

ASDA's Sustainable Soils survey 2018

ASDA

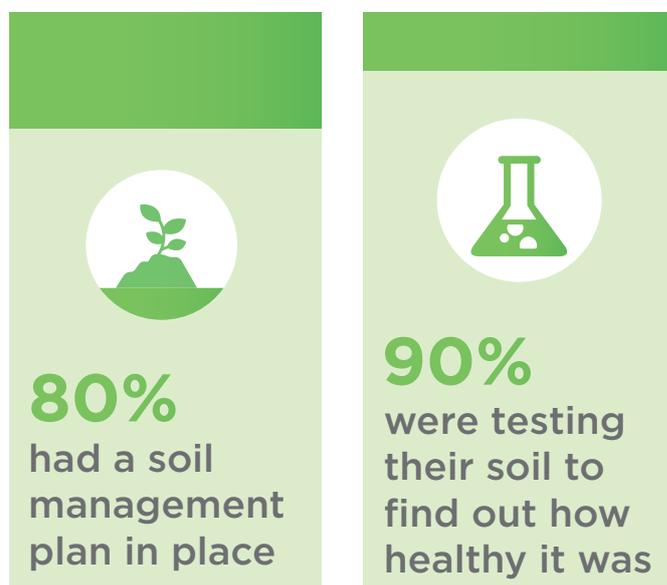
ASDA's Sustainable Soils survey 2018

Soil health and sustainability is high on the agenda here at Asda. We want to help our suppliers to improve the performance and health of their soil, and we've recently carried out a survey of our fresh produce supply chain to find out more about the positive actions growers are already taking to make sure their soil is healthy and sustainable.

Our supplier survey

Working with crop research organisation NIAB, we asked suppliers of leafy salads, field vegetables and potatoes to take part in our soil stewardship and knowledge survey.

Results of the survey showed that all the respondents had taken direct action to improve the physical, chemical or biological health of their soil, 90% were testing their soil to find out how healthy it was and what they needed to do to improve it, and 80% had a soil management plan in place.



Taking action

Actions being taken ranged from:

- adding organic matter,
- planting cover crops & developing cultivation strategies,
- wider tyres to reduce compaction, maintaining hedges and avoiding overworking wet soils.

“All the respondents had taken direct action to improve the physical, chemical or biological health of their soil.”

ASDA's Sustainable Soils survey 2018

Serious about soil

It's great to know that our suppliers are taking soil seriously too. It's crucial for long-term productivity, so protecting and improving this important resource is good for both them as growers and us as a retailer.

We can also learn from what our suppliers are already doing to help and support others in the future. The survey found that 20% don't have a soil management plan, so it's important we provide the advice and support needed for them to create one.

The first step is our guide to ['Simply Sustainable Soils'](#), which outlines six simple steps to improve the performance and health of soils.

“We see the farmers that we work with as partners, not just suppliers. We strive to understand the positive actions that are being taken in our supply chain to improve performance, health and long-term sustainability of soils and welcome the information and recommendations that this survey has provided.”

Dr Chris Brown,
Sustainable Business Director, Asda.

