



Growing Healthy Soil in Jackson and Josephine Counties

Check in with your soil! Save money and time by taking the guesswork out of amending

Your plants are only as healthy as your soil. Before adding anything to your soil, look up your soil type through the **Web Soil Survey** – instructions included. After you see what soil types are present, you can read about the implications of sand, silt and clay in relation to water movement, depth to bedrock, and soil texture. Then, it can be helpful to take soil samples, and have them tested to see what nutrients and/or pH are present. Utilize the **Best Management Practices** Assessment and the **Soil Health Checklist** (included in this packet) to determine how to you want to improve the health and vitality of the soil ecosystem where you live.

Understanding these characteristics and simple strategies for improvement, will give you the information you need to make informed management decisions about how to grow the best soil possible.

OSU Extension publications:

EC 628	A Guide to Collecting Soil Samples for Farms and Gardens
EM 8677	Soil Testing Laboratories Serving Oregon
EC 1478	Soil Test Interpretation Guide
EC 1647	Soil Health Principles

These publications maybe viewed and downloaded for free on the Extension website (extension.oregonstate.edu)

This packet includes:

- OSU Extension Soil Best Management Practices – Assessment
- Instructions for Web Soil Survey
- EC 1647 Soil Health Principles
- NRCS Healthy, Productive Soil Checklist for Growers

Additional information for Soil Testing:

- EC 628 A Guide to Collecting Soil Samples for Farms and Gardens
- EM 8677 Soil Testing Laboratories Serving Oregon
- EC 1478 Soil Test Interpretation Guide
- PNW 533 Fertilizing with Manure and Other Organic Amendments
- FS 304 Cover Crops for Home Gardens
- Examples of fertility guidelines, Soil Sample Information Sheet, Soil Analysis Report

***OSU Extension Service does not endorse or recommend any individual laboratory.** This information is provided solely as an information service to the gardening public. You are encouraged to call the provider or providers that interest you, discuss the services provided and ask any questions you might have, and then make your own decision. There may be local labs available, but OSU only lists accredited labs.

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Additional helpful resources and websites about soil:

1. Website for searching Oregon State University publications:

<http://Catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu>

2. Instructions for the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey

To find your soils on the web soil survey – Google ‘Web Soil Survey’ or go directly to:

<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

3. Soil Management Practices thru Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/mgnt/>

4. Soil Biology Management NRCS:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_052489.pdf

5. Soil Health Check list for Growers:

https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=nrcs+soil+best+management+checklist

6. Soil Food Web Information: www.soilfoodweb.com

7. Compost – Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio Calculator:

<http://www.klickitatcounty.org/solidwaste/fileshtml/organics/compostcalcAbout.htm>

8. Agrimet <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/etsummary.html?station=mdfo&year=2015>

9. Evapotranspiration rates for Medford area:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/chart/mdfo15et.txt>

10. Jackson County Master Gardener Association website: www.jacksoncountymga.org