

Visual Soil Assessment Score Card - Soil Indicators

ST2

Visual indicators for assessing soil quality under hill country land uses

Date: _____ Land use: _____

Site location: _____ GPS reference: _____

Landform: _____

Aspect: _____ Slope angle: _____

Soil type: _____ Topsoil depth: _____

Textural group: ☐ Sandy ☐ Loamy ☐ Silty ☐ Clayey ☐ Peaty

Moisture condition: ☐ Dry ☐ Slightly moist ☐ Moist ☐ Wet

Seasonal weather conditions: ☐ Dry ☐ Wet ☐ Cold ☐ Warm ☐ Average

Visual Indicator of Soil Quality (see VSA scoring guide)	Visual Score (VS) 0 = Poor condition 1 = Moderate condition 2 = Good condition	Weighting	Result of visual score (VS) x weighting
Soil structure		x 3	
Number & colour of mottles		x 2	
Soil colour		x 2	
Earthworms		x 3	
Soil smell		x 2	
Potential rooting depth		x 3	
Surface ponding		x 3	
SOIL QUALITY INDEX (Sum of result column)			

Soil Quality Assessment	Soil Quality Index
Poor	< 14
Moderate	14 – 25
Good	> 25

Adapted from G. Shepherd VSA Field Guide 2nd edition.