



Drought, Fire or Flood - Rapidly Recover your Soil, Gently!

Bringing soil quickly back to production after a long hot dry period, or recovering it from the effects of fire or flooding require a special gentle approach. As the skin of the earth, and not unlike human skin, it is best to carefully bring soil back to health with the least disturbance by providing for most nutrients and biology to remain largely intact ready to support rapid plant growth.

There are numerous techniques to restore soils and these depend on the soil type, the slope, the remaining vegetation, the degree of burn and the speed with which the recovery is required. Just like human skin with first, second or third degree burns, the sensitivity and treatment varies with the degree of burning, or in the case of seasonally affected soils, the extent of dehydration (or length of time of inundation with floodwater) will determine the best course of action for rapid recovery. Protection from strong wind and rain at this time is essential, so various methods are used to support this important requirement.

No matter what condition is prevailing, the course of treatment is essentially the same in principle – rebuild the structure either mechanically with minimum disturbance or allow time for the natural processes to take their course, then consider ways to deal with any residues that may have resulted from the trauma (e.g. excess and toxic salts in ash-laden soils or hydrophobic [non-wetting] conditions when dried out or burnt), and reintroduce active biology with foods to get the introduced and remaining soil bugs working again.

Simple checks that any land manager can take are physical ones such as compaction and crusting testing, wet ability or water infiltration capacity, detecting depth of damage (burning, dehydration or over saturation) to roots and visual appraisal of biological indicators at various depths. Of course soil testing should be performed to learn what biological and nutrient residues and salts remain so that the best fertilisers and biological amendments can be applied to balance the soil. From this data and the field checks, it is appropriate to introduce other suitable management strategies to rapidly make the soils healthy and grow again. Remember it is skin we are dealing with after all! How would you protect and heal your skin if it were burnt, dehydrated or over-hydrated?

AgriSolutions can assist you in restoring your soils to rapidly become productive and healthy. Using our proven methods your growing enterprise can take every opportunity to establish the best foundation for the seasons ahead. By helping you provide maximum soil biological stimulus and sustained plant growth rates the potential of the soil is recovered and released for continuous and optimum productivity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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