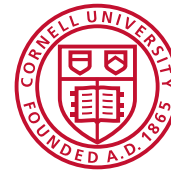


Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Garden-Based Learning



Soil Contaminant Discussion Activity



15 Minutes

Learning Objective(s): Participants will...

- Recognize that soils can be impacted by lead and other contaminants and it is important to consider the quality of *any* material that you add to your garden in order to avoid unknowingly spreading contamination.
- Become familiar with the Cornell Waste Management Institute and Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities Project website and materials.
- Recognize that there are things people can DO to address these soil contamination concerns.

Supplies:

- *Sources and Impacts of Contaminants in Soils* handout for each participant
- *What Gardeners Can Do: 10 Best Practices for Healthy Gardening* handout for each participant

Instructions:

Ask participants to read the articles, *Sources and Impacts of Contaminants in Soils* and *What Gardeners Can Do: 10 Best Practices for Healthy Gardening*. Then, in pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions:

1. What are some potential sources of soil contaminants?
2. What are some factors that affect the fate of soil contaminants?
3. What can people DO in response to known or suspected contamination? What type of healthy gardening practices?

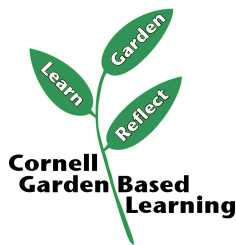
Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

4. What are the possible effects of soil contaminants?

5. A community member contacts you; they are interested in planting vegetables in a nearby vacant lot. What are some questions you might discuss with them?

6. What remaining questions do you have about soil contaminants? Where might you look to learn more?



References: *Sources and Impacts of Contaminants in Soils*,
<https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/14282>
What Gardeners Can Do: 10 Best Practices for Healthy Gardening,
<https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/48154>

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