a free event.
Morning tea and lunch provided.



Register:
[GRDCsandysoilsmasterclass.
eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/GRDCsandysoilsmasterclass)

For more information: AgCommunicators
08 8332 3277 | events@agcommunicators.com.au

Designed for growers, advisers and consultants, this interactive workshop combines the latest GRDC-supported research with practical paddock demonstrations and discussion with industry experts.

During the masterclass you will:

- Identify the physical and chemical constraints limiting crop performance in sandy soils, such as repellency, nutrients, acidity and high strength soils.
- Understand which soil amelioration options are best suited to different constraints and how soil amelioration influences yield outcomes and paddock management.
- Explore machinery options, operating considerations and implementation techniques.

Masterclass features:

- Examine a soil pit with soil specialists to identify key sandy soil constraints.
- Inspect paddock demonstrations showing responses to deep ripping and other soil amelioration techniques.
- Discuss machinery selection and set-up with agricultural engineering specialists.
- Interpret local trial results and compare the performance of different amelioration strategies.
- Explore the relative costs of different soil amelioration techniques using local farming examples and discuss how treatments influence long-term profitability.

Sandy Soils Masterclass - Bowmans

Time	Detail	Who
8:30 am	ARRIVE AND COFFEE	
8:45 am	Welcome and overview	Alistair Lawson AgCommunicators
9:00 am	Diagnosing sandy soil constraints – soil pit session Identify the physical and chemical constraints limiting crop performance using a soil pit. Learn how to interpret soil profiles and understand which constraints are most likely to respond to amelioration.	Dr Mel Fraser Soil Function Consulting
10:00 am	Matching soil amelioration strategies to your constraints Explore the range of soil amelioration techniques available including deep ripping, spading, mixing and inversion, and how machinery selection, set-up and operating depth influence outcomes, efficiency and cost.	Dr Jack Desbiolles Dr Chris Saunders Adelaide University
11:00 am	What response can you expect? Review local research examining crop responses to different soil amelioration practices, including impacts on crop establishment, water use, nutrition, root growth and yield across seasons. Understand how soil amelioration interacts with agronomy to maximise and maintain crop productivity over time, and the management practices required to sustain benefits.	Brett Roberts Host grower Dr Kenton Porker CSIRO
12:00 pm	LUNCH	
1:00 pm	Making it pay What are the costs, risks and expected returns?	<i>Facilitated by</i> Sam Trengove and Stuart Sheriff Trengove Consulting with a panel of local growers.
2:00 pm	Managing high strength soils Overview and findings from GRDC-supported research	Dr Nigel Wilhelm SARDI
2:30 pm	CLOSE	