

## **Garden Day Activity**

### **Soil Health**

Objective: Learn about soil quality, soil ratings, what to look for.

Supplies: soil samples, microscopes

Lesson:

Why is soil important? Plants get nutrients and water from the soil that moves up

What is soil made of?

- Rocks (minerals)
  - Sand (largest particles)
  - Silt (medium particles)
  - Clay (smallest particles)
  - Air
  - Organic matter (leaves, manure, sticks, compost)
  
- How do you decide what soil is “good”?
  - By color
  - By feel
  - By how much water it holds
  - pH: how acidic or basic soil is (not doing that today)
    - pH tells us what nutrients the plant can use
  
- What kind of soil do plants like best?
  - Depends on the plant!
  - Some plants like to grow in water, some like it dry
    - Examples?
  - Some plants like acidic soil, some alkaline

Activity:

Feel soil samples. Do they feel different? How?

- Write down which one

Look at soil samples under microscopes

- Can you see sand, silt, clay, organic matter?
- What color is it?

- 1: Raised bed garden
- 2: Clay
- 3: Potting Soil
- 4: Sand
- 5: Tennessee roadside
- 6: Outside