

# Soil Testing

Columbiana SWCD provides soil testing for gardens, crop fields, and other areas.

Soil tests are an excellent way to determine the exact characteristics of your soil, including macronutrient levels, pH, micronutrient levels, and soil organic matter.



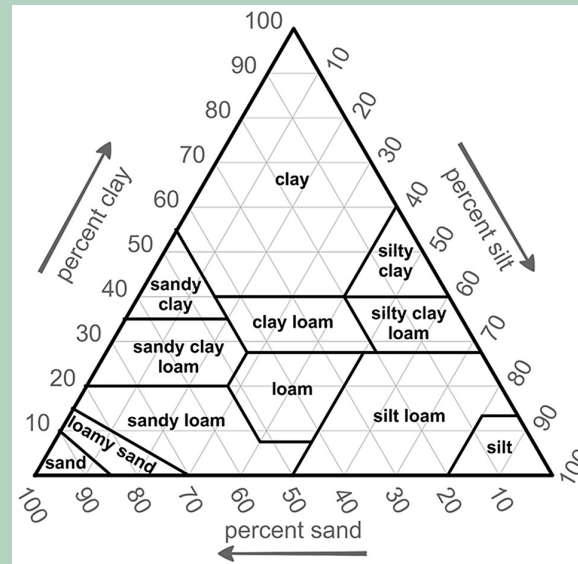
Soil testing informs fertilization and planting methods!

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# Resources for gardeners:

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - Web Soil Survey

NRCS Soil Texture Triangle



## Contact Us

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# Healthy Garden Soils

Understanding soil health in your garden.



Columbiana SWCD



Thomas J. Story

# Tips for healthy soils

## Soil Test

Soil testing will let you know what your plants actually need!

## Apply Mulch

Mulching with straw, cardboard, or woodchips will trap moisture in your soil, prevent erosion, suppress weeds, and slowly add nutrients to your soil.

## Add Compost

Kitchen scraps + yard waste = free compost!

## Companion Plant

Plant beneficial plants together to increase pest resistance, save space, and get better yields.

## Reduce fertilizer & pesticide use

Runoff from chemical applications flows into our streams and damages aquatic life. Use only what you need and implement organic methods when possible!

# Why is soil health important?

Soils are complex ecosystems that involve plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms. Their interactions with each other and with climate, topography, and human actions impact how they function. When we talk about gardening, we want our soils to be rich with nutrients, organic matter, and beneficial organisms. All of these elements will give us better yields!

Soil health also impacts watershed health. Erosion, herbicide and pesticide runoff, and other debris from poorly managed soils will negatively impact drinking water, aquatic life, and overall watershed health.



Contact the office with any soil or water questions!

