



Lessons from the Field

Sean Croft - Arahura Farms



**National Vegetable
Extension Network**

VICTORIA - NORTHERN,
WESTERN & SOUTH EASTERN

Sean Croft, of Arahura Farms, is one of Australia's largest organic carrot growers and is interested in improving soil management practices through permanent beds, controlled traffic, using compost and the introduction of beneficial microbes into the soil profile.

From Sean's perspective

"We're always looking at ways we can do things better. We've researched compost ourselves, gone overseas, and are constantly trying new things. It's great when you start to see results for the whole system" said Sean.

Soil borne disease assessment

The Victorian VegNET team recently visited Sean's farm to collect vital data on soil borne disease diagnostics and management, which is feeding into national projects with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), AHR and RMCG (VG15009 and VG15010). The data collection involved sampling carrots at different growth stages under varying management regimes.

Growers and advisors have identified soil-borne diseases as a main challenge for soil management. This is being addressed through the soil-borne disease management project, funded by the vegetable levy. More information on the project is available on the Soil Wealth and Integrated Crop Protection website [here](#).

Key lessons

- Arahura Farms is one of Australia's largest organic carrot producers
- The farm works on improving their soil health through using permanent beds, controlled traffic, applying compost and introducing beneficial microbes into the soil
- Sean has been engaging with a number of research projects, including soil borne disease management through sampling his carrots at different growth stages.



Sean Croft from Arahura Farms in Nyah West, Victoria