



CMG GardenNotes #253

## Homework: Soils Fertilizer and Soil Amendments

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### 1. Web Soil Survey

1. Log onto the **Web Soil Survey** at [websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov](http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov) (or Google Web Soil Survey).
2. Click on the green button **Start WWS**.
3. Under the **Area of Interest (AOI)** tab, click on **Address**.
4. Enter Address
  - a) Enter your home street address, city, state in the box.
  - b) Make sure the **Show location marker** box is checked
  - c) Click on **View**
5. The Area of Interest Interactive Map will open.
  - With the mouse, **draw a box** around the general area of the property (marked on the map with a red +). The map will refresh with a closer view
6. Select Area of Interest
  - a) **Click** on the **AOI** button near the top of the window.
  - b) With the mouse drag a box around the property of interest. The map will refresh with a slash filled box of the property of interest.
7. Soils
  - a) **Click** on the **Soil Map** tab. This will open a listing of the **soil map unit names** on the property
  - b) **Click** on the **Map Unit Name** in blue in the box. This will open the description of the soils.



Note: If the address you entered is not found on the Web Soil Survey, please start over with the address of a friend or relative.

8. Answer the following questions about one of the soils on the property.

Address		
What is the name of the soil(s) at this address?		
What is the generic slope at this address?		
From <b>Map Unit Setting</b>	Elevation	
	Mean annual precipitation	
	Mean annual air temperature	
	Frost-free period	
From <b>Properties and Qualities</b>	Depth to restrictive feature	
	Drainage class	
	Depth of water table	
	Frequency of flooding	
	Frequency of ponding	
	Calcium carbonate content	
	Maximum salinity	
	Available water capacity	
From <b>Typical profile</b> , give depths of various soil textures.		



**4. List eight considerations in selecting an appropriate mulching material.**

**5. List five considerations in selecting an appropriate fertilizer.**

**6. Optional: The Soils, Fertilizers, and Soil Amendments curriculum for *CMG Online* (accessed through VMS), has two optional worksheets:**

- **Worksheet: Soil Amendments** – Worksheet gives experience evaluating the label information for a variety of soil amendments.
- **Worksheet: Fertilizers** – Worksheets look closely at the label information for the three most popular fertilizers in the home garden trade (Scotts Turf Builder, Miracle-Gro, and Osmocote) and evaluates the label information for some other products.