

6.3 Slake Test (Updated)

For verification purposes, required Field Tests, including this Slake Test, must be conducted annually in the designated SHMP location, notated as the Midpoint (see Figure 1).

Why perform an annual Slake Test?

A soil slake test evaluates soil stability and susceptibility to erosion by measuring aggregate stability in water.

Updated Standard Method

Use a golf ball–sized soil aggregate; observe for exactly 5 minutes; record the visual percentage remaining after 5 minutes.

Steps:

- 1 Geolocate two locations within the Midpoint of the SHMP.
- 2 Collect one intact golf ball–sized soil sample from each location.
- 3 Place mesh screens into jars to hold samples in the top third.
- 4 Fill jars with water.
- 5 Place samples on mesh and start timer immediately.
- 6 Observe undisturbed for 5 minutes.
- 7 Estimate percent remaining at 5 minutes.
- 8 Take photo with timer visible and upload to FarmLab.

Stability Rating:

- 1 Very Poor: 0–10% remaining
- 2 Poor: 10–30% remaining
- 3 Moderate: 30–60% remaining
- 4 Good: 60–85% remaining
- 5 Excellent: 85–100% remaining