

# Establishing Soil Stability

## Vital research equipment to easily establish soil stability

If your work involves research into soil erosion, land degradation, conservation or agriculture you will want to know more about the quick and easy wet sieving method of soil investigation.

Soil, also known as earth: is the material from which our planet takes its name; therefore its loss or degradation should be one of the most important of today's environmental problems, particularly with our growing world population and the need for food security.

Understanding what causes soil erosion and the stability of a soil is imperative for anyone involved in farming, horticulture, land conservation, building and environmental research. The structure of a soil has a major influence on water and air movement, biological activity, root growth and seedling emergence. Establishing aggregate soil stability provides vital information on the sensitivity of that soil to water or wind erosion. A farmer obtaining adverse soil stability results might then take preventative action, for example mulching the soil surface. Information on soil aggregate stability can also improve tillage programmes which can then be adapted to the specific soil type and crop demands, so improving yields.

In response to the need for improved soil investigation equipment Van Walt Ltd, the specialist provider of environmental research equipment offers a simple and effective soil investigation tool - Wet Sieving Apparatus. This equipment can be used to determine the resistance of a soil's structure against mechanical or physico-chemical destructive forces and it works on the principle that unstable aggregates will break down more easily than stable aggregates when immersed into water.

"Obtaining this information used to be difficult, expensive and time consuming," explains Vincent van Walt, director, Van Walt Limited. "With our wet sieving apparatus aggregate soil stability is established more quickly, easily and without the need for bulky equipment."

"Soil structure is one of the main factors controlling plant growth by its influence on root penetration, soil temperature and gas diffusion, water transport and seedling emergence and therefore it is an important soil characteristic for farmers," continues Vincent. "And, only this week, a Royal Society report concluded that the UK should invest £2m into crop research to help stave off world hunger. Inevitably this will involve soil investigations," concludes Vincent.

For more details on this equipment visit: [www.vanwalt.com](http://www.vanwalt.com) where you can find more information.

Van Walt Ltd is a specialist supplier of soil and groundwater monitoring equipment to the environmental, educational and agricultural research communities.

For more information contact Tracey Daley:

tel: +44 (0)1428 661660 or email: [tracey@vanwalt.com](mailto:tracey@vanwalt.com)

[www.vanwalt.com](http://www.vanwalt.com)