

Cover crops for soil health and productivity

Project Overview:

Join us on a transformative journey to revolutionize almond orchard floor management practices in Australia's Riverland and Riverina regions. Our ground-breaking field trials are designed to foster healthier soils, robust trees, and higher quality almond yields through sustainable orchard floor management options.



The Trials at a Glance:

- **Locations:** Two prime sites, one in Loxton, the other in Darlington Point, selected for their common rootstocks, almond varieties, and representative soil types.
- **Design:** Each site hosts five under-tree management strategies, including a control and innovative cover crop mixes like "pollinator blend," "barley vetch and rye (BVR)" and combinations of legumes and grasses.
- **Goals:** To increase soil cover, reduce herbicide usage, and enhance soil health without compromising water resources.

Methodology:

- **Autumn Establishment:** Cover crops sown post-season to encourage optimal germination.
- **Data-Rich Super-Site:** Loxton site equipped with cutting-edge sensors and remote systems for real-time data on soil and plant health.
- **Sampling Rigor:** Regular soil and tissue sampling for comprehensive physicochemical analysis, plus soil microbiome sequencing.



Why It Matters:

Our approach is not just about enhancing yields. It's about a commitment to the environment, reducing inputs, and nurturing the land that supports our almond orchards. This project promises to deliver:

- **Sustainable Practices:** A move towards ecologically sound management options.
- **Economic Benefits:** Insights into cost-effective practices that don't sacrifice yield quality.
- **Community Engagement:** Knowledge dissemination through outreach events, informed by the valuable experience of orchard managers.

Be Part of the Change: We're inviting progressive almond producers and industry stakeholders to collaborate with us. Your support and insights are invaluable to shaping a more sustainable future for almond production.

Contact Us:

To learn more or to participate in this exciting initiative, please reach out to our project lead at [Thomas.lines@adelaide.edu.au].
