

Nitrogen Budgeting

June 2011

Do you know how much soil nitrogen is in your paddocks?

Best decisions are made based on reliable information collected from a range of sources.

- *Deep N soil tests taken in crop are an excellent resource for topdressing decisions, they can also give an indication of plant available water, potential for any sub soil constraints and to determine how much nitrogen is already available. This enables accurate decisions to be made regarding how much nitrogen is required to meet a target yield and quality parameters.*
- *Knowing the nitrogen demand of crops is essential in determining how much nitrogen to apply. Nitrogen demand can vary according to*
 - ✓ *Crop type*
 - ✓ *Health*
 - ✓ *Growth stage*
 - ✓ *Seasonal conditions*
 - ✓ *Paddock history*
- *Checking for other factors which may affect yield potential such as*
 - ✓ *Weeds, diseases and other nutrient deficiencies*
 - ✓ *Soil constraints*
 - ✓ *Soil profile to determine plant rooting depth*
 - ✓ *Monitoring soil moisture*
- *Aim to maximize nitrogen use efficiency with the right product in the right place, at the right time and at the right rate.*

We cannot control the weather, but we can set up crops to take advantage if seasonal conditions are favourable.

The tools that NAS can offer you to help optimize nitrogen use on your farm:

- ✓ *Deep N Soil Testing – Nitrogen availability*
- ✓ *Soil Profiling – to determine rooting depth/constraints*
- ✓ *Monitoring Soil Moisture – Capacitance probes*
- ✓ *Tissue Testing – Determine nutrient uptake of plants*
- ✓ *Nitrogen Budgeting/Recommendation*

When aiming to optimize a crops potential, growers must supply sufficient, not excessive, nitrogen. What works one year may not necessarily be right the next year.

To arrange an appointment please feel free to contact one of the staff at Naracoorte Ag Services.

Nathan Smith 0408 655 220
Mitch Hartree 0487 391 470
Neil Nolan 0427 308 688
Craig Altmann 0428 622 515
Paul Smith 0428 848 898

