



CMG GardenNotes #253

Homework: Soils Fertilizer and Soil Amendments

WEB SOIL SURVEY

1. Log onto the **Web Soil Survey** at 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 Map Unit Setting	Elevation	
	Mean annual precipitation	
	Mean annual air temperature	
	Frost-free period	
From Properties and Qualities	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 Typical profile , give depths of various soil textures.		

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING BASED ON WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED:

1. Properties and challenges with your soil.

- a. Describe the properties of your soil (or soil you have access to test). What are the good properties supporting plant growth? What are the properties limiting plant growth?

- b. What would you advise a neighbor moving into your neighborhood (same basic soil) about soil management when their yard is a new landscape (nothing currently on the property)?

- c. What would you advise a neighbor (same basic soil) about soil management for an existing landscape with lawns, trees, perennial flower and shrub beds, annual flower and vegetable beds?

2. List eight considerations in selecting an appropriate soil amendment.

3. List eight considerations in selecting an appropriate mulching material.

4. List five considerations in selecting an appropriate fertilizer.