Cornell Cooperative Extension Cornell Garden-Based Learning



Reading and Understanding a Soil Test Activity



Learning Objective:

 Participants will practice reading a soil test report to gather information about the soil nutrient status of a site.

Note: This activity is focused on reading a soil test report and gathering additional information, not focused on providing solutions to the community member.

Supplies:

Sample Soil Analysis Report Form D-1 NY Report for each participant

Instructions:

Interpreting a soil test can be overwhelming. There is a lot of information and you don't want to miss a bit of it. This activity will help you practice reading a soil test.

Read the sample soil test report form and answer the questions below. If you wish to go further you could review other soil test reports and answer the same questions.

- 1. What does the test tell you about the:
 - Soil pH?
 - Organic Matter?
 - Phosphorous?
 - Potassium?
 - Soil contaminants?
- 2. Imagine that a community member brings you these soil test results, what conversation would you have with them? What questions would you ask?

3. Where could the community member go to learn more?

References: *Soil Analysis Report Form D-1 NY Report*, http://dairyone.com/analytical-services/agronomy-services/soil-testing/

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