

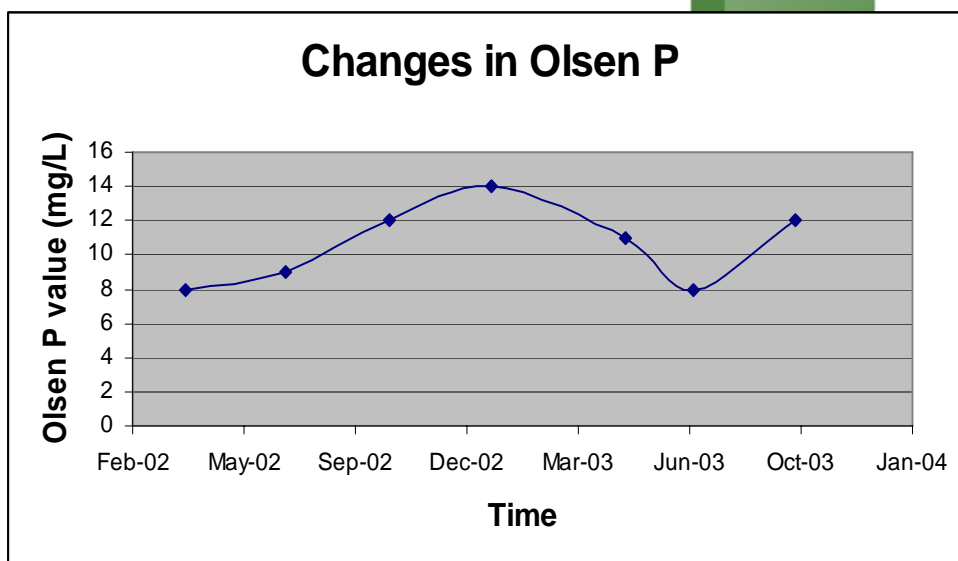
Trial #	15
Location	North Canterbury
Province	North Canterbury
Farm Type	Sheep and Beef
Product Trial	Olsen P Variations
Date	2002

Introduction: This on-going trial was established to monitor on-going changes in Olsen P values over time. A transect line was set up and marked by pegs at regular intervals. Soil samples were collected from each peg on a quarterly basis and analysed for Olsen P (a measure of plant available phosphorus).

Fertiliser Input: In Spring of 2002 & 2003, 50kg/ha of FPF (60% DAP) was applied to the trial area as part of the farmers on-going fertiliser programme. This equates to an input of 6kg of elemental P/ha/year. The P Retention status of the sample soil was 24%. For such a low P Retention soil, the general rule of thumb is that 5kgP/ha/year could be expected to increase the Olsen P reading by one unit i.e. the P applied as fertiliser in Spring would increase the Olsen P reading measured in October by no more than 1.2 units.

Results:

Date	Olsen (mg/L)	P
Apr-02	8	
Jul-02	9	
Oct-02	12	
Jan-03	14	
May-03	11	
Jul-03	8	
Oct-03	12	



The results indicate that Olsen P values are not constant throughout the year but exhibit a degree of variability.