

Observational Metrics

Ponding

Ecological Process:	The Water Cycle
Why Monitor This Metric?	Ponding is the accumulation of water in low lying areas that result from poor water infiltration often caused by soil compaction. Ponding can cause soil erosion and nutrient leaching as well as drown out crops and make affected areas inaccessible by machinery.
Tools Needed:	Pen/Pencil, Data Sheet/Paper
When to Monitor:	24 hours after it rains or the crops have been irrigated.

The Process:

1. Enter the area in which you are assessing soil ponding.
2. Visually identify areas where ponding is occurring:
 - a. Do you see any areas of standing water?
 - b. Is the ponding across the whole field?
3. Record your observations on your data sheet.
4. For further observation, take note of how long it takes for the standing water to completely disappear.

Use Your Observations to Rate Ponding (adapted from ROC)

- Poor: lots of standing water after 24 hours.
- Fair: standing water in a few places but not widespread.
- Good: no standing water.