Reading a Soil Jar

What % of each soil type are there?
(e.g. 20% clay, 50% silt, 30% sand)

Why Are Soils Important?

"Soil is the crust of the earth in which life is rooted"
-Anne Whiston Spirn, The Granite Garden

Filters

Soil 'grabs' pollutants from stormwater, removing impurities before going underground.

Recyclers

Soil helps to transform decomposing material into organic matter.

Habitats

Soil is a dynamic habitat for many forms of micro- and macro-organisms.

Foundations

Soils serve as scaffolds for many types of built features - buildings, sewers, and more.

Sinks

Soils remove and store atmospheric gases, helping to reduce the effects of climate change.

Regulators

Soils regulate moisture between storm events, absorbing and storing water for later use.

Different types of soil cultivate different types of life, and function in different ways!

Clay - Nutrient rich, but heavy and water-logged. Difficult for many plants but some thrive in clay, like the weeping willow.

Silt - Soft, smooth, and very fertile - holds moisture well, great for plants that love damp conditions, like the ostrich fern.

Loam - A mixture of sand, clay and organic material. Ideal soil for most plants.

Sand - Contains large particles, with lots of air pockets, very little water retention - good for plants that thrive in dry climates - like roses

This zine was created by the MIT Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX), by Doyung Lee and Avery Normandin.

Learn more at
plix.mit.edu

Urban Ecology Activity Guide

PLIX Urban Ecology, pt 3

Feeling + Soils

CC BY-SA 4.0

v.0.02